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*Several of the lectures on Steiner's view of human life and purpose have become for me guiding lights through challenges in the classroom and beyond. The most enjoyable hours of study, however, were definitely the artistic explorations – clay and beeswax modeling, charcoal drawing, and painting engrossed me and helped me understand the importance of working artistically with children. Building relationships with other teachers, from other schools and states, gave me an additional gift of friendship and more resources on which to rely when problem-*

**B**

, the more practice and training we receive during the summer, the closer we become towards reaching our vision for our school. Achieving teacher certification was vital towards understanding the Waldorf pedagogy and curriculum, digesting and bringing it to the children. Every year the teacher is able to grow, learning and transforming to be able to present material and concepts in a lively way, in addition to meeting the needs of the ever

**B**

*on has been incredibly inspiring to me as a person and has allowed me to grow in new and unique ways as a teacher. While my formal training with RSC has been minimal, the time spent with mentors and coaches throughout the year has been remarkably invaluable. In addition, the time I have spent in collaboration and in dialogue with my colleagues here at Winterberry as they work on their certification has been so helpful and wonderful.*

*Whole new view :*

*new way of thinking about children as early learners*

*new way of thinking about myself as a teacher*

**B**

Transformative

- \* An invitation to engage in personal growth
- \* Unique in many ways
- \* Instructors who are active in their own teaching
- \* Collaborative within the Winterberry staff, as well as with other Waldorf schools
- \* Based on indications: NOT a programmatic, dogmatic "how to"
- \* The teacher's individual creativity remains at the heart of the curriculum.
- \* Steiner was a prophetic thinker: his few indications are robust enough to support generations of teachers, and the excitement of the training experience is in penetrating his indications for ourselves – not to simply "buy in" to a pre-existing paradigm.
- \* The teachers and mentors are, without exception, living models of human excellence. Not one has disappointed me in terms of offering something of lasting and meaningful value.
- \* RSC campus and facilities are inspiring and enlivening, and I always return from the coursework feeling energized and invigorated.
- \* George and Donna, in particular, have been incredible collaborators with this school, and I have personally gained much

**B**

*Thomas Merton*

Continued from Page 3

- ~ Who are the children at a deep developmental level?
- ~ How to use images to teach and bring the children along?

**B**

We

have an ever more sophisticated shared vocabulary. We coach each other in seeing the larger picture and in finding the deeper knowing. We practice being better observers, listeners and responders. Our disciplined practice and spiritual practice guide our personal growth. We are getting more and more talented at knowing why we do what we do, giving true intention

**B**

Beginning March 28<sup>th</sup> our students in grades three through eight will be taking the Alaska Comprehensive System of Student Assessment (CSSA); Standards Based Assessments (SBAs). The tests will be given on March 28 and April 2, 3, and 4 beginning at 8:45am. SBA subject tests will be given in the following order:

- Thursday, March 28, 2013      Science (grade 4 and 8)
- Tuesday, April 2, 2013      Reading
- Wednesday, April 3, 2013    Writing
- Thursday, April 4, 2013      Math

While these tests are not timed and students will be given ample opportunity for breaks, it has been decided at the district level that all elementary *students must conclude testing by the end of the school day (3:30pm)*. See below for our testing day schedule:

8:30	8:45	Abbreviated Circle Activities and Welcome
8:45	9:00	Test instruction and preparation
9:00	10:00	Testing
10:00	10:10	Break
10:10	11:10	Testing
11:10	11:20	Break
11:20	12:30	Recess followed by Lunch
12:30	1:30	Testing
1:30	1:40	Break
1:40	2:40	Testing
2:40	2:50	Break
2:50	3:30	Testing

### Winterberry Charter Council Meeting Report

The WCC met March 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Present were Mary Meade, Shanna Mall, Haras Colors, Alicia Besh, Meg Eggleston, Erin Fleischer, Melissa Janigo, Meggan Judge, Mike Rehberg, Tara Smith, Bob Steinmann, Della Swartz, and Kyle Vander-Schrier.

We were joined by our new liaison with the College Alps condo association, Tamara Baughman. We heard reports on the new ASD electronic lottery and the new ASD superintendent transfer of duties. We elected new WCC officers: Erin Fleischer, Sec229( )-9(n)6]TJE

"SBA Testing..."

Cont'd on Page 4





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Unity, not unanimity...

the direction of the shared **B**

Discernment...Standing Behind the Principle vs.

important for the nature of this particular decision or is this more about steering the decision in a direction that is closer to my own personal

**B**  
or preference before adding to the discussion.

Stand Aside / Step Aside...

Typically happens when a person realizes they are too attached to personal preference and are only holding the group process back. Once a person stands or steps aside he or she is agreeing to let the group move forward without them. In doing so they agree not to undermine group decisions. The aforementioned behaviors uphold the integrity of the body and its agreements.

Blocking or Standing in the Way...

This technique should rarely be used and has been estimated that a person who uses consensus consistently in their everyday life should use this no more than six times in a lifetime! In terms of an organization, it should only be used when a particular decision would lead to a probable disaster for the group as a whole. It should only be used to ensure the survival of the group or if the proposed

values. The blocker bears responsibility to group and process to identify a valid reason for blocking and should provide evidence to support the decision to block.

Tools for Consensus Making...

Rule of Three...

If the group is going to make a major policy decision it should be brought to no less than three meetings. When there are time concerns special meetings can be called, but the format should be:

Mtg 1: Introduction of the issue and dialogue (20-30 minutes): Prior documentation should be provided to committee/board/group members. From here the issue gets sent to committee with the mandate to create/bring a proposal. This should be sent out to members prior to the second meeting.

Mtg 2: Full discussion of the proposal by the group (60-90 minutes): Send all recommendations back to committee for revisions after input. Once revisions are finished the new proposal should be sent out to group prior to the third and



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