



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.



Friday, November 8, 2019

## MARTINMAS

### The Festival of Martinmas

Waldorf schools celebrate a festival of light midway between autumnal equinox and winter solstice, between Michaelmas and Christmas. The festival of Martinmas commemorates Martin of Tours, a young Roman soldier who slit his cloak in two, warming a beggar who

other passerby had ignored. His feast day is remembered with a lantern walk, symbolizing the spreading of warmth and light.

Martin's compassionate deeds are replicated in Waldorf communities in a few ways. The first is the Lantern Walk, traditionally held on Martin of Tours' day of passing, November 11th. Children in preschool and early grades carry their light and warmth into the dark and cold at this time of year, spreading their inner light. Anchorage Waldorf students from preschool through grades 2/3 will walk with the teachers. Grades 4/5 and above support and are welcome to join in our lantern walk on Friday, November 8th. A reverent mood is set with a quietude that harkens back to the silence exercised by Martin in the goose pen, trying to escape his fate of becoming a bishop. Our experience is heightened and our minds opened to reflection during this period of peace. Enjoy being completely present with your family.

Another way to celebrate Martin's service is to offer a food or clothing drive, or to help those in need. Middle school students typically take up this task. Throughout November, our class 8 will collect items for AWAIC, a local women's shelter. This gesture will not only give 8th graders an opportunity to fulfill some of their mandated community service hours, but it will also provide students with the satisfaction of giving to the greater community.

Lastly, Waldorf graduates extend their service to humanity throughout the world. The light of Anchorage Waldorf alumni has reached places near and far. Throughout the years, our graduates have been drawn to give of themselves in various ways. AWS alumni have worked in Russian and Peruvian orphanages; interned with public radio in rural Alaska; presented at the Renewable Energy Summit in Iceland; volunteered with WWOOF (Willing Workers on Organic Farms); served on the board of directors for Anchorage Folk Festival; attended NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School); attained first responder certification; played music in China, Australia, and Central Europe; taught martial arts to Alaska's bush communities; and are attending medical schools. Imagine the number of lives they have touched!

These penchants to serve began with events such as the Festival of Martinmas. Please help us cultivate the mood we aim to capture during our walk: one of collective reverence. This is challenging (as is remembering to turn off cell phones and bring your own bowls and spoons), but doable. We can do this by entering classrooms with a whisper, and then singing harmoniously as we walk through the

woods. Whisper again during the candlelit dinner in the Hall, and then sing back to your cars for a quiet ride home, electronics- and media-free. Light the way into your homes with your child(ren)'s lanterns. Relish this rare opportunity to take in quietude and imagine. Imagine your children's light emanating through all of their endeavors, for years to come.

With Light and Love,

Donna Levesque

Pedagogical Director

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Refugee Scholarship Fund

# RAFFLE RESULTS

The raffle drawing for our new Refugee Scholarship Fund was held on Friday, October 25th after the Eurythmy Assembly.

Partnering with Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services, we have raised the funds needed to provide a scholarship for one refugee to attend our school for a year!

A special thank you to our Fireweed Preschool. Between teachers, parents, and other family members, Miss Michele's class sold A LOT of tickets. From the grades, Bryce was our top seller. thank you to everyone who participated.

Winners:

Grand Prize \$1000, Johnia

First Place \$250, DeRel

Second Place \$100, Becky



Raffle benefitting the Refugee Scholarship Fund

Buy a book:  
1 in 167 chance  
of winning cash!

**\$1000**  
**GRAND PRIZE**  
1st place \$250, 2nd place \$100

Tickets  
\$5 each  
\$20 book of 5

Drawing will be held Oct. 25, 2019  
Need not be present to win  
Permit #1754



\*Unused proceeds will be allocated to the  
General Scholarship Fund



**Board Meeting: November 5**

**Martinmas Lantern Walk: November 8**

**Craft Day for Charity: November 23**

**Winter Craft Faire: December 14**

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**QUESTIONS?**

**Give Us A Shout!**

**CONTACT**

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