

# w i n t e r b e r r y

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER • JANUARY 13, 2011, VOLUME 6

Extend the boundaries of the glowing kingdom of your love, gradually including your family, your neighbors, your community, your country, all countries -- all living sentient creatures. *-Paramahansa Yogananda*

## A WORD FROM MS. MALL...

Each January I travel with staff members and parents to attend the annual conference of the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education. This year I was blessed with the gift of co-chairing the conference organization as well. Through much conversation we chose service as the theme of this year's conference. Those who know me well know that service is one of my personal core values. Looking back over my life I can see that this value has been dear to me since I was a small child.

In the process of conference planning I was proud to share that service is also a shared value of our families, students, faculty, and community members at Winterberry. On the classroom

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## THE TAO OF WINTERBERRY

Thanks to the Thursday Afternoon Optionals children, WEP students, staff and the families from throughout the grades who joined us in December to make warm things to give away at Beans' Café! Our students made 64 hats, scarves and neck warmers using fleece donated by our school community. It is a marvel watching our young students grabbing a machine sewing up a

storm. The Beans' staff asked us to pass on their sincere thanks, and said they will be added to the gift baskets provided their clients over the holidays. If you donated fleece and would like it returned, and if you have other ideas for helping our students serve on Thursday afternoons, please contact us at [tao.winterberry@gmail.com](mailto:tao.winterberry@gmail.com). Let's do something like this again!



HEAD



HEART



HANDS

# CALENDAR

## JANUARY

**17th** NO SCHOOL: Martin Luther King, Jr Day

**20th** WCC MTG, 6pm

**27th** 3-Body MTG, 6pm: Future Site Possibilities

**28th** 12:30 Release / WINTER FAIRE PREP

**29th** 11am - 4pm...

## WINTER FAIRE!

**31st** NO SCHOOL

## FEBRUARY

**3rd** WPG MTG, 6pm

**7th** NAEP Testing Grade 4

**17th** WCC MTG, 6pm

**17th - 20th** Waldorf Teacher Trainers Visit our Faculty Cohort

**21st** NO SCHOOL, In-service

## MARCH

**3rd** WPG MTG, 6pm

**4th** NO SCHOOL In-service

**5th - 13th** NO SCHOOL, SPRING BREAK

**14th - 25th:** School Mentors Visit: George Hoffecker & Donna Burgess

level clear images of service are evident in the form of chaperoning, making soup/ bread, helping in handwork, building/ supplying needs for classrooms, and organizing classroom events. At the school level we are blessed by your service when you volunteer for school-wide events, chair committees, and attend community meetings. Our WPG and WCC members serve each month by volunteering their individual time to govern our school. Additionally, the WPG created and continues to operate the TAO program to serve our teachers and families. This program has also offered the opportunity for students and families to serve the community at large. Additionally, students enrolled in our after school program have baked bread for the homeless.

The words "thank you" seem inadequate, but I will say it anyway. Winterberry never ceases to amaze me as a community. Thank you for all you do each day to make our school amazing!

Blessings,

Shanna

### FROM THE HARMONS...

Dear Beloved Winterberry Community:

Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and loving deeds in the wake of our sadness. The loss of our dear Owen was shocking, but the outpouring of love we received softened the blow. We appreciate all the cards, condolences, delicious meals, support at his memorial service, and all the other contributions you have made.

Please look upon us graciously, and forgive our slow response to acknowledge your gifts for Owen's Memorial Fund. We are truly grateful, but have been so overwhelmed in the past four months, that we have not been able to send out the proper thank you cards, as was our intent.

The Memorial Fund at Providence Lactation Clinic is well underway. They will be naming a room in Owen's honor (a small ceremony will take place soon, in which they will hang a plaque and Jennifer will read a blessing.) We hope to encourage and support breastfeeding between mothers and infants. Thus, we have allocated funds for vouchers to be distributed to teenage/at-risk mothers for use in the nursing boutique, scholarships for the Breastfeeding 101 class, and we'll be giving the book *On Mother's Lap* to new siblings in honor of Andrew. Thank you for your support in this endeavor!

