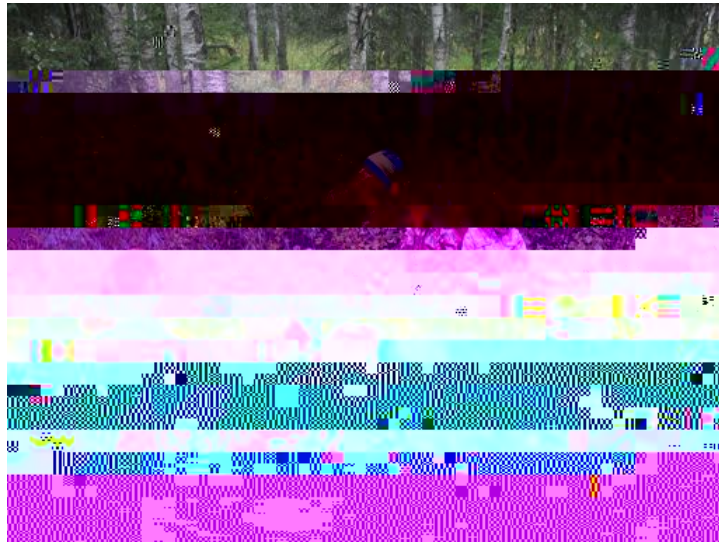


*"Receive the child in reverence,
Educate the child in love,
Let the child go forth in freedom."
~ Rudolf Steiner*



Winterberry Charter School
4802 Bryn Mawr Ct.
Anchorage Ak. 99508
742-0139

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Greetings and welcome,

Each year there is an air of excitement surrounding the Kindergarten. The doors of that wonderful kingdom are soon to open; the little children have waited a long while and now it is time to begin. Then the day comes. Both parents and children arrive equally excited. Parents depart with one last good-bye kiss, entrusting their dear little ones to our care. The child's day begins full of creative play, perhaps painting or baking, circle time, lots of singing and stories. Our curriculum is designed to enhance the young child's physical development, motor skills, language development, and sensory development. The harmonious daily rhythms strengthen the child's sense of security, self-confidence, imagination, and creativity. Nature activities, festivals and seasonal rhythms connect the child to the world and foster a sense of caring for the environment and for others. This prepares the child for a more structured academic curriculum in the primary grades and beyond.

When parents arrive to collect their children, eagerly questioning the day's events they are most often answered by dreamy gazes and "nothing" seems to be the statement most given to the question, "What did you do today in the Kindergarten?" Because of the child's ability to live in the present moment, he

F D

If your child is having anxiety about going to school, a suggestion would be that three nights before school begins, tell your child a simple story at bedtime. The story could be created about a little animal in the forest and how he is getting ready to go to school. Make the story appropriate to your child; for example, choose the animal your child is most like. Is he slow and steady like a turtle or more like a rabbit who hops from place to place, or like a horse that flies with the wind, etc.? Integrate your own personal life into the story - i.e. if you have a younger baby at home, tell how the little rabbit will hop out of his den and leave the baby rabbit at home safe in his nest and how the rabbit will hop off to school to meet all his new friends. Tell about all the things the little rabbit will do at school – play with friends, paint, color, sew, cook, bake, go for walks, hear stories and have birthday celebrations. Please tell this story each night for three nights as preparation.

F D :
, A 28 , 2013

- B :**
- a complete change of clothes in gallon size cloth bag marked with your child's name,
 - slippers or other indoor shoes,
 - outdoor gear appropriate for the daily weather (please be sure to air and dry outdoor gear daily)

D
: 8:30 12:30

Drop Off: 8:20 – 8:30 am Pickup: 12:30 pm

A

Morning time is when we are our most sensitive. Being not long out of sleep and dreamland makes us very open to influences around us. Little children especially need to wake slowly and gently. I recommend a calm morning without rushing and I expect that your child's morning be free from television and other electronic media. I

Role is taken first thing in the morning. If you should arrive late for school, you must check in at the office and accompany your child to class. This ensures your child's safety and that he will not be marked absent.

: it is disruptive to the child's schedule, class, and teacher when children are habitually late to school. If you find timeliness a challenge, please feel free to speak with me

Children are carried along by the rhythms of the world in which they live, from the cadence of breathing in their bodies to the daily patterns of sleeping and waking. The yearly cycle of the seasons and the rhythmic procession of stars are part of life's experience for adults and children. Children flourish when their daily activities are arranged rhythmically to reflect the natural order of life. Thus, the Kindergarten activities flow with a sense of breathing in and breathing out from the quiet moments of a fairy tale to the active moments of vigorous work and play. Just as children are carried

and thought are affected by what the child absorbs from the surrounding environment. Children learn

F B

Over the course of the year, Kindergarten will participate in a variety of festivals. Our planned celebrations are: The Lantern Walk in early November, the Winter Spiral in December, Valentine's Tea in February and the Maypole Celebration in May. Festivals are a wonderful opportunity for us all to gather in a spirit of celebration. We sing and move together and the children are honored as special participants. I will definitely need help from families in preparing for and bringing these celebrations into being.

Birthdays are very special in the Early Childhood. Parents are invited to join the class for a birthday story and snack. More specific details will be forthcoming. For birthday parties outside of school, please mail invitations to individual children to avoid hurt feelings. Children are very sensitive about being included in birthday parties.

