

# The Denver Waldorf School New Parent Guide



The healing social life is found  
When in the mirror of each human soul  
The whole community finds its reflection,  
And when in the community  
The virtue of each one is living.  
*--Rudolf Steiner*

***The Denver Waldorf School  
2100 S. Pennsylvania Street  
Denver, CO 80210  
303-777-0531***

Founded on Rudolf Steiner's humanitarian curriculum, The Denver Waldorf School awakens and inspires students' critical thinking, emotional intelligence and artistic expression, preparing them to bring relevant contributions to the world.

August 2014

Dear New DWS Parents,

Welcome to The Denver Waldorf School community! We believe that the parents who send their children to this school are incredibly committed, talented, and generous – it's a good thing, because without all of us working together to support the faculty and staff, our school could not be what it is. We hope you find supporting the school in your own way as rewarding as we all have. We also hope that you will find one of those ways to be involved in our Parent Council!

Each year the Parent Council of The Denver Waldorf School creates a project to work on that will help support the parents of our school in some special way. A number of years ago that project was to create a Community Resources Guide with the intention of providing helpful perspectives from veteran parents to new parents since our school embodies so many unique aspects not found in the prevalent educational culture, including curriculum, events, governance structure, etc. You will find thoughts regarding a variety of aspects here in alphabetical order for you to peruse.

On the next page, you'll find a list of ways you can support DWS through volunteer efforts. This is meant to give you some ideas so you'll know what to expect; you will receive much more information regarding specific needs through the year in the school newsletter. It really does take a variety of ideas and skills to help the school accomplish its mission!

Another very good resource is Christa Gustafson in the Main Office at extension 100 – if you aren't sure who to talk to, start with Christa – she will help point you in the right direction.

Please know you can call us any time if you have questions regarding any aspect of how to relate to the school. Our time as parents goes by quickly and we hope you find The Denver Waldorf School an amazing support to you as a parent – we certainly have.

Sincerely,  
The Denver Waldorf School Parent Council

## **Parent Volunteers Do It All!**

Here are some of the things you can do at The Denver Waldorf School:

- Drive for field trips
- Attend school and class events
- Build shelves and help organize classrooms
- Go to parent education evenings
- Become class event organizer for your child's class
- Participate in school fundraisers
- Help organize community events like the Holiday Fair and Mayfest: recruit vendors, choose books and toys, plan the layout and decorations, recruit and assign jobs to volunteers, and more
- Volunteer on the day of events: be a cashier, a face-painter, a cakewalk musician, grill cook, cleanup crew, lemonade maker, cake baker, performer, errand runner, etc.
- Connect with friends at class potlucks and community dinners
- Help organize the Gear Swap and other trading events
- Join Parent Council and get involved in inventing possibilities and projects for the parent community
- Offer your help to the Handwork teacher to read stories or help with knitting
- Read with a child
- Participate in school committees that need your expertise: these include Marketing, Development, Building & Grounds, Finance
- Take pictures on field trips and share them with your class email group
- Work on landscaping, planting, and maintenance of grounds
- Write articles on what's happening for the school newsletter
- Mentor a high school student in your area of expertise
- Tutor

Think of new ways to volunteer!

Tell someone your ideas!

(Parent Council is a good place to start, as is the Main Office.)

## **Administration**

Our administration always welcomes input, questions, concerns, advice, strategies for better communication and the like. Please let them know how they can support you. For more info, see the School Directory and Parent Handbook.

## **Advent Garden**

The season of Advent is celebrated with an advent garden for the kindergarten and lower grades. It is a time for quiet inner reflection and bringing forth light as the winter daylight fades. A large spiral of evergreen boughs is laid on the floor, with a white candle glowing in the center of the darkened room. The children walk the spiral in silence and add new candles to the design until the entire spiral is lit. This happens in early December.

## **Aftercare**

The Aftercare staff like to know in advance if your child will stay after 3:00 p.m. Drop-in rates are more expensive than scheduled aftercare.

