

w i n t e r b e r r y

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"One can't believe impossible things," Alice said. "I daresay you haven't had much practice," said the Queen. "When I was your age, I always did it for half an hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast." -Lewis Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass*, Chapter Five

A WORD FROM MS. MALL...

As many parent already know, Winterberry is moving! Not this year or the next, but our hope is that we will begin the 2012/2013 school year in a new site. Over the past six years our community has spent countless hours identifying what we need/want and looking into where we can find a site to meet our vision.

During the 2009/2010 school year we hired RIM Architects to consider our previous community work and assist us in identifying options for a possible future location. Out of this process we tasked several small committees to explore several site options during the summer of 2010. In August we came back together and heard the committee reports. At the culmination of this meeting we decided to focus our efforts and move forward on the 9th and Gambell site.

The bodies met again in November where the committee shared information that resulted in the 9th and Gambell site no longer being an option. The Marlow proposal, located on 3rd Avenue across

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WINTERBERRY CROSS COUNTRY

Winterberry's middle school cross-country team coached by Mr. Harmon continues to work hard each week to improve their skills. Although a small group compared to many of the other mainstream middle schools, many Winterberry skiers continue to place in the top 10 to 20! Way to go Winterberry Skiers!



HEAD



HEART



HANDS

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

3rd WPG MTG, 6pm

7th NAEP Testing Grade 4

17th WCC MTG, 6pm

17th - 20th Waldorf
Teacher Trainers Visit our
Faculty Cohort

21st NO SCHOOL,
In-service

24th ALL SCHOOL
MEETING - 6pm @ TBA
Please come and give
feedback on possible new
site options!

MARCH

3rd WPG MTG, 6pm

4th NO SCHOOL
In-service

5th - 13th NO SCHOOL,
SPRING BREAK

14th - 25th: School
Mentors Visit: George
Hoffecker & Donna Burgess

19th 6th Annual HEAD,
HEART, and HANDS
Auction * 6pm @ Bill
Sheffield Railroad Depot

22nd Parent Night w/
George and Donna

25th & 26th Winterberry
Circus

28th - 30th
Parent Teacher
Conferences: 12:30 Release

from the McKinley building, was reintroduced as a possible option. Additionally, a five acre lot located west of Saint Mary's church on Tutor and Lake Otis was also introduced as a possibility. Two committees were tasked with further researching these two sites.

On Thursday, January 27th members of the three bodies came together again to hear what new information had been gathered on each site option. At this meeting it was determined that both sites were still viable options. While none of the governing bodies were represented with enough members to make the quorums necessary for a vote, those present decided to go back to individual body meetings and get commitments for future meetings.

At this meeting we were keenly aware of our short timeframe during which we must find a new location. We were also aware of the staggering amount of work that must be completed by our community as well as those we hire to work on our behalf. Our goal at this point is to identify a single project for our focus prior to the end of this school year. Obviously the sooner we come to this decision the better as it will allow for more group energy to be channeled in that direction. However, when we arrive at our final decision we want to make sure our it is the best one for our school.

In the coming weeks we will be coming together as a community to consider these choices and what they may mean for our school. Both of the current options will require community member commitments of time, talent, and treasure. We will be asking families and individuals to commit between now and the end of the summer of 2012:

Time: building, hanging, moving furniture, painting, etc

Talent: legal, architecture, landscaping, carpentry, surveying, engineering, surveying, banking/accounting, painting, electrical, plumbing, childcare, cooking, aesthetic prep of classroom, etc

Treasure: monetary donations made to completion and final occupancy of the new site.

Lastly, we will be holding an **All Community Meeting on Thursday, February 24th at 6pm**. This meeting will be held at an alternative meeting site that will be announced as soon as we are sent confirmation. Please make the time in your families schedule to send one family member as a representative. This will be a time to hear what our committees have discovered as well as a time to express your thoughts concerning these two current possibilities.

If you are new to the school please take the time to read over the RIM proposal created in the spring of last year. This report illustrates where the school has been and how we have moved forward in this process. Finding a site for charter schools continues to be a national issue due to lack of funding as well as lack of educational grade space. Taking the time to read through this important document will bring your knowledge of the past work current.

Thank you for all of your work and continued dedication to the Winterberry Community. Your support over the past six years has created an amazing place for children, families, and staff to meet and grow together.

Blessings, Shanna

KINDERGARTEN

by Ms. Lindsay

"The Mitten" told by Ms. Lindsay



GRADE ONE

by Ms. Drinnen

The First Grade continues to be inspired by the world of arithmetic. Following the adventures of Porter Plus, Mindy Minus, Thomas Times and Darcy Divide, we explore the operations of math and their relationships with each other. With the help of verse and song, the work of skip counting is continued. We have just finished painting, cutting and writing our new calendar and as January closes our work with days, weeks, months and years begins. It has been a wonderful journey so far.