If you would still like to contribute, you may do so easily on-line at [www.providencealaskafoundation.org](http://www.providencealaskafoundation.org). (Click "Donate Now" on the right, then note Owen Harmon/Lactation Clinic)

The outpouring of love and support truly is a testament to how blessed we consider ourselves. We thank God for you and count you amongst our blessings. We also give thanks for the 420 days that we knew Owen; he was a special boy. Four-year old Andrew is our great comforter, entertainer, and bringer of joy. Where would we be without him in these dark days? Where would we be with out you all? Thank you for your love and kindness.

~Arthur, Jennifer, and Andrew Harmon

## KINDERGARTEN

by Ms. Lindsay

*When the snow falls soft and lightly,  
down to earth I come so brightly.  
Shining like the stars on high, Child of  
the Snow am I.*

Quotes from the Week:

"Best Yet!" (soup and bread with jam)  
"I don't think there really is a number 11."  
"I believe that Snow Child and Fern are  
really real."  
"Thank you farmers, for our soup."

Kindergarten:

Sincere gratitude to the kindergarten parents for their helpful hands and generous donations. Our class thanks you for all you do!

We have welcomed the New Year with a new daily rhythm. It has been a very positive change. With last week's smaller class size, we really eased into the changes and are now establishing our routines.

Our day begins with outside play, which has added an enchanting element as the darkness greets us and slowly transforms into light as we ourselves awake. The children seem to notice things that they simply passed by before, or have found new methods of playing with old favorites. Last week, our recess hill was complete with a bathroom that had a grand shower shaped much like a tree, bowling alley with children rolling down the hill to knock over sticks, a holiday celebration, and snow dragons! Our Wednesday Walks begin in the dark as well. This led the children to observe the boat lights on the water, the airport lights and planes, the faint glow of Sleeping Lady (which has inspired stories about her), and a bicyclist and his mysterious light!

Our painting lessons have focused on the cooling effect that blue generates,



## LANTERN WALK MEMORIES

then mixed with the vibrant red to welcome purple. Along with a new color, our classroom has thoughtfully organized toys, some of which are new to us. Oh, the creativity! The loft became Heaven, the stilts remain unsettled, ballroom dancing welcomes us, sheep herds migrate, and princes and princesses of a plenty visit from far off lands. Story telling of Cinderella and the Princess and the Pea have the created an audience of wide-eyes, and has influenced very imaginative play.

Snack time seems to have a more reverent mood and is topped off with very polite manners. These children are growing and are very hungry. Seconds, please. Thirds, please!

Circle time brings us through a short journey with Snow Child, then opens up for a game. We are becoming so much more aware of our bodies, are fitting in the circle, and are looking quite round!

So much working and playing has led to tired bodies, and the New Year brought forth choice in our resting spots. You can find us under the ladder, in the play kitchen, and even someone snoozing away in the bottom bookshelf!

We have recently received our new drawing books, and sent the finished ones home. I encourage you to take the time to talk with your child about their art, and possibly display certain pages in your house so they might feel honored, proud, or encouraged to try new thing in their new books.

Lunch is still a bit noisy, but we are practicing our "library voices" for the book discovery time we have after we have finished eating and are waiting for our parents to come or Kindercare to begin. Please feel welcomed to enter the class at 12:30. We may be reading to children and might not be able to open the door, but please come in ☺

# KINDERGARTEN OTHER NOTES...

\*\*\*Sibling Pick up on Thursdays has been great. Please communicate with your children in advance so they know to come into the kindergarten room and sign out their younger sibling.

\*\*\* We have two open spots in Kindercare. Please see your child's cubby for more details!

\*\*\*A Kindergarten study group is in the works. Stay tuned!

## GRADE ONE

by Ms. Drinnen

The newness of the year brings great tidings to the first grade. We will soon receive our wooden flutes, meet the characters that introduce the four mathematical processes, make a classroom calendar and learn the months, weeks and days. We are skip counting by 2's, 3's, 5's and 10's, doing rhythmic work with beanbags and learning our alphabet in sign language. Handwork is a steady hum of knitting needles working busily to make our flute bags and circle is alive with sounds of rich singing.