## **Anthroposophy**

"Wisdom of Mankind" --This philosophy was developed by Dr. Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925), who was also the founder of the Waldorf movement in 1919. It is a non-denominational system of religious inquiry based on meditation and spirituality, incorporating Eastern and Western ideas. The teachers in the Waldorf School study Anthroposophy as it relates to the educational curriculum, but it is not taught to students. Study groups and books are available to parents who are curious about this philosophy "behind" the education. Steiner describes it as "awareness of one's humanity". It leads, in Steiner's words, "*from the spirit in the human being to the spirit in the universe.*" Humanity (anthropos) has the inherent wisdom (sophia) to transform both itself and the world. Anthroposophy intends to be a living presence; it wants to use words, concepts and ideas so that something living may shine down from the spiritual world into the physical. Anthroposophy does not only want to impart knowledge, it seeks to awaken life. (Rudolf Steiner-From *Toward a More Human Future*, Anthroposophical Society of America )

## **Annual Giving**

Like all non-profit private schools, DWS relies on donations to cover operating expenses. Each year, parents and friends are encouraged to donate whatever money they can to Annual Giving. We ask that everyone donate, aiming for 100% participation each year. Everyone giving even a small amount shows outside organizations how supportive our community is, which can make a difference when we apply for grants.

## **Annual General Meeting**

Each year, the community gathers for a report from the Board, College, and Administration on the fiscal health of the school and any current issues people should know about.

## **Archery Club**

Our kids cannot wait to become 6<sup>th</sup> Graders so they can go to the after-school Archery Club run by Michael Baker, our woodworking teacher and local Robin Hood. The club meets one day a week from 3:15-4:00 p.m.

## **Assemblies**

School assemblies are intended to be a "glimpse into the classroom" or a way to bring the curriculum to parents. It is always fun to watch your kids and get a glimpse of what is coming up in the next few years. Kindergarten families are not required to attend, but are warmly invited.

## **AWSNA**

The Association of Waldorf Schools of North America --DWS is a full, accredited member and a "mentor school" to new schools in the region. The AWSNA website, [whywaldorfworks.org](http://whywaldorfworks.org), is a great resource for information on Waldorf education and links to related organizations.

## **Birthday Celebrations**

In the kindergarten and sometimes 1st and 2nd Grade, parents are asked to attend their child's birthday celebration. In kindergarten, the teacher will bake a cake. The teacher creates a magical poem or story for the special child. As the child grows older, the birthday celebrations are not as elaborate and the parents may only be asked to drop off the treat for the class to eat, but each birthday is celebrated in a beautiful, unique way.

## **Board of Trustees**

Our Board of Trustees consists of volunteer parents, faculty, administration, and outside community members who oversee the school's finances, legal issues, and overall health. Board members contribute expertise in law, accounting, human resources, organizational development, and other areas that serve the school's needs. They meet at least once a month.

## **Book Clubs**

Throughout the year, groups of parents and teachers get together to study and discuss books to begin exploring their understanding of aspects of Waldorf philosophy, practice and process. Generally, a teacher facilitates the discussions. The book clubs are a great way to meet other parents and share time talking about a text as well as current events in our lives.

## **Class Parent Meetings**

As often as four times a year, each teacher calls a meeting with the class parents to go over aspects of the curriculum --we draw pictures or learn math like the students, or discuss developmental stages, or hear about the upcoming year. These are really useful and educational. Some teachers have them once a month, in the evening.

## **College of Teachers**

The College of Teachers makes all major decisions relating to the education of the children, including hiring and mentoring new teachers, deciding on program budgets, and considering issues that come up over the year. The College serves as the "heart" of DWS, holding responsibility for the spiritual and educational well-being of the students and the faculty.

## **Colors**

Those rainbow colors on the hallway walls and inside the classrooms are not just randomly placed! Done in a wash-technique called Lazure painting, they follow Waldorf teachings about the developmental stages of the children. Each grade classroom is a different color to help call forth within the child that particular stage of development and harmony. Rudolf Steiner said, *"Color is the soul of nature and the whole cosmos, and we share in this soul when we experience color."*

## **Computers**

Computers are part of the "media" that the school discourages for younger children. Sitting in front of a screen, even with an "educational" computer program, takes away from a child's creative time, homework time, music practice time, and family time! In High School, though, the DWS students learn to program and build computers, when they are ready to work with them as tools.

## **Discipline Code**

None of our children ever misbehave, do they? Well...nobody's perfect. Some behaviors are more serious than others. Our Discipline Code recognizes this, and has levels of consequences for different kinds of behaviors. You'll need to read it, and if your child is in middle school or high school, they need to read it too, sign it and return it to the office to show that they understand what is expected of them. You can explain it to your younger children as much as you think they need to know. (See Parent Handbook.)