Brave and true
Will I be
Each good deed
Sets me free
Each kind word
Undoes wrong
Each kind thought
Makes me strong

GRADE TWO

by Ms. Towner

The cold snap last week gave us respite on Friday, and we enjoyed a beautiful afternoon ice skating at Town Square. Thanks to the parents who joined us- and those who sent in extra skates and helmets. I am happy to tell you that everyone in our class was outfitted to skate! We will go again soon.

We are currently in a math block, working steadily, learning our times tables. We practice skip counting with rhythm sticks and while jumping rope. We have discovered beautiful patterns that can be created on a circle with each times tables. Language Arts will again be the focus of main lesson beginning next week and soon we will begin practicing for our play.

GRADE THREE

by Ms. Eggleston





GRADE FOUR

by Ms. Mayer

In fourth grade we are studying zoology, mythology, and fractions. In fractions we are studying equivalent fractions and egg carton fractions. We have a game that we play with egg cartons. In the game a person draws a card with a fraction on it and then draws that fraction on the picture of a egg carton. The person with the least left over wins. We also have created a fraction table with whole, half, and quarter tile pieces. WE have been putting them out in symmetrical patterns. When we finish, it will be for sale at the auction. Look out for it and bid on it. We also painted fraction trees with Ms. Mall this week. Come by upstairs and have a look at them.

- Written by Robin, Anika, and Ms. Mayer

GRADE SIX

by Mr. Crawford

Sixth grade has completed the study of Astronomy, and we are eager to visit the UAA Planetarium as a culminating experience. Flowing from this study of the heavens is a block on Geometry. How satisfying it is to draw perfect circles after studying so many spherical bodies all around us! We are also delving into five-paragraph essay writing, daily oral and written reflection on what we are reading, and an ongoing process of forming and adhering to community agreements within our class.

As the second half of the year approaches, I am excited for what lies ahead: Winterfaire, our class play, our final assembly, the study of physics, Medieval History, and Geology, orienteering at Kincaid park, and much more. I also look forward to the next two years, where I will continue this amazing journey with this class to eighth grade. Every day I feel blessed to be part of this community, and to come to work to do something I love.

RUSSIAN

by Mr. Harmon

Russia's been in the news quite a bit lately, like when they were recently named hosts of the 2018 World Cup (school trip?). The 2014 Winter Olympic in Sochi will also begin to take more and more headlines. When the story is appropriate for your child's age, maturity and interest, it's a great opportunity to connect their language learning with the larger world.

In the classroom, we are settling down from the winter break and getting to work. The first graders have just started to get enough

exposure to the language to start to use it in class, which is truly one of the most enjoyable things to witness. Second grade is getting ready for soup days using their Russian and having a fabulous time acting out Russian folk tales. Third grade is working hard to memorize a long verse with many action words in it. The fourth graders and fifth graders continue to work on their writing and reading skills. The sixth through eighth grades are building their conversation skills, learning to talk about their day and their interests.

Don't forget the tutoring group each Thursday after early release, 12:30-1:15pm.

MUSIC

by Mr. V (Vander Schrier)

Students in first through third grade are continuing their musical experiences through song, movement, and circle games. Students will soon be playing Orff and other instruments as well as singing in rounds.

Chorus:

Students in the 6th and 7/8th grade choirs will continue to hone their singing skills. Beginning in February 6th grade will be focusing on part-singing while the 7/8th grade will be focusing on our project, upon which we are currently deciding.

STRINGS

by Mr. V (Vander Schrier)

Just a few, friendly, New Year's reminders for string students and families. As we get into the coldest months of the year please make sure to not let the violins sit out in the cold for extended periods of time.

Violin day is every Monday and Wednesdays at which students need to have their violin and practice folder. All violin students should have a practice folder, which was handed out to the students before break. It is a large red folder with their name on it. In their folder there is a practice journal which students are to use daily to keep track of their practice times. Students need to practice a minimum of fifteen minutes a day for six days of the week.

Presently the fourth grade class is practicing "Ode to Joy" on their violin and with their voice. They have been learning the German lyrics for "Ode to Joy" quite well! Ask them to speak (or better yet sing!) the German to you. The fifth graders have been practicing their violin playing and singing as well. They have been learning their state capitals by singing and playing "Wakko's America." They should know around fifteen states and capitals so far, see if they can get that many (or more!).