## GRADE TWO

by Ms. Towner



Last Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade stopped by Town Square to see the ice sculptors work their magic with big chainsaws! We plan to return next week (weather depending) for ice skating!



We are especially interested to see how this sculpture ended up. The artists would not give away what they were making.



Serving coffee and ginger cookies (luciaepparkako) to Ms. Eggleston in celebration of Santa Lucia Day, Dec. 13.

## BRONDZ MUGS FOR GRADE 3



\* Iris with the mugs she and her father made and gave to the class...



Balin studying his gift...

## GRADE THREE

by Ms. Eggleston

The children were thrilled to use some of the silk that we 'grew'. Each child stretched at least 2 cocoons to a size of about 5 X 7 inches. These are called silk hankies. They then needle felted wall hangings that went home for the holidays.

We are now venturing forth into some new territory in third grade. We have many topics on hand. And the children are drawn to focus in new ways.

With the New Year the class has embarked on an artistic journey of studying the moon. We painted the covers of our new Moon Journals on the first day of the new year at school. It has been a while since we have done a nature study. And this new journal invites poetry, art and science... The trick is that it is the first time I have assigned weekend homework. The task can suit the child. Illustration, text, poems, song, family entry... The only REAL REQUIREMENT is that there is an entry and that the Moon Journal gets back to school on Monday... Please help your child to understand and follow through with the return component of this new request...

Our math work is focused on time telling and calendar skills. The moon study adds an historic component to the math. We are also continuing our work to memorize the multiplication tables.

We are also delving into the Torah in language arts.... And the children are taking to heart the weight of the story of Eve eating from the tree of knowledge and how it changed her life.... I am trying to balance the levity and art of our moon study with the depth and weight of the Old Testament.

3rd Grade has been gifted with a set of class mugs. Iris found it frustrating that we were throwing away little paper cups. She asked her dad if he would make mugs for each student. Before winter break, Iris recorded each classmate's favorite color. Peter made the mugs and Iris helped with the glazing. Last week Peter hung a peg-board



SILKWORM COCOON ART: GRADE 3



SILK COCOON CAT: NICHOLAS, GD 3



SILK COCOON DANCING FOX: VALERIE, GD 3

and Iris distributed these works of art. Each mug is unique for easy identification! Our classroom seems so much homier now. The children were SO surprised. THANK YOU Iris and Peter!

## GRADE FOUR

by Ms. Mayer

In fourth grade we are making a model of our neighborhood out of cardboard. We are making people and trees and cars out of beeswax. An adult is  $\frac{2}{3}$  of an inch, a fourth grader is  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an inch, and a kindergartener is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch. We figured this out because in our scale one floor is one inch.

We are also practicing our class play that we will perform at the beginning of April. It is about Norse Mythology.

We are studying fractions in another block. These are some problems we have written.

The Hilton Hotel Tower has twenty-two floors. If 16 of the floors have room service and the rest do not. Write a fraction that shows how many floors do not have room service. What is the denominator? What is the Numerator?

If at the same hotel eighteen of the floors have regular rooms and four of the floors have super fancy suites,

### \* \* \* WINTER FAIRE \* \* \*



✧ Winter Faire is fast approaching on Jan. 29th. Cheryl Lyons still needs volunteers to sew gem bags which are available for pick up at the front

write a fraction showing how many of the total floors have suites.

Written by students Alison, Sheyanne, Kaela, Finn, Anna, and Lily.

## GRADE FIVE

by Ms. Johnson

The fifth grade class is exploring North American Geography with detailed mapmaking of the continent, the Lower 48, and a state of their

choosing. The students are using grids to help them copy each map's outline and natural features from a published map onto a page in their main lesson books. They then add cartographic labels and symbols onto their maps. In order to bring these regions to life, the class also began reading the books *Paddle-to-the-Sea*, *Sounder*, *Into the Dust*, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, and *Hatchet* in small book groups. Each of these books is set in a specific region of North America. Tomorrow, the fifth graders will begin to dive into their state report projects.