C /D C

The Kindergarten is a place of active work and play. Our indoor space is kept at ~70° F, but we spend over an hour outdoors every day so please plan your child's layers accordingly. For your child's comfort and enjoyment I recommend the following:

E :

- Sturdy clothes for active play
- Layers for comfort inside and outside
- Natural fibers for comfort and breath ability
- Sturdy shoes that fit securely
- Slippers for wear inside the classroom (please have these be snug and practical, no stuffed animal slippers, or slippers with no backs).
- Socks
- Warm winter hat your child will wear
- Warm, water proof mittens
- Extreme temperature Snowsuit
- Extreme temperature Snowboots
- Rain boots, rain coat, rain pants

L

B

This will avoid heartbreak over lost or damaged toys. Use of the classroom toys reflects the philosophy of using simple, natural materials to encourage and stimulate imaginative play. Sometimes

C :

The school newsletter is published regularly. Please read each edition of the newsletter. It contains vital information about school events, schedule changes, volunteer opportunities and general school news.

Throughout the year you may find yourself with a question, comment or concern. Please know I appreciate when this occurs, that you bring your questions, comments, or concerns directly to me. There are many different ways to voice yourself: e-mail, a written note, a quick "I have a little question, when can we chat?" at pick up or drop off time, or request a scheduled time. If after speaking with me you do not feel your question has been met, I would either continue to search for the answer for you, or would bring your question to our Pedagogical Leader. The next person to bring the question to would be the administration, Pam Goodwin or Shanna Mall.

Please know I believe communication between parent and teacher is important. I strive

A C C

Winterberry offers families the option of enrolling their child in a paid extended day program. KinderCare provides care for Kindergarten children from 12:30-3:30. AfterCare provides care for Kindergarten – 4th grade children from 3:30-6:00. Please connect with Winterberry Enrichment Program personnel for more information and details: winterberryenrichmentprogram@gmail.com
The Kindergarten and KinderCare

:

Simplicity Parenting – Kim John Payne

You are Your Child's First Teacher - Rahima Baldwin

Understanding Waldorf Education- Jack Petrash

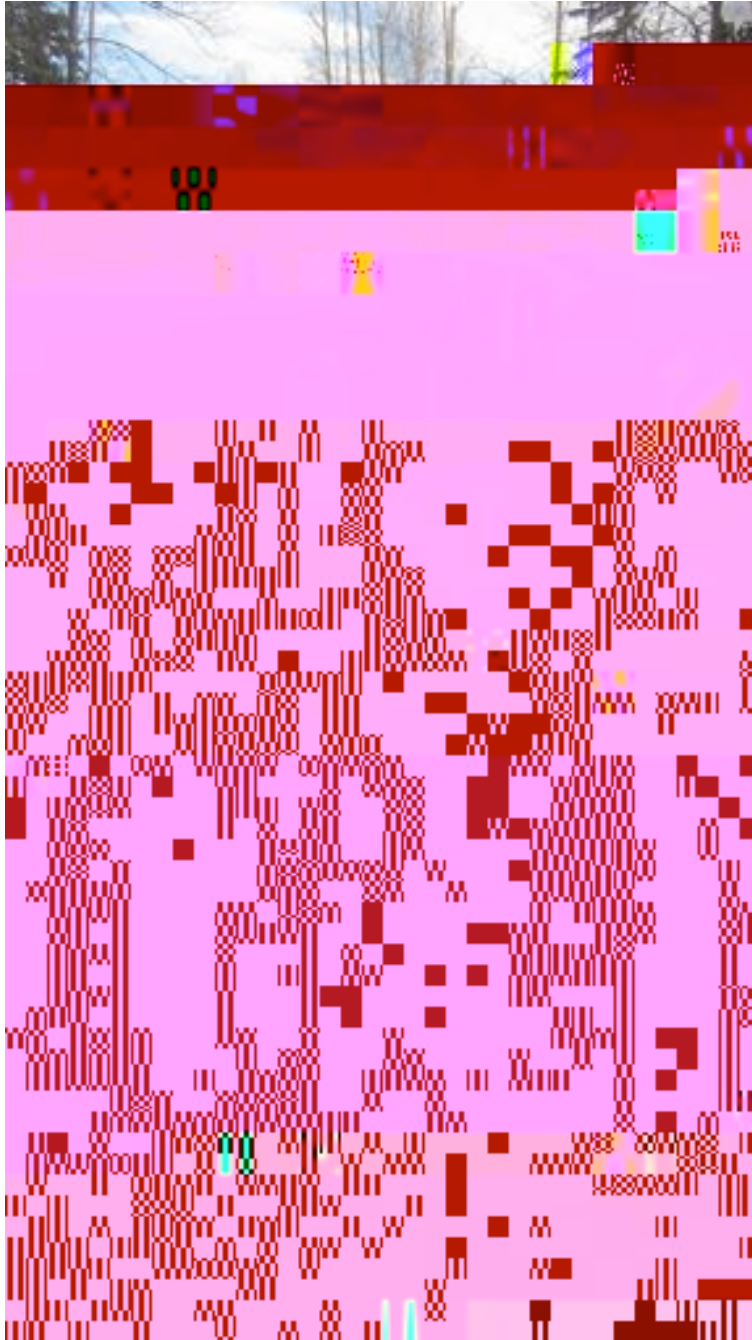
What is a Waldorf Kindergarten – Sharifa Oppenheimer and Joan Almon

You're Not the Boss of Me – Ruth Ker

Seven Times the Sun – Shea Darian

All the Year Round – Ann Druitt, Christine Fynes-Clinton, Marije Rowling

Earthways – Carol Petrash



A healthy social life is found only when in the mirror of each soul, the whole community finds its reflection; and when in the whole community the virtue of each one is living.

~ Rudolf Steiner