



October 7, 2021

Hello dear Winterberry Families,

Fall came back---and I am soooo glad! I truly believe that “there is a time and a place for everything” and I, for one, was not QUITE ready for King Winter’s arrival last week!



So, here we are almost at the end of the first quarter of the school year. As I sit and reflect on how we are doing, what comes to mind is the word, “good.” Yes, we have been better and yes, we have been worse, but right now, Winterberry seems to be in a good place. Many of our students are back in their classrooms and enjoying the in-person school experience. Other families have chosen to work through our Hybrid Program this year, giving them the freedom to do what they feel they need to for their family, while we continue to live with the realities of Covid-19. My sense, through observation and feedback from families, is that the variety of needs are being met.

#### LOVE IS INTEREST

I had the opportunity recently to sit down with our teachers for a beginning-of-the-year check in. It was an enriching time for me to hear from each one individually. We have a wonderful group of teachers and staff members at Winterberry who come to school each day and bring with them heartfelt and creative ways to support and teach all of the students before them. We even have our first Alum teacher, Max Robicheaux who has been subbing for us! Such richness! One of our strengths at Winterberry is our commitment to our agreements around communication with one another. We strive each day to practice empathetic, honest and direct communication. I believe this ability, although it takes a great deal of courage and trust, is what keeps us strong and able to meet any challenge authentically. It also makes Winterberry a warm and safe place to work.

#### SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND

On October 20th and 21st teachers and families will come together for conferences. This is a very important time for teachers, students and their families. It is a chance to sit together and discuss the person that both teacher and parent value so dearly. Studies show that students have a much higher success in school overall when their family is engaged and involved in their academic life. We are your partners on the school front. We are here to serve your children, head, heart and hands! Please help us by making a commitment to good communication with your class teacher. You can do this by signing up for your conference with your student’s teacher, and by reading each email and responding as requested. If your

student tells you of something (distressing or great!) that happened at school, please reach out to your class teacher, first, with a brief email request for a conversation or a phone call if it is urgent. If you cannot reach your teacher, then please feel free to reach out to our front desk, Ms. Colleen or to me. Communication is key to understanding and growing a strong and trusting relationship with one another.

#### FORTIFY, FORTIFY, FORTIFY

We will be welcoming a new Eurythmy teacher for in the coming weeks, for a few weeks. For those who are saying, “What is Eurythmy???” A good description comes from Brightwater Waldorf school: “Eurythmy is an expressive movement art unique to Waldorf education that incorporates dance, music, and poetry. Students develop a repertoire of moves and rhythms as they move through the grades, with performances guided by live music or spoken texts (poems, plays, stories)....It engenders understanding of the lawfulness of geometry, a sense of timing and precision, love for the beauty of language and music, reverence, flexibility, and social awareness.”

We will also welcome Curative Education practitioner, Robyn Brown in November who will work with our teachers and staff. There will be an offering for families to learn more about this via a Community Zoom meeting—date and time TBA. Below is a description that illustrates how I understand Curative Education through the lens of Waldorf education.

“At the heart of Waldorf education lies the understanding that every person is first of all his individuality, a treasure trove of vitality, creativity and intelligence. In other words, every human being is born with the innate capacity for inner transformation. The goal of Waldorf education is to develop a student’s ability to access his inner resources in order to transform both himself and the world around him. To assist the teachers in this task, Rudolf Steiner described in depth how teaching directly affects the student’s inner experience (thinking, feeling and willing), down to the physiological chemistry of the child. From this point of view, education can be seen as a healing art, something that is commonly overlooked in many educational philosophies. Rudolf Steiner provided teachers with wonderful tools to understand the far-reaching health effects that educational activities can produce. This is what constitutes Waldorf pedagogy and methodology, practiced in all Waldorf schools.”

From <https://www.littleschoolinfryeburg.com/what-is-curative-education>

#### PRACTICE MAKE PROGRESS

This Saturday Oct. 9 our Winterberry Charter Council (WCC) board will gather to collaborate and learn from professional trainers around the subject matter of on-boarding and orientation, Open Meetings Act, roles and responsibilities, Principal evaluation, understanding contractual agreements with the District and State and running effective meetings.

Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns. Organizations improve through effective feedback. You and your children are important to me.

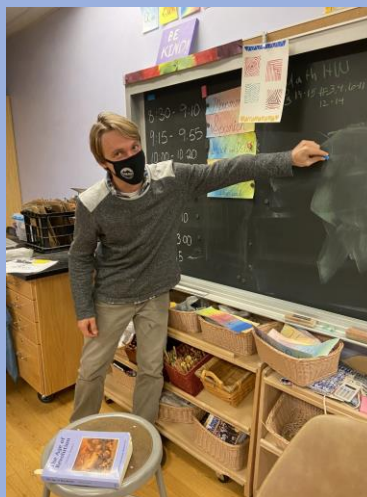
Wishing well,  
Principal Pepe-Phelps [Pepe\\_julie@asdk12.org](mailto:Pepe_julie@asdk12.org)  
(907) 742-0139 office  
(907) 274-3898 cell

## Featuring this week: Max Robicheaux

You may know him from his debut in Winterberry's Tiger Talk. Maybe you recognize him as Ms. Robicheaux's (our former Handwork Teacher) son.

But did you know that Max Robicheaux graduated from Winterberry twelve years ago and has come full circle to be our **FIRST** graduate to come work at Winterberry?

We are thrilled to have Mr. Max here sharing his knowledge of Waldorf education as a teacher in the school where he was the student. It is a great compliment that he would choose to come back!



Good Day, Winterberry Families

Junior Nordic Skiing is open to children ages 6-14.

Registration for this program opens tomorrow at 9am. There are two financial assistance opportunities available:

1. NSAA Junior Nordic Scholarship (application attached)

5 scholarships available

2. Every Kid Sports Pass (for those families who qualify for one of the federal assistance programs such as WIC and SNAP. Families would apply through that website and if approved, they would be mailed a pre-loaded cc to pay for registration. More information about that program is [here](#).

10 Every Kid Sports spots available

For any questions please reach out to:

**Heather Liller**

**Program Manager**

**Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage**



203 W 15<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 204  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
P: 907-992-0109  
E: [program@anchoragenordicski.com](mailto:program@anchoragenordicski.com)  
[www.anchoragenordicski.com](http://www.anchoragenordicski.com)

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## Dates to Remember

Winterberry Charter Council  
will meet via zoom  
October 21st, 2021  
6:00pm

**Time: 3rd Thursday of the month at 6pm**

Topic: Winterberry Charter Council

Time: 6pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://asdk12.zoom.us/j/519426010>

Winterberry Parent Guild  
will meet via zoom  
October 7th  
6:00pm

**Time: 1st Thursday of the month at 6pm**

Topic: WPG Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://asdk12.zoom.us/j/95290064733?pwd=ZEFyVXV1RCsyV1NP  
K3lHVnlEeTdYZz09](https://asdk12.zoom.us/j/95290064733?pwd=ZEFyVXV1RCsyV1NP K3lHVnlEeTdYZz09)

Meeting ID: 952 9006 4733

Passcode: WPG

**Inservice  
Day  
NO  
SCHOOL  
for kids  
October 15th**

**Parent/Tea  
cher  
Conference  
S  
NO  
SCHOOL  
for kids  
October 20-  
21**

**Inservice  
Day  
NO  
SCHOOL  
for kids  
October 22th**

**Gear Swap  
October 4th-  
15th  
Lobby**

**Costume  
Swap**  
October 18th-  
21st  
Lobby

Donate to GARDEN

***Gear Swap is happening through to October 14th.***

Bring in gear you are not using and take any gear that works for your family.  
Gear Swap October 4th-October 14th. New items come and go daily!  
Reuse, Reduce, Recycle

**Volunteering at Winterberry**

Winterberry asks for 20 hours of volunteering per student per year. Families can log their hours at the front desk or with the link below. Thank you to Trevor Snyder, Dad in Grade 6 for your volunteering and setting us up for success year after year with our link.