## TAO OF WINTERBERRY MORE HATS!



## GRADE SIX

by Mr. Crawford

Sixth grade is immersed in the study of Astronomy. The paths of the stars is a fascinating imaginative study, which becomes real for those with the perseverance to watch the course of the stars over several hours: how many of us do that, in this day, in this place? I think that what has struck me most about this block is how little we really do pay attention to the heavens in our modern city life—yet without the heavenly bodies life on Earth would be impossible. I am steeped in a sense of gratitude for the nature of the universe, and am reminded that a great deal of our day-to-day existence is hidden from us, unless we choose to consciously direct our minds and souls to examine it. St. Thomas Aquinas said that the mind must be directed by the inquisitive human spirit; in other words, the world does not just come to us automatically: we must seek out its truths actively and passionately, or those truths, like the stars above, will remain nothing more than pretty trinkets adorning our over-busy lives.

## GRADE SEVEN / EIGHT

by Ms. Besh

In the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the physical science curriculum continues with the study of sound, light, heat, electricity, fluid and aeromechanics. The 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders, in addition to experiencing phenomena and then reflecting on the experience, also asks “how.” “How has the phenomena arisen and how does it work?” The demonstrations, activities, and investigations now refine the student’s capacities for observation, for drawing conclusions and forming judgments. They call upon the student to compare what they are experiencing with what they know.

Through the process of quantifying and measuring, students will begin to objectify their experience in a new way. In seventh and eighth grade, students begin to delineate specific forces and explore their interactions. For instance, students experienced the pitches of different sounds in sixth grade; now they will discover how the relationships between pitches correspond in mathematical formulas. When students study mechanics they observe, experiment and discover the laws themselves.

Each day, students will be challenged to recall the previous experiment from the day before. They are

required to have recorded in their lab book: the materials used, procedures and observations of what occurred in the experiment. As a class they will put together their data, discuss and formulate conclusions. They are also required to have a final draft in their main lesson book accompanied by a diagram and/or schematic of each experiment.

**Currently**, we are in the second week of our Physics Block. Last week we explored the physics of sound, this week we are investigating the physics of light. Students should have experiments #1-16 written up as a final draft in their Main Lesson Book. They should also include a diagram and color on each page. Please take a few minutes to check-in with your child about their experiment write-ups. Before any work goes into the Main Lesson Book, the experiments should be proof read by an adult or peer. Students will not have any more than four write-ups a day; if given four, they will be simple. Experiments that require more steps, will take the entire Main Lesson, therefore I will not demonstrate more than one in class. Students are given more than an hour to work on their assignments everyday as well have the chance to ask for help. I try to work with everyone everyday or at least check-in with each student to see how he or she is doing. I would like to have a 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade parent night/social at the Lagoon towards the end of this block (tentatively February 11<sup>th</sup>). We will perform a physics demonstration for the parents, ice skate, and enjoy good things to eat. I'll keep you posted!

**Friday, Aurora 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade school dance!!!** We are invited to attend Aurora’s school dance this Friday from 6:45-9:00 p.m. It would be really great if our 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade class could attend as Aurora supported our dance last year. Students that attended Winterberry who were in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade last year will also be attending the dance, so it should be a really great event for our adolescence. This is a nice event, and so should dress accordingly. No cell phones during the dance; if a student has a cell phone, they need to turn it in at the front. There is a cover charge of \$5 to support Aurora’s 8<sup>th</sup> grade class trip. The Aurora students have been working really hard making the decorations and baking the food. Please let me know if your child will be attending. Aurora is located on 3250 Baxter Road, Anchorage, AK 99504.

**Wednesday Circus Arts Class** from 1-3:15. Please pick up your child at the Spenard Recreation Center at 3:15. Please wait by the front office. Thank you so much parents. Also, if you are unable to pick-up your child from the rec center, please coordinate a ride with

a parent who will be going back to Winterberry because they have siblings to pick-up. Please e-mail me ASAP if you are unable to pick-up at the rec center on Wednesday.

**8th Grade Parent Meeting Thursday January 27<sup>th</sup>** in the 8th grade classroom at 12:45. All parents and students who are involved or attending the 8th grade trip, need to be there.

I think this is it for now and Happy New Year!