## **Dress Code**

We do not have uniforms, but we try to avoid distracting clothes --like belly-baring shirts, short shorts or skirts, and T-shirts with media characters and corporate logos. Kids need to be able to move freely, stay warm, and hang upside down on the playground monkey bars if they want. They should not be distracted by the "coolness" of their friends' clothes, or by any kind of age-inappropriate clothing. (See Parent Handbook.)

## **Eighth Grade Class Trip**

You will hear a lot about this one. Every 8th Grade plans a long class trip to celebrate their eight-year journey.

## **Enrichment Camps**

During summer vacation and most school breaks, DWS offers fun and rhythmic daily camps for all ages. Check the website or the newsletter for more details.

## **Eurythmy**

Is it modern dance? Is it poetry in motion? Is it rhythmic gymnastics? It seems to combine all three. This art form is taught to the grades children, and it teaches them awareness of how their bodies move through space and how their movements create rhythms and emotional moods. It also teaches them awareness of others as they move through space. Eurythmy develops out of Rudolf Steiner's philosophy and is a special aspect of Waldorf education.

## **Fall Break**

Do not get too excited. It is usually just a few days, in early October, when we do not have to send the kids to school.

## **February Break**

Surprise! Your kids have a full week off in February, (usually the 3rd week) coinciding with President's Day, for the teachers to go to the regional Waldorf conference or participate in an in-service training to renew and inspire their work in the classroom.

## **Field Trips**

There are plenty of them, often to farms or other active locations in the early grades. 5th Grade goes skiing (be sure to take advantage of the free ski pass offered to Colorado 5th Graders!) Parents are asked to drive and chaperone for these, and these trips are a great chance to get to know some of the other kids and parents in your kids' classes.

## **Grading**

Instead of a "report card," the students in the lower grades are evaluated over the year, with parents getting updates at parent-teacher conferences and through portfolios and year-end reports that come home at the end of the year. In the high school, letter grades are given, and there is testing, to prepare for college and for college applications and tests. However, the

emphasis is on completion of projects and healthy participation in class, not on rating students as "A" or "D" level. High school students get transcripts with cumulative grading scores using a 4.0 GPA scale.

### **Grocery Cards**

A fundraising program that doesn't cost anything? Yes, it's true. If you buy \$100 in grocery cards the school earns \$5. You get your groceries, spending \$100 as usual. Many parents have a standing order to buy these. Ask Ben Drotar, Development Director, at [develop@denverwaldorf.org](mailto:develop@denverwaldorf.org) to set up a grocery certificate order.

### **Halloween**

Yes, your kids get to dress up. So do the teachers! At DWS, we discourage media characters (such as Disney or other cartoons) and ask that children not wear masks or frightening costumes. Homemade, creative, pretty or silly costumes are welcome. The kids bring their costumes to school and wear them later in the day for a parade through the grades.

### **Handwork**

1<sup>st</sup> Graders learn to knit, and that is just the beginning --crochet, weaving, cross-stitch, felting, clay modeling, bookbinding, sewing, and other artistic crafts are taught through the grades. The repetitive, rhythmic motions of activities like knitting help develop hand-eye coordination, early writing skills, and even can create calmness in excitable kids. Not just an "extra," this is a serious part of the Waldorf curriculum, and creates a pride in "look what I made!" that is priceless.

### **Harvest Festival**

In October, the Waldorf kindergartens celebrate the autumn harvest by creating a huge bonfire and roasting potatoes in the hot coals. They put apples through an apple press, churn butter and eat festive foods. They get a sense of the wonders of autumn and how the harvest is celebrated.

### **Holiday Fair**

The Denver Waldorf Holiday Fair celebrated on the first Saturday of December is a beautiful, festive occasion that provides children the opportunity to make gifts and participate in such activities as candle dipping, wreath making, woolen angel creations, cookie decorating, making elf-land houses, etc. There are wonderful sweets to purchase and homemade lunch items created by the various grades. It is a terrific opportunity to shop for that perfect handcrafted gift, toy or book. We need lots of helpers to make the fair a success, so we hope you'll volunteer your time and energy. As it is a fundraiser for the school, we love to see everyone there.

### **Homework**

Starting toward the end of 3rd Grade, students will begin to have homework. For a while, it will be simple and not very time-consuming. Beginning in 5th Grade and on into middle school, homework will take more time and effort, and stress definitely happens when main lesson books are due in middle school and high school. Homework is related to what is currently happening at school, and reinforces the students' experiences of the work being studied.