MOVEMENT

by Mr. V (Vander Schrier)

As we get into the coldest months of the year, we want to insure that each student is warm and safe while outside in movement class. Students need to dress properly to go outside for movement, prepared each day with a warm coat, snow pants, hat, gloves, and boots. If a student does not wear the appropriate gear to be outside, they will need to stay inside and miss out on the activities planned for movement that day.

I just had the pleasure of observing Mr. Dale Thurber, the movement/games teacher at SunRidge Charter School in Sebastapol, CA. I was able to spend my time observing his classes where I picked up numerous games, resources, and ideas for this second half of the year. He has a great understanding of the students as well as an excellent rapport with them. The tips I picked up from him have been ever so helpful for our movement classes.



This year Winterberry started its own cross country ski team for grades 6-8 after three successful years of having running in the autumn. Racing has begun, and the team is small but mighty! Our first race was at Kincaid Park in the classic technique. In the boys 6/7 race, Ryan Bickford was 7th, Eli Brudie 16th, Aaron Morse 30th and Dillon Fogg 62nd in a field of over 100 skiers from all the middle schools in the city. Riley Bickford, our lone 8th grade boy, skied to fourth place in his race. Esme Brudie also placed in the top ten, finishing in 7th for the 8th grade girls. Mary Robicheaux led Winterberry's 6/7 girls, coming in 3rd, with Kaeli Campbell finishing 44th. We'll be racing each week from now until February 22nd, so come cheer us on. You can find schedules on the ASD and the Nordic Ski Association of Anchorage websites.

Thanks to Sarah Robicheaux for getting us awesome hats! You've seen them around school, so don't miss your opportunity to get one yourself and support the team!

- Mr. Harmon

WCC ELECTIONS!!!

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Winterberry Charter Council?

Winterberry Charter Council (WCC) Elections

The Winterberry Charter Council (WCC) is holding its yearly elections during the regular monthly meeting on February 17th. School wide voting will occur the week of February 7-11. There will be 5 seats open for the 2011-2012 year. The WCC requests a two year commitment to the board.

The WCC is looking for individuals who are interested in becoming a member of Winterberry's primary governing body. We seek individuals who have knowledge in areas that are most integral to our functions: legal, budgeting/ accounting, real estate and building acquisition as well as the desire to work together with a group of individuals in a consensus model with the shared vision of taking Winterberry to a place it will grow and thrive in the future.

Following is a brief overview of the WCC's responsibilities and functions within the school:

Winterberry Charter School has three governing bodies: the Winterberry Charter Council (WCC) , Winterberry Parent Guild ("WPG"), and the Faculty. These three bodies govern together through building consensus. In the event that there is a disagreement on policy or procedure between bodies that cannot be worked out through consensus (including but not limited to emergency actions), the WCC acts as the primary governing body.

The WCC performs the following major functions:

- A. Ensures the fulfillment of the mission of Winterberry Charter School as stated in the Charter.
- B. Oversees and has ultimate accountability and responsibility for academics, curriculum, legal/risk management, personnel issues, finances, operation/maintenance and budgeting issues.
- C. Contracts with an administrator, delegates and oversee their responsibilities.

The WCC meets monthly on the third Thursday of each month at 6 pm during the school year August – May. Though we take our responsibilities seriously, we find time to enjoy our work together.

If you are interested in becoming a board member please contact the election committee: Meg Eggleston eggleston_margaret@asdk12.org or Melissa Janigo janigo_melissa@asdk12.org by January 19th. We will be holding a "Meet the Candidates" at our regular January 20th meeting. We hope you can join us! "Meet the Candidate" questions will be available to those who are interested! A HUGE THANKS to all who are willing!

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW

\$60pp, \$600 Individual Table, \$800 Corporate Table

A painting of a man and a child on a pier. The man, wearing a blue robe and a white beard, holds a long wooden staff and points towards a large, vibrant rainbow arching over the ocean. A child in a red suit stands next to him, also looking at the rainbow. In the background, a white lighthouse with a red roof stands on a rocky shore. The sky is a mix of purple and blue, with a few white birds flying. The overall style is soft and painterly.

Winterberry 3rd Annual Head, Heart, & Hands Auction

Saturday, March 19, 2011 • 6pm, BILL SHEFFIELD ALASKA RAILROAD DEPOT

Make Reading a Habit at Home

"Few children learn to love books by themselves.
Someone has to lure them into the wonderful world of
the written word: someone has to show them the way."

—Orville Prescott

Research shows that children who read books for just 20 minutes a day perform better in school. Here are some great ways to get your child reading!