## RUSSIAN

**by Mr. Harmon**

It's good to be back at school. One important announcement is that the weekly tutoring sessions are now scheduled for Thursdays immediately after early release from 12:30 to 1:15. The group is open for anyone in 4th grade and up. We currently meet in the 7th/8th grade room.

The other big news for our Russian classes is that the fourth graders have started a pen pal relationship with a group of Russian children in Magadan, one of Anchorage's sister cities. One round of letters has been exchanged, with many pictures and lots of questions. The fourth graders are excited to start another round of letters and are learning to write about their preferences in Russian.

We've been spending time in all the classes talking about the Russian New Year's Holidays: January 1st of course, but also Orthodox Christmas was January 7th and "Old" New Year's Day is the 13th. Many of the classes have been learning or reviewing "Yolochka," a classic song about a little fir tree that becomes part of the festivities.

## HANDWORK

**by Ms. Paula**

Warm New Year wishes to all and thank you for the thoughtful gifts which made a great start to my restful holiday!

Throughout the grades the children have grown it seems! Can they do that in two weeks? They have brought back with them their wonderful work ethic and it will be great to see what they produce in this brand new quarter.

It's always a welcome sight to have volunteers in the handwork classes....the children love to have their moms or dads sharing what they love to do. All grades all children seem to have this need.

We are off to a great start. Come and see!

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade~

"My hands are a bowl, they hold water just fine.  
My hands are a shelter, a pillow, a line.  
My hands are a hammer and a nail too!  
My hands are my most important tool!"

Learning "reverence for the hands" is the predominant focus for these vibrant little children. They are already showing their desire and ability to "focus", whether it is learning the verse for handwork, tying a slipknot, the felting process or finger knitting. This class is well on their way to the all-important process of knitting. Following instructions and learning to be patient is so huge for this grade.

It's in the wonderful tradition of Winterberry Charter School that a parent or group of parents make the handwork bags to present to the class on that all important first day of knitting, so the children will have their bag in which to place their handwork project for safe keeping. Let me know if this is something that you'd love to have a part doing.

I'm looking forward to working with your children as the year unfolds and invite you to come join us anytime as extra hands are always welcomed in these beginning stages. We're off to a really wonderful start and I am excited by the prospects ahead.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade~

I look at my hands with fingers so fine and I want to be proud that they are mine.  
For deep in my heart lies a golden chest with secret treasures that no one can guess-  
Unless, my hand do their very best, to work and work and open that chest.

This is truly a golden year for the second grader who's experience from the first grade was filled with baby buntings, flute bags, rainbow balls, and various animals so that they know what their hands are capable of doing. We are going to follow the "continuous thread" again this year in the knitting,

stuffing and sewing of a little gnome, culminating in the introduction to crochet, which is how the gnomes' hat is made. This is almost a full year's project using the child's choice of color for clothes, hair, and hat. Rolling the bones (stuffing) will be revealing for them. "Firm not fat" or puffy is our aim so the body of the gnome holds its shape during the years of play following their creation.

We will be refining our work, so attention to detail will be important- learning to cast on and cast off will give them a lot of independence and not make them so reliant or have to wait for someone to help them. It's always about the "process" and when you're able to follow the continuous thread for knitting projects it sets the child up to be able to follow a continuous line of thought down the road.

I look forward to opening up a "golden time" for your children and in that spirit I'll leave you till next time. As always you are welcome to second grade handwork when time allows for you.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade~

We use our hands to fashion the feelings of our heart....  
And we thank this beautiful planet, and all the stars above!  
We ask for as a blessing from plant and earth and sky,  
That I may do my handwork using hand and heart and mind!  
Having followed this class from the 1<sup>st</sup> grade through now, our start to this year has been amazing as they embark on the finite stitchery projects heralding the ninth year a year of great change in which they are seeing their worlds in a whole new light. Making their own felted world sphere on which they will be stitching a design of their creation using the back-stitch and coloring their own world as they see fit. They are showing real divergent thinking in their creativity. To ease into this project we're doing what was originally a bookmark morphing into pincushions, wall hangings, mats and small pillows. True to this class, I'm hearing that they are making these things for others, which of course is music to my ears, as this class really does think of others so much. Thus putting the "heart" into this head, heart and hands education.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade~

My two arms are folded so straight on my chest  
Crossing each other with right over left  
I think of the trees crossing branches and twigs

Vines in the forest, legs dancing a jig  
Windowpanes, rafters, and joists on the floor  
Heroes at battle cross-bright flashing swords.  
When crossing my T's or crossing the street  
Birds fly above, worms under my feet  
Each cross-stitch I do is so clear and so true  
A mirror of the world in all that I do.