### **Inside Shoes**

Many teachers in kindergarten and early grades ask that parents provide "inside shoes", slippers or lightweight tennis shoes that stay at school. Plan to buy these in early September, after your teacher tells you what kind of shoes he or she wants.

### **Lantern Walk**

This event occurs in the evening in early November as daylight fades. The kindergartens and lower grades create beautiful lanterns and carry them through the neighborhood to light the night as winter approaches, singing autumn songs.

### **Lunches**

Each class eats with their teacher in their classroom. Sack lunches from home are the usual rule. Again, please don't choose distracting media characters for the lunchboxes -- they should be plain. Teachers ask that we pack healthy foods and avoid sugar and highly processed food. There are no microwaves or refrigerators, so use cold packs or a thermos if temperature is important. We also partner with Organics Delivered, which provides healthy, mostly organic hot lunches for purchase by families in grades 1-12. Look for more information and an order form in the Back-to-School Packet.

### **Lyres**

Lyres are ancient instruments, used in the earliest human civilizations of the Mediterranean and Middle East. They are little harps tuned to a pentatonic scale, and our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders learn to play songs on them. It's a great introduction to stringed instruments, and helps them develop their musical ears and ability to play together as a group. The sound is angelic!

### **Main Lesson Books**

In the early grades, these are collections of pictures, stories, math, and the daily work of the students, done in class during school time. They are great fun to bring home and show to family. Toward middle school, main lesson books become homework, in which the students write their lecture notes, reports and illustrations for the topics they are studying. Lots of homework time may be involved when it is a complicated subject. Even in the later grades, these are still beautiful! This is what Waldorf kids do instead of reading chapters in textbooks.

### **Math**

Singing and stomping to the beat, tossing beanbags to one another, jumping from cushion to cushion on one foot --in math class? Listening to a story about "Miller Multiply" and "Dairymaid Divide"? Math is taught in creative ways here. We teach from the real to the abstract. The children learn their number facts through music and rhythm and repetition, and the mathematical processes and patterns through stories. It gets challenging (5th Grade fractions, middle school algebra, high school calculus), but starts out fun.

### **Mayfest**

Normally celebrated on or around May 1<sup>st</sup>, this is a school-wide spring celebration and fundraiser. It is a time of rebirth and renewed life of the soul. The children make wreaths of flowers and dance the maypole dance. It is a colorful and joyful outdoor festival with lots of fun activities for all ages.

### **Medieval Games**

Each spring, the 6th Grade students from all the regional Waldorf Schools attend the medieval games. It is a way to sum up their medieval history studies, enjoy meeting friends from other towns, and challenge their growing strength and coordination in fun athletic competition. Parents play a big role in these games – they even get dressed up in period costumes!

### **Michaelmas**

On September 29th, the autumn festival of Michaelmas is celebrated. The teachers tell the symbolic story of how St. George, a brave knight, overcame the dragon with the help of the Archangel Michael. St. Michael is considered the warrior of courage and fighter against evil. He

helps inspire us to take courage against the darkness and develop strong, brave free wills. Children are given “tasks” or “challenges” to develop their own will. It’s a renewal of the soul and the festival of the will. It brings light to the darkening time of year.

### **Music Practice**

Starting in 3rd Grade, when they get their stringed instruments, kids are expected to take their instruments home and practice. As homework goes, it is not too bad --except maybe in 5th Grade if they take up the trombone!

### **Parent Council**

Once a month, the Parent Council meets. Invented by parents to "awaken and forward the possibilities of community", the Parent Council is a creative and fun group. We take on projects (like an annual food drive for the Lakota Waldorf School) and create events in support of the school and its families. Everyone is welcome to join us to co-create this ever-changing group. Look for meeting dates and times in the Newsletter and Community Updates.

### **Parent Handbook**

The Parent Handbook includes information on the school's various committees and more details on how the school is run and what parents should expect. Be sure to read the handbook cover to cover so you are familiar with all of the school's policies.

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Twice a year, instead of reading a report card, you get to go to school and meet with your child's teacher for a half-hour. You look over your child's work and talk about how he or she is doing. You may be amazed by some of the insights your child's teacher has, and you will probably be proud as a peacock.

### **Parking**

Please use the parking lot or street parking on the same side of the street as the school. Many of our neighbors do not have garages and rely on street parking outside their homes, so please be as considerate as possible. Please refer to the Parent Handbook for details about drop-off and pick-up areas for the different grades.

