

# MADRONA SCHOOL

WALDORF EDUCATION

— *Edited from our school newsletter, October 18, 2016*

Dear friends and fans,

As I read [this post] about how Waldorf teachers track up through the grades with their classes, I am reminded anew that our commitment to building deep, meaningful relationships provides a model to our children of how rich and satisfying life can be when we surround ourselves with people we care for and who care for us.

I see that when we give the children an experience of being deeply seen and appreciated, it sets their compass, so that later in life the relationships they pursue because they feel familiar are caring ones. I think about it as creating healthy norms that they will gravitate back to, even as they venture out into experimentation and exploration of the wider world.

Because of their stability with a teacher who loops up through the grades with the children, the communities that grow up around a Waldorf class can be a great source of strength to parents over many years. As a mother of three girls, I certainly came to depend upon our children's teachers for advice, for encouragement and often for a reality check -- especially as they became teenagers. Having teachers who had known me and our children for many years provided untold comfort during our inevitable adolescent bumps.

And the benefit of stable, warm relationships doesn't end with the gifts to the children and their parents. Building lasting relationships with parents sustains and encourages the teachers as well. While they have chosen this challenging profession, they, too, need to be buoyed up by the encouragement that parents can provide. Thank you for the support and appreciation that you have given to your child's teacher!

Finally, building trusting relationships between parents and "the school", be that with other parents, with teachers, or with staff, strengthens our whole community. As people each on our own individual journeys of development, our relationships with one another are all different. And that is to be celebrated! Collectively, we are accomplishing amazing things by providing an education that places value on the quality of our heart connections with one another.

Warmly,  
Missi