



The Anchorage
Waldorf
School

Awakening Wonder

NURTURE

INSPIRE

EMPOWER

Waldorf Weekly

Do you have ideas you would like to see added, or contacts that should be on the list?
Please let us know and we will work on making our newsletter the best it can be.



Annual Giving

This year's Annual Giving celebrates our Specialty Classes and their gifts to our students and community.

- Movement
- Eurythmy
- Russian
- Woodwork
- Handwork
- Orchestra/Strings

**Our goal is \$35,000 with 100% participation.
Current total is: \$20,370.**

[Click Here to Donate Now](#)

Advent Spiral

Friday, Dec 6th



~Please help us gather evergreen boughs for our Advent Spiral. You may place them by the kitchen entrance. Thank you so much for your help in making this beautiful celebration possible.

Advent Spiral Schedule

Fireweed Preschool 6pm
Sunflower Kindergarten 6:30
First Grade 7:00
Second & Third Grade 7:30
Open to Community 8:00

Please arrive on time. Gather in your classroom, hang up gear, put on shoes and wait quietly in the classroom for your turn to walk.

- For safety please no long, flowing skirts or pants. Tie hair back.
- Please enjoy the moment; no cell phones or photography.

- If younger siblings are attending, please bring something quiet to entertain them.
 - Once the entire class has completed their walk, children will be sent back to parents. Please take kindergarten children upstairs where a teacher will snuff their candles and bring their apples. We ask that no one remains in the Great Hall as the harpist needs a chance to rest between the classes.
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SEASON OF LIGHT

Celebrations abound at this time of year. Thanksgiving invites us to be both thankful and giving. We gather thoughts of gratitude to share with family and friends, and we gather our bounty, giving to those less fortunate. The Sunday following Thanksgiving marks the beginning of the Advent season, which for many of us amounts to preparing for Christmas. Whatever our cultural or religious traditions, much symbolism is inspired by light.

Various uses of light can be found throughout the world during this season. The stringing of lights on the Christmas tree can be traced to Martin Luther. While walking through the forest one night, Luther felt a divine presence in the starlight shining through the trees. This prompted him to place and light candles on his Christmas tree, a tradition still held in Europe today. Candles on

the Jewish menorah commemorate the days of oil miraculously burning as forefathers sought to reclaim the Holy Temple of Jerusalem. A Mexican procession called Las Posadas, where groups carry candles and sing at the doorsteps of neighbors, reenacts Mary's and Joseph's search for a place to birth the Holy Child. During Slaviq, the Russian Orthodox faith and Yup'ik culture are melded in the tradition of starring: the twirling of candles set in the form of a star that represents the star of Bethlehem. The Swedish feast of Santa Lucia recreates the story of a young girl who brought nourishment to persecuted Christians hiding in catacombs. Lucia, meaning "light", wears a crown of four candles, lighting her way and freeing her hands to deliver food. Waldorf schools worldwide have carried these traditions into their seasonal celebrations.

Many Waldorf schools, however, are either found outside of European, Christian regions, or have enrolled students of different faiths. In these schools, other festivals are observed. Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs celebrate a festival of lights called Diwali. Diwali comes from the Indian words "deepa avalī", which refer to the rows of clay lamps that symbolize a protective light. For Hindus, this celebration marks the spiritual victory of good over evil. Kwanzaa, derived from the Swahili "matunda ya kwanza" emphasizes the principles of African culture, commemorated with the lighting of candles during the month of December. In the Islamic faith, a "light verse" from the Qur'an contains the following: "Allah is the light of the heavens and the earth. A likeness of His light is as a pillar on which is a lamp—the lamp is in a glass, the glass is as it were a brightly shining star—lit from a blessed olive tree, neither eastern nor western, the oil whereof gives light, though fire touch it not—light upon light."

During this season of light, Waldorf teachers often create wreaths adorned with four candles, each representing one week of Advent. The candles also symbolize earth, plants, animals, and humans respectively, and specific verses accompany each candle's lighting. Much larger rings of coniferous boughs are laid in the form of a spiral for Waldorf Advent gardens. At the center stands a candle, serving as a source of light for all who enter. We are free to think of that candle as the Light of the world, or as the sun, giving light to all. One of the most sustaining thoughts during this darkest time of the year is that each of our inner lights pierces the darkness. Even more comforting is the notion that our children's lights radiate farthest and brightest of all.

Donna Levesque,

Pedagogical Director

Pizza Days

The 6/7 grade class would like to request that all pizza Thursday orders be paid for 1 week at a time or for the entire year. This will help to eliminate errors and ensure all of our friends get their pizza orders. All current payments will be honored as originally ordered. Please check in at the front desk with any questions. Thank you!



Grade 8 is hosting community donations!

AWAIC and Toys for Tots

Please donate any *new, small size* toiletries, including toothbrushes, nail clippers, shampoo/conditioners into the baskets marked in the main entry. These will be donated to AWAIC, Abused Women's Aid in Crisis.

Specific items on AWAIC's wish list include:

For children and teens: Learning toys, Coloring books, crayons, games (no Clue or anything with violence), Arts and craft kits, Science kits, Journals/sketch books, colored pens, pencils, Fancy lotion, body wash, Wallets/purses, Backpacks

For women: Journals, planners, adult coloring books or sketchbooks with colored pens/pencils, Robes, Pajamas, Hoodies, Slippers, Slipper socks/ fuzzy socks, Travel coffee mugs, Water bottles, "Look Good, Feel Good" supplies (fancy lotion, body wash, etc.) and cozy throw blankets.

Thank you for donating to your community!

Toys for Tots is a program run by the U.S. Marine Corps., and distributes donated toys for underprivileged children.

Lost and Found

Please come check out the lost and found in the benches outside the bathrooms. All items left after the assembly on 12/18 will be donated.



Helping Hand

Help us reconnect with our community members. We need someone to sort our records and call old contacts as we build a centralized

database. Email Tasha at outreach@waldorf.org for more info. Please note that due to the nature of this project, we will require a background check and signed confidentiality agreement. Let's build our community together.

Upcoming Events:

December 6: Advent Spiral

December 14: Winterfaire

December 18: Assembly with Faculty Play/Early Dismissal

Dec 19-Jan 3: Winter Break

January 11: Alumni Panel Lunch

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QUESTIONS?

Give Us A Shout!

[CONTACT](#)



Anchorage Waldorf School

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