- 1. Set aside a reading time.** Pick a reading time that is good for everyone. It might be before bedtime or even after homework.
- 2. Pick a reading place.** It is important that everyone is comfortable so they can enjoy the book. Try reading in the living room, or maybe the dinner table works best.
- 3. Read together.** One person can read the book, or people can take turns.
- 4. Involve and engage listeners.** Before you read, point to the book's title, author, and illustrator. Ask listeners, "What do they think the story is going to be about?" As you read, you can ask your family members what they think will happen next. And be sure to engage listeners with exciting voices!
- 5. Fill your home with reading materials.** Place books, magazines, newspapers, cookbooks, and more throughout the house so your child is surrounded by things to read.
- 6. Get caught reading yourself.** When your child sees you read, she will be inspired to read.
- 7. Older siblings read to younger siblings.** By reading to a younger sibling, the reader will gain confidence.
- 8. Start seasonal traditions.** Pick a book to read every year when your child goes back to school. You can also read the same special book during a holiday.
- 9. Keep favorite books around.** It can be comforting for a new reader to build confidence and fluency by practicing when re-reading a favorite book.



Winterberry Charter Council Members (WCC)

Melissa Janigo, Chair janigo_melissa@asdk12.org
Arthur Harmon, Staff/Secretary harmon_arthur@asdk12.org
Erin Fleischer, Parent erinak@gmail.com
Della Swartz, Parent ddswartz@mtaonline.net
Franny Hall, Community Member frannyinak@yahoo.com
Meggan Judge, Parent ericandmeggan@gmail.com
Tara Smith, Parent taramarlene@gmail.com
Todd Robicheaux, Parent Seat trobicheaux@alaska.net
Lynne Jablonski, WPG Rep lynnejeffrey@yahoo.com
Meg Eggleston, Fcty Chair eggleston_margaret@asdk12.org
Vacant, Staff/Faculty Seat
Shanna Mall, Principal mall_shanna@asdk12.org

Monthly Meetings: 3rd Thursday of each month, 6pm, second floor of Winterberry Charter School unless otherwise stated & advertised.

Winterberry Parent's Guild Members (WPG)

Julie Pepe, President pepehelps@yahoo.com
Craig Lyon, Vice President ak3csandat@pci.net
Sarah Rygh, Treasurer sara.rygh@gmail.com
Christina Eubanks, Secretary christinaann58@hotmail.com
Lynne Jablonski, Fundraising lynnejeffrey@yahoo.com
Vacant, Kindergarten
Mike Rehberg, Grade One mike@rehbergs.net
Vacant, Grade Two
Peter Smith, Grade Three petersmith@as.net
Dave Swartz, Grade Four ddswartz@mtaonline.net
Louke Ellenbroek, Grade Five louke_ellenbroek@hotmail.com
Sarah Robicheaux, Grade Six sarah@alaska.net
Rebeka Edge, Grade Seven/Eight edgefam@yahoo.com
Shanna Mall, Principal mall_shanna@asdk12.org

Monthly Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month, 6pm, second floor of Winterberry Charter School unless otherwise stated & advertised.

Fur Rondy is Coming!

While this is a very exciting time for the city of Anchorage, it means our school parking will be unavailable from February 18th at 8pm - March 10th at 5pm. What does this mean to you?

- * NO PARKING in the Saturday Market Lot 2/19-3/10.
- * DO PARK in the Post Office Mall (Lot 14) or the Howard Johnson (Lot 15) each day from 2/19-3/10.
- * PICK UP RELOCATED to the bottom of the 2nd Avenue hill. This is usually not acceptable, however the city has made exceptions to accommodate our school during this time. I know this will be more convenient for many of you, but please remember it is a TEMPORARY solution to be used through 3/10.

...DRESS REQUEST...



In order to reduce classroom distractions, continue our commitment to upholding Steiner's views on materialism, and respect the needs of all students, families, and staff, we respectfully ask that student attire be comprised of:

- * solid colors,
- * stripes,
- * polka dots,
- * or patterns.



We also ask that all outerwear and accessories (including indoor shoes and lunch boxes) also follow these guidelines. Please choose plain shoes that do not include electronic lights, sounds, wheels, or commercially produced pictures.

When students come to school with items that do not meet these guidelines, school staff may ask them to alter the clothing so it is not distracting (turn a shirt inside-out, for example), give the student an alternative item to wear instead and/or work together with families to find an alternative within a reasonable period.

Our goal is that we can come together on this issue out of respect for all community members knowing that while such items may not distract one, they do distract another. Thank you for your commitment to creating and maintaining the highest quality environment for our children.

As always, thank you for your willingness to grow and work together to create a culture of caring and respect at Winterberry!