



MADRONA SCHOOL

SCHOOL BULLETIN

WALDORF EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 25, 2010

The Grade School Curriculum: What do we do and why do we do it?

starting
tonight!

In response to parents' requests recently for more in-depth information about Waldorf curriculum, our faculty has put together an adult Waldorf education series to provide a structured exploration of our curriculum and the ways it meets children. Beginning this Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, Madrona will offer a five-part class for parents interested in learning more about the Waldorf grade school curriculum and what's behind it. Led by our teachers, teachers-in-training, and experienced Waldorf parents, the class will meet every other Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and will focus on different grade levels at each meeting. Recommended reading to accompany the classes is *Waldorf Education: A Family Guide*. We have copies of the book for sale in the office for \$22.50, and we also will have copies of relevant pages will be available prior to each session. The classes are free but please RSVP to office@madronaschool.org.

Adult Waldorf Education Series

February 25th, 6:30-7:30 p.m. – Grades 1 & 2

Led by Christiane Stanley & Mary Knighton

March 11th, 6:30-7:30 p.m. – Grades 3 & 4

Led by Lori Levari & Ann-Marie Hahn

March 18th, 6:30-7:30 p.m. –

Graduates' Perspective

Madrona graduates answer your questions

April 8th, 6:30-7:30 p.m. – Grades 5 & 6

Led by Kim Vennerholm & Christiane Stanley

April 22nd, 6:30-7:30 p.m. – Grades 7 & 8

Led by Kim Vennerholm,
Cindy Smith & Debby Haase

All-School Meeting (Adults Only) on March 9th

On Tuesday, March 9th, the Madrona Board of Directors will be holding an important All-School Meeting, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Seabold Hall for adults only -- parents, teachers, and staff. Although we had originally planned a family potluck event that night, we have since decided that we adults are overdue for a meeting. Another kid-friendly potluck event will be planned for early spring, so watch your email for more information on that.

But now, as we look ahead to Madrona's future, there is much to discuss. Come to the meeting for updates on plans for a new campus, anecdotes from our classrooms, and a general "state of the school" briefing -- along with time for questions too. All of our Board and faculty members will be on hand to talk openly about what's on your mind. You are essential to this conversation, and we hope that at least one parent from every family can attend.

To make attendance more possible, the office is arranging some child care, to be provided by our responsible and mature Madrona graduates. If child care would enable one or both of the adults in your family to attend, please call Julie as soon as possible for help arranging a babysitter. To add a bit of festivity to the evening, we will provide wine and snacks, and some time to socialize. We hope to see you all there!


Tuition Rates and Policies for 2010-11

The Madrona Board of Directors has set tuition rates for next school year, at the levels shown below. Tuition has increased only slightly, but materials fees -- now called enrollment fees -- have been raised to reflect the actual costs of not only supplies but also field trips and chaperones, festivals, special projects, and other fixed expenses. We have heard that many parents would prefer to pay a higher known sum at the beginning of the year, rather than being asked throughout the school year to chip in for projects and trips as they occur. Please feel free to talk with Malinda or Leigh if you have questions or thoughts about this new structure!

This year we also have changed our sibling discount policy. After conducting research at various other independent schools in our area, we will no longer be offering discounts for second children enrolled. However, a third child (or fourth, etc.) from the same family still will be eligible for a 50% discount.

Also new this year, we will require the prompt return of tuition contracts by April 30th, along with the full non-refundable enrollment fee. Madrona bases its budget, which affects hiring and classroom planning, on tuition contracts returned. Late-returned contracts directly impact our budget and ability to plan; therefore, any contracts returned after April 30th will incur a \$500 late processing fee. Please show respect for our teachers and administrative staff by meeting the deadline. Thank you so much!

Applying for financial aid?
Don't miss the March 15th deadline for submitting your application and 2009 tax return!



Program / Class	Days & Times	Annual Tuition	Enrollment Fee
Parent-Child	Fridays, 9-11 a.m. or 11 a.m.-1 p.m.	\$1,000	\$125
2 - day Preschool	Thursday & Friday, 9-11:30 a.m.	\$2,500	\$200
3 - day Preschool	Monday through Wednesday, 9-11:30 a.m. or 12:30-3 p.m.	\$3,700	\$225
4 - day Kindergarten	Monday through Thursday, 8:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.	\$6,400	\$325
5 - day Kindergarten	Monday through Friday, 8:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.	\$7,950	\$325
Grades 1 - 5/6	Monday through Thursday, 8:45 a.m.-3:15 p.m.,	\$9,500	\$500
Middle School	Friday, 8:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m.	\$10,100	\$500 + \$750*

Race to Nowhere: the Dark Side of America's Achievement Culture Film Screening Monday, March 1st, by the Just Know Coalition

Next Monday, the Just Know Coalition will be showing this film at the Bainbridge High School Commons from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The award-winning documentary examines "the pressures faced by youth, teachers and parents in our achievement obsessed education system and culture." Vicki Abeles, the film's director, will be present for an open discussion on the implications of this film, and what we as a community can do to address the issues. Tickets cost \$12 and can be purchased online at www.RTNbainbridgeisland.eventbrite.com. High school and middle school students are also encouraged to attend. Madeline Levine, author of *The Price of Privilege* who spoke on Bainbridge two years ago, served as an adviser to this film, which addresses the multiple sources of stress that our kids experience in their pursuit of success. For more information, visit www.racetonowhere.com.