Symmetry, balance and mirror image is the cognitive event going on for the fourth grade. The verse vividly points out the symmetry existing everywhere if only we look. Our first introduction to recognizing this is to make a "string game" using only 11 yards of cording, using the butterfly knot as an introduction to the larger project of the jump rope, which uses 20 yards of jute, and cording. Also the cross-stitch itself is being gradually introduced as people finish the string game.

These students are so willing and ready to make new discoveries through finding the balance in their handwork projects. I'm happy to invite them into the process.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade~

Let us make a thing of beauty, that long may last when we are gone!  
Let us make a thing of beauty that humble eyes may feast upon!  
Whether it be leather, cloth or clay, let us make a thing of beauty, lifting spirits in beauty's way.

Socks! Socks! Socks! The subject of circular knitting in the round finds fifth grade well on their way to making their own knitting needles. They are delighted by transforming oak dowels into beautiful wooden needles. Right now they are even saving the dust from the sanding into little boxes calling it the "gold". They are keeping a journal to document learning the anatomy of the sock. They each have written a story from the viewpoint of the sock. Ask your student to share it with you. We'll be learning songs and more prose about the humble sock. These will be fun and frustrating days for them. Please encourage them all you can. I know they can complete a pair of wonderful warm socks and from time to time they will be bringing them home as homework. There are some expectations around this, as they will need to keep up with me in a timely manner.

Drop in, as you are welcomed to attend a handwork class. Helping hands and encouragement are always appreciated. I look forward to bringing to fruition the work of their hands!

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade~

While we're growing through the great warm earth,  
As we're rising like stars in our own universe!  
With fire in our belly we'll pursue the work of our  
hands,  
The colors of our mind giving it vibrance and life,  
Bringing all to an artful finish.

The sixth grade is well into understanding the mammal they have chosen as their gusseted animal- three-dimensional project. This is a hand-sewn animal that will be stuffed, hopefully, lifelike. To ease into this project the students have drawn front, back and sideways views of their animals. Clay has been a transforming way of looking at the animal as they drew out of the clay the image of the mammal. Now we're exploring armature (or skeleton) using pipe cleaners to make a 3 dimensional structure. It's been interesting seeing even these can make a flat object filled out and rounded. We're off to a great start and I look forward to seeing them put their hands, hearts and heads into all our endeavors this year.

## 7<sup>th</sup>& 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ~

Steadfast I stand in the world,  
With certainty I tread the path of life.  
Love shall be in the depths of my being,  
Hope shall be in all my deeds,  
Confidence I shall impress into my thinking.

Introducing the "sewing machine" has raised these students awareness of what the industrial revolution has done for us. Simple, but efficient, the same sewing that took days and weeks now takes only a fraction of the time. Hence, necessity, the mother of invention, has given us so much and I believe in time their projects will prove to them how valuable these mechanisms can be. Starting with a "driving test" on paper with spirals, and mazes along with simple seams, they're learning to navigate the machine understanding the need to be problem solvers, because when they are working they're wonderful, but as you know there are those times when even they need tweaking.

The first project will be a pillowcase that maybe can be transformed into another useful object. We'll see what the students come up with. I'm excited by the year and look forward towards working with each of these students.

Type to enter text

## WINTERBERRY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (WEP)

by Ms. Amy

WEP Aftercare is about to admit a strange new member... a praying mantis! On its way to the Enrichment Program is a praying mantis cage, food and eggs, which we'll nurture, name and observe over the next few months. Our new member will reside in Ms. Drinen's 1<sup>st</sup> Grade classroom, and we invite you to come check out his/her progress.