If you have any questions, please call Colleen 742-0139

Log your Volunteer hours

## **The Virtue of Courage**

**Courage is bravery in the face of fear. You do the right thing even when it is hard or scary. When you are courageous, you don't give up. You try new things. You admit mistakes. Courage is the strength in your heart.**

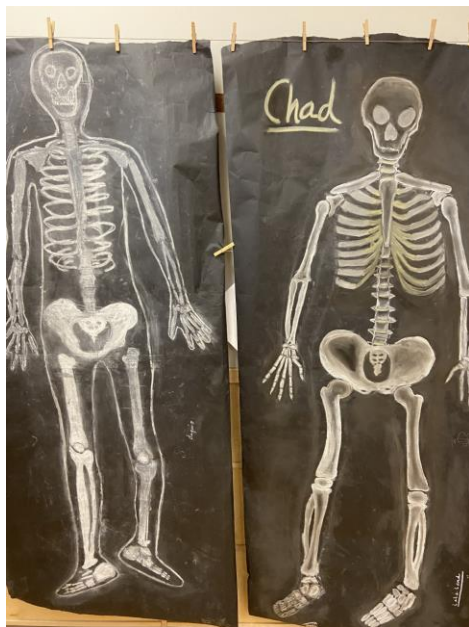
**You are practicing Courage when you:**

- . Stay strong even when you are afraid**
- . Are willing to try new things**
- . Admit mistakes and learn from them**

- Make amends when you do something wrong
- Do What is right for you even when it is hard
- Ask for help when you need it

### Affirmation

I have courage. I listen to my heart.  
I face my fears and am willing to try new things.  
I have the courage to do the right thing.



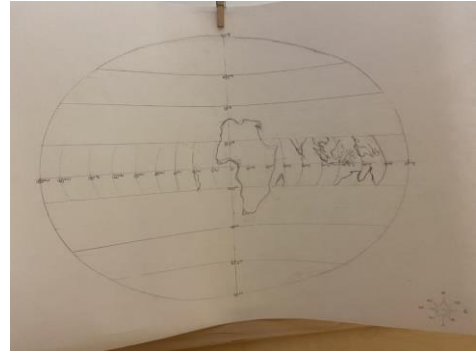
G8 Anatomy Studies



G6 Watercolor Volcanoes



Hybrid Chalkboard Drawing



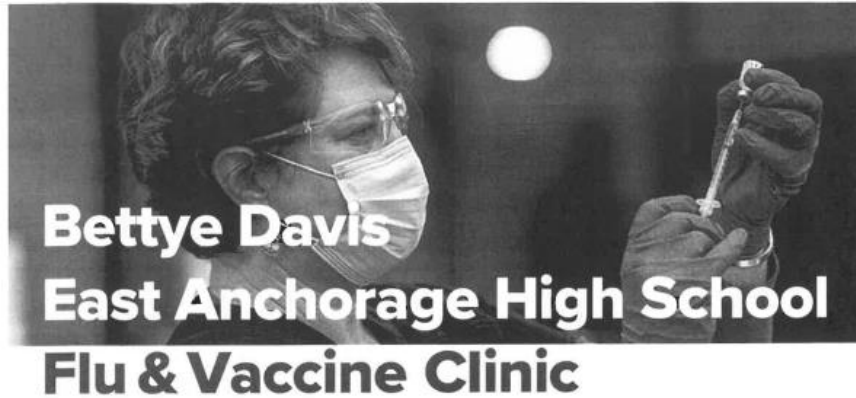
G7 Geography Studies



Fall on the playground



Movement



### Register Now

Save time by registering at  
<https://myhealth.alaska.gov/appointment/en/reu/6461305192>  
or scan the QR code.



**Saturday, October 9th**  
**10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Bettye Davis East Anchorage High School  
4025 E. Northern Lights Blvd.  
Open to all ASD Staff, Students, and Families.  
Vaccines are free of charge. No proof of insurance required.



To also schedule a COVID Vaccine with Beacon at the same time/location use this QR Code:



CDC Website