March 19th Middle School Play Needs Props and Volunteers

The Middle School play is coming up in a few weeks, and the class is looking for props and also two volunteers. Props needed are two thrones, a large ornate checker set, a small ornate garden bench, two crowns, Middle Ages or Renaissance costumes, a small ornate iron gate, a garden fountain or bird bath, and an old-looking sickle and pitch fork. If you have any of these items to donate or loan, please contact the office. The class also needs two volunteers: one to run the lighting, preferably someone with experience who could attend the last couple of rehearsals and the performance; and one to videotape the performance and burn copies onto DVDs for the students. If you can help, let us know!

March 15 Deadline for Preschool & Kindergarten Early Enrollment

Current families who wish to secure spots in preschool and kindergarten classes for next year need to fill out an application form and return it by March 15th for priority placement. After that date we begin admitting new applicants, and spaces cannot be guaranteed to returning students unless we have an application in hand. Application forms are available in the office or can be downloaded from our web site: www.madronaschool.org. Students in all other classes need only tell your teacher at your conference next week.

Donations of a Bench and Flowers? And Thank You to Julie & Malinda!

If you haven't been to the office lately, you should stop by! Julie and Malinda caught the spring cleaning bug over mid-winter break, and they spent many hours perking up the office, cleaning out boxes of supplies, and getting things organized. Some lovely final touches would be a lovely bench to put on the front porch (to replace the current one borrowed from the Middle School) and more flowers to plant around the campus, with the help of the gardening class. If you have these things to donate, let Julie know. And THANK YOU to these two wonderful industrious women for their sweat equity in giving the office a fresh new look -- just in time for the kids to return from break!

Family Interviews for Children Joining Kindergarten Next Year

Mary and Isaac will be conducting family interviews for all children moving into the kindergartens, whether new or moving up from preschool - on Wednesdays at 1:15 and 2:15. Please call the office to schedule your 45 minute appointment. This meeting is held in Isaac's classroom with one or preferably both parents and your child. It provides an opportunity for them to get to know you, answer any questions you may have, and get a sense of your child's temperament and learning style.



Madrona Calendar

February 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Adult Waldorf Education: *The Grade School Curriculum, 1st & 2nd Grade, Fellowship Hall*

February 27, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Joyful Parenting Class for Early Childhood Parents, Fellowship Hall

March 1-2

NO SCHOOL: Parent-Teacher Conferences for all Classes BUT Two-Day Preschool

March 3-4

Parent-Teacher Conferences for Two-Day Preschool (No school for this class)

March 9, 6:30-8 p.m.

All-School Meeting (Adults Only)

March 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Adult Waldorf Education: *The Grade School Curriculum, 3rd & 4th Grade, Fellowship Hall*

March 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Adult Waldorf Education: *The Grade School Curriculum, Graduates' Perspective, Fellowship Hall*

March 19

Middle School Class Play

March 20, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Joyful Parenting Class for Early Childhood Parents, Fellowship Hall

March 25, 6-8 p.m.

Spring Assembly, All Grades, Fellowship Hall

March 29-April 6

Spring Break

April 8, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Adult Waldorf Education: *The Grade School Curriculum, 5th & 6th Grade, Fellowship Hall*



“The Nurtured Heart” Approach to Discipline

“For many years we were frustrated by our son Theo's difficult behavior -- he just couldn't seem to get along with other kids, even though he wanted to,” writes Madrona parent Kibby McKinnon. “When our second child was born, the power struggles got worse and our family life was pretty miserable. We tried lots of approaches, but the Nurtured Heart Approach is the only one that has worked. It has helped me feel more hopeful and calm, and to see the real work Theo is already doing, which was invisible to me before. He now gets attention through people appreciating him rather than criticizing him, and that has made a huge difference in his behavior. His teachers, relatives and friends (he has actually been able to make some) have commented on how different he is now.”

The Nurtured Heart Approach is a gentle, firm and achievable method that can be used by parents, teachers, and people who care for children to break the cycle of negativity and help them choose success. This approach strengthens children's self-esteem and their decision-making skills. Come and learn more at a free workshop by Barbara Clark, M.C., LMHC, on Saturday, February 27th, 9:30-11:00 a.m. at Winslow Cohousing Common House, 353 Wallace Way on Bainbridge. For more information call Kibby at 206-780-8479.

Parent-Teacher Conferences Next Week: Days Off School

Don't forget to sign up for parent-teacher conferences next week. Sign up sheets are at the door to each classroom. Teachers of three-day preschool, kindergarten and grades will meet with parents during the school day on Monday and Tuesday, March 1 & 2. There will be no classes for the children on these days. Two-day preschool conferences are on Thursday and Friday, March 4 & 5 and there will be no class for these children then.

Yoga Party March 13th

At the auction, did you get one of the coveted spaces at Jen Green's yoga party? If so, be sure to mark your calendar for the date, which is rapidly approaching: March 13, from 5 to 8 p.m., at Jen's Bainbridge Yoga House. We will start with a 75-minute hot yoga class, so wear yoga clothes, and bring water, a towel, and a yoga mat. (Jen has some mats for borrowing if you don't have one.) After yoga, we will enjoy a vegetarian Indian meal cooked by Jen. For more information, check out Jen's website, www.bainbridgelyogahouse.com, or talk to Leigh Noffsinger, a Jen devotee!

Many thanks!

A huge thank you to Lorna Belkin, ever gracious hostess, who catered all of our outreach events in January and February. Lorna creates such a warm, welcoming atmosphere for our guests. She and her team of bakers showed what a special school we have. (Did you know that Lorna also cooks for every faculty meeting?) Thank you also to Dawn Ream who, with her team of seamstresses, fashioned new table cloths and napkins for us. They are beautiful and will serve us for a long time.