*Winterberry Enrichment Program, a Kinder and After Care program, currently serves 35 students over the course of each day. All programs have open spots. For more information: (907) 980-2280 or [WinterberryEnrichmentProgram@gmail.com](mailto:WinterberryEnrichmentProgram@gmail.com)*

*The Winterberry Enrichment Program seeks to provide a nurturing and enriching experience while supporting the WCS mission and vision for children before and after school.*

## WCC ELECTIONS!!!

**Are you interested in becoming a member of the Winterberry Charter Council?**

**Please join us on January 20<sup>th</sup> for our first board meeting in 2011. Annual elections are coming up in February.**

### Winterberry Charter Council (WCC) Elections

The Winterberry Charter Council (WCC) is holding its yearly elections during the regular monthly meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup>. School wide voting will occur the week of February 7-11. There will be 5 seats open for the 2011-2012 year. The WCC requests a two year commitment to the board.

The WCC is looking for individuals who are interested in becoming a member of Winterberry's primary governing body. We seek individuals who have knowledge in areas that are most integral to our functions: legal, budgeting/accounting, real estate and building acquisition as well as the desire to work together with a group of individuals in a consensus model with the shared vision of taking Winterberry to a place it will grow and thrive in the future.

Following is a brief overview of the WCC's responsibilities and functions within the school:

Winterberry Charter School has three governing bodies: the Winterberry Charter Council (WCC), Winterberry Parent Guild ("WPG"), and the Faculty. These three bodies govern together through building consensus. In the event that there is a disagreement on policy or procedure between bodies that cannot be worked out through consensus (including but not limited to emergency actions), the WCC acts as the primary governing body.

The WCC performs the following major functions:

- A. Ensures the fulfillment of the mission of Winterberry Charter School as stated in the Charter.
- B. Oversees and has ultimate accountability and responsibility for academics, curriculum, legal/risk management, personnel issues, finances, operation/maintenance and budgeting issues.
- C. Contracts with an administrator, delegates and oversee their responsibilities.

The WCC meets monthly on the third Thursday of each month at 6 pm during the school year August – May. Though we take our responsibilities seriously, we find time to enjoy our work together.

If you are interested in becoming a board member please contact the election committee: Meg Eggleston [eggleston\\_margaret@asdk12.org](mailto:eggleston_margaret@asdk12.org) or Melissa Janigo [janigo\\_melissa@asdk12.org](mailto:janigo_melissa@asdk12.org) by January 19<sup>th</sup>. We will be holding a "Meet the Candidates" at our regular January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. We hope you can join us! "Meet the Candidate" questions will be available to those who are interested! A HUGE THANKS to all who are willing!

## WINTERBERRY PARENT'S GUILD

Winterberry Parent Guild (WPG) Meeting Highlights: January 2011

We welcomed Nick and Bethanie Horn, Kindergarten and Second grade parents, to the meeting and would like to extend the invitation to all families to join us for our meetings held the first Thursday of the month at 6p.m. Being involved with the WPG is a great way to understand and have a say in the different. We currently have class representative openings for Kindergarten, Second and Forth grade. The role of the class representatives is to be the bridge between that grades parents and the decisions of the WPG.

Highlights from January's meeting (for details please see the attached minutes):

- ∞ The 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher positions next year with one new teacher and the current 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher
- ∞ Ms. Mall is taking input for training topics of interest for George and Donna to present when they return this spring
- ∞ The Bake Sale at the Winter Faire will be forever more a fundraiser totally operated by that years 8<sup>th</sup> grade class.

Next meeting, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm agenda will contain updates on the By-Laws, 3 Body Meeting, Winter Faire, HHH, and discussions regarding Insurance Renewal, Fundraising/Endorsements and TOA future. We hope to see you there!

