



The Anchorage  
**Waldorf School**

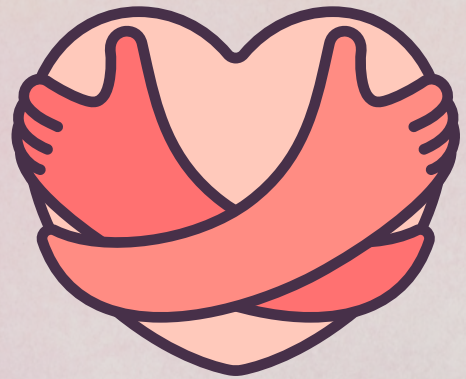
*Awakening Wonder*

# WALDORF WEEKLY

December 17th, 2021

## GIVING CAMPAIGN 2021 PROGRESS

The results of the Annual Giving campaign are currently being tallied & totals will be announced next week!



**Happy Winter break!**  
We wish you all a restful & joyous Holiday Season.

**Classes resume on**  
**Monday, January 3rd**



# WINTER SPIRAL



Thank you to the AWS community for sharing in the Winter Spiral. It was a lovely & tranquil event filled with family, friends, & the gift of light amidst the darkness.







**Top:** Aftercare friends having fun decorating Holiday cookies!

**Bottom:** Mrs. Burton says: "What can be better than gingerbread Cheburashkas' during the holiday season? Everybody at school knows this cute Russian character! "

**Happy  
Birthday!!**

**Kaesana- 12/19**

**Ozell- 12/21**

**Ezra F- 12/24**

**Bodhi- 12/28**



## Morning Reading

by George Guyver

Since the beginning of the school year our class (4th/5th Grade) has been reading every morning between 8:15-8:45am. This time allocated for silent reading has been beneficial in so many ways.

When students come in in the morning, they are welcomed by a quiet greeting, a cozy room, and pillows to build a reading nook for themselves. Once they are settled, they are offered hot herbal tea to add simple pleasure to their stories. This ritual of quietude and use of our communal space is like a gentle landing into the day.

The use of the morning for reading gives students structured choice. Within reason, the children have the option to read whatever they like. Every once and a while a Star Wars book comes in, or a comic book, but this reading time teaches more than the content of their books—it teaches the children how to sit quietly for a sustained period of time. It teaches them the joy of reading. For how can we teach our children anything if it isn't infused with engagement and curiosity? And what better way to do that than to give them autonomy in their learning? Over the course of weeks, this reading time, in this space has become a sacred time to dive into all different types of literature.

As a result of this morning reading time, students are becoming better at verbally summarizing their stories. For some it has been a transition from telling a stream of events towards telling the main events that highlight the structure of their stories. We don't have time everyday to hear about every student's reading, but drawing a few student names a day to share has left their stories permeating the room, with the active buzz of working minds—visual imagery seeping into the walls and enriching our space.

In so many other instances I have seen their reading bear fruit. Each week for instance, we have a math word problem that we tackle as a class. How the class navigates the reading and gleans the necessary information is, I think, a testament to how they are developing as readers. Also, when we are looking at vocabulary as a class, I am often impressed how students are beginning to vaguely describe words that they aren't quite familiar with, but have a sense of the meaning. I speculate that this is due to their consistent morning reading.

Although my conclusions on the benefits of our classes' morning reading are based on anecdotal evidence, I think we can all agree that we get better at the things we do daily. And what could be more pleasant than starting the day with a good book, a comfy spot and a bit of tea?





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# PARENT/TODDLER CLASS

*with Ashley Gose*



Born & raised in Alaska, Ashley spent her childhood days with younger sisters & their beloved family dogs hauling wood, building tree forts & visiting cabin neighbors. Ashley says, "The first time I walked into a Waldorf kindergarten a decade ago, I knew I had found home & I never looked back!" Since then, she has been building her knowledge of Waldorf education. Formal trainings coupled with years of experience have deepened her understanding of Steiner's teaching & the importance of the Domestic Arts for children & their families.

*Parent-child classes offer a gentle introduction to a group setting. Held in a warm, home-like environment, your children will experience circle time, free play, and a warm snack. Parents will enjoy learning about Waldorf Education & their developing child, as well as a seasonal craft.*

## 4 WEEK SESSION

*held at:*

**Anchorage Waldorf School**

3250 Baxter Rd

**\$150 for 4 classes**

## TUESDAYS

February

1,8,15 & 22

11:00-12:30 pm

## THURSDAYS

February

3, 10, 17 & 24

11:00-12:30 pm

**tear here and return along with payment & drop in deposit box**

*make check payable to Anchorage Waldorf School*

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age of child as of Feb 1 \_\_\_\_\_

mailing address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Chosen Session - please circle**

Tuesdays

Thursdays