### Future Dates of Importance:

Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> Winter Faire planning meeting at drop-off

Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> HHH planning meeting at drop-off

Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup> 3 Body Meeting at 6pm to discuss future site options

Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup> NO SCHOOL parents needed to prep classrooms for Winter Faire

Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup> Winter Faire 11-4

Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm WPG Meeting

Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> Head Hearts Hands (HHH)

## Winterberry Charter Council Members (WCC)

Melissa Janigo, Chair [janigo\\_melissa@asdk12.org](mailto:janigo_melissa@asdk12.org)  
Arthur Harmon, Staff/Secretary [harmon\\_arthur@asdk12.org](mailto:harmon_arthur@asdk12.org)  
Erin Fleischer, Parent [erininak@gmail.com](mailto:erininak@gmail.com)  
Della Swartz, Parent [ddswartz@mtaonline.net](mailto:ddswartz@mtaonline.net)  
Franny Hall, Community Member [frannyinak@yahoo.com](mailto:frannyinak@yahoo.com)  
Meggan Judge, Parent [ericandmeggan@gmail.com](mailto:ericandmeggan@gmail.com)  
Tara Smith, Parent [tamarlene@gmail.com](mailto:tamarlene@gmail.com)  
Todd Robicheaux, Parent Seat [trobicheaux@alaska.net](mailto:trobicheaux@alaska.net)  
Lynne Jablonski, WPG Rep [lynnejeffrey@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnejeffrey@yahoo.com)  
Meg Eggleston, Fcty Chair [eggleston\\_margaret@asdk12.org](mailto:eggleston_margaret@asdk12.org)  
Vacant, Staff/Faculty Seat  
Shanna Mall, Principal [mall\\_shanna@asdk12.org](mailto:mall_shanna@asdk12.org)

Monthly Meetings: 3rd Thursday of each month, 6pm, second floor of Winterberry Charter School unless otherwise stated & advertised.

## Winterberry Parent's Guild Members (WPG)

Julie Pepe, President [pepehelps@yahoo.com](mailto:pepehelps@yahoo.com)  
Tiffany Mamae, Vice President [tiffanymamae@yahoo.com](mailto:tiffanymamae@yahoo.com)  
Sarah Rygh, Treasurer [sara.rygh@gmail.com](mailto:sara.rygh@gmail.com)  
Christina Eubanks, Secretary [christinaann58@hotmail.com](mailto:christinaann58@hotmail.com)  
Lynne Jablonski, Fundraising [lynnejeffrey@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnejeffrey@yahoo.com)  
**Vacant, Kindergarten**  
Mike Rehberg, Grade One [mike@rehbergs.net](mailto:mike@rehbergs.net)  
**Vacant, Grade Two**  
Peter Smith, Grade Three [petersmith@as.net](mailto:petersmith@as.net)  
Dave Swartz, Grade Four [ddswartz@mtaonline.net](mailto:ddswartz@mtaonline.net)  
Louke Ellenbroek, Grade Five [louke\\_ellenbroek@hotmail.com](mailto:louke_ellenbroek@hotmail.com)  
Sarah Robicheaux, Grade Six [sarahr@alaska.net](mailto:sarahr@alaska.net)  
Rebeka Edge, Grade Seven/Eight [edgefam@yahoo.com](mailto:edgefam@yahoo.com)  
Shanna Mall, Principal [mall\\_shanna@asdk12.org](mailto:mall_shanna@asdk12.org)

Monthly Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month, 6pm, second floor of Winterberry Charter School unless otherwise stated & advertised.

## ...DRESS REQUEST...



In order to reduce classroom distractions, continue our commitment to upholding Steiner's views on materialism, and respect the needs of all students, families, and staff, we respectfully ask that student attire be comprised of:

- \* solid colors,
- \* stripes,
- \* polka dots,
- \* or patterns.



We also ask that all outerwear and accessories (including indoor shoes and lunch boxes) also follow these guidelines. Please choose plain shoes that do not include electronic lights, sounds, wheels, or commercially produced pictures.

When students come to school with items that do not meet these guidelines, school staff may ask them to alter the clothing so it is not distracting (turn a shirt inside-out, for example), give the student an alternative item to wear instead and/or work together with families to find an alternative within a reasonable period.

Our goal is that we can come together on this issue out of respect for all community members knowing that while such items may not distract one, they do distract another. Thank you for your commitment to creating and maintaining the highest quality environment for our children.

As always, thank you for your willingness to grow and work together to create a culture of caring and respect at Winterberry!