### **Pedagogical Meeting(s)**

Teachers and staff meet weekly to share and discuss curriculum and conduct child studies. This is an on-going development time to engage in collegial conversations. In addition to these continual meetings, every February, the teachers go to a regional meeting of Waldorf teachers to learn from one another and from speakers and master teachers. This is an important time of renewal for the teachers, and parents need to know it is coming -because your kids have that week off from school.

### **Pentathlon**

Each spring, the 5th Grade students from all the Rocky Mountain regional Waldorf schools gather to relive the Greek Olympic Pentathlon. Each child participates in the sprint, long jump, long run, wrestling, discus and javelin throw. They dance and present poetry to the Greek gods. Parents will not want to miss seeing the culmination of their students' yearlong training for these events.

### **Plays**

From Aesop's Fables to Fiddler on the Roof, you will enjoy seeing your child in class plays throughout the grades and on into high school. These are an important part of the curriculum,

integrating language skills, art, music, and movement. Each year's play reflects the main area of study (like Norse Myths in 4th Grade) and offers each child a chance to grow in self-confidence and expression. Plan to help with sets and costumes, work on learning lines with your child, and bring the grandparents to the evening performance.

### **Reading**

Waldorf schools take a unique approach to teaching children how to read. Here, too, we teach from the real to the abstract. In Waldorf education, the introduction to reading is approached by learning to write the letters and words, and listening to stories. By the end of 2nd Grade and into 3rd Grade, the child begins to read from books. Although some children teach themselves to read earlier, many are not ready developmentally until age 7 or 8.

### **Recorder**

The recorder is introduced in the 1st Grade, introducing children to pitch, harmony, tone, and ensemble. Children learn basic notes and breath control as well as how to read music. With each year, they learn to play more difficult songs and harmonize as a group.

### **Religion in School**

The Waldorf curriculum focuses on bringing forth a natural reverence for the beauty and wonder of life. Students delve deeply into ancient civilizations, study the myths and religions of mankind, and celebrate festivals that have evolved through time. Children say morning verses, which do include references to God, but no particular religion is taught as a practice. Everyone is welcome, regardless of their individual beliefs or religious practices. (See "Anthroposophy".)

### **Rose Ceremony**

As a child enters the 1st Grade, there is a celebration of growth and community. Each 1st Grader is partnered with an 8th or 12th Grader who will serve as their mentor and partner for a year. To symbolize that bond, the 8th or 12th Grader gives the 1st Grade partner a rose during a special morning assembly on the first day of school. Parents are welcome to stay and watch. The celebration is repeated when the 1st Graders return the gesture at the end of the school year to send the 8th and 12th Graders on their way.

### **Rudolf Steiner**

The founder of the first Waldorf School, this Austrian philosopher created a new kind of education that honored the developmental stages of childhood. Our school follows his original curriculum, modified for our times, but still in keeping with Steiner's plan for his first school. In Europe, Waldorf schools are called Steiner Schools. (See "Anthroposophy".)

### **School Directory**

Every teacher, staff member, and family is listed in the School Directory, which you can pick up as soon as they are ready in September. It's a good way of finding out the names of people you might only know as "Sam's mom" or "Devon's dad." Phone numbers and addresses are also listed.

### **Senior Projects**

As the 12th Grade class begins their last year in high school, they must create a project that will depict their education and commitment to learning. They are free to choose from a variety of realms, requiring numerous hours of time to complete their final project. Toward the end of the year, each student must present his or her project to the teachers and students. It is fascinating and enlightening to see the results of a Waldorf High School education.

### **Shepherd's Play**

In December, the teachers prepare a reverent and entertaining medieval Christmas play about the Nativity. Funny and moving, the Shepherd's Play is a beautiful introduction to the season as we leave school for the winter break. It is performed for parents and friends in the evening.

### **Newsletter and Community Updates**

Our monthly e-newsletter is your source for the latest information about upcoming school events, festivals, announcements, community ads and much more. Each week, you'll also receive a brief Community Update delivered to your email inbox. These emails are a vital source of information – a must-read for parents.

### **Snacks**

In Kindergartens and lower grades, parents buy groceries for classroom snacks (please bring your receipt to the Business Office for reimbursement), usually on a rotation of two or three weeks a year. What you have to buy varies from teacher to teacher. We serve healthy and hearty snacks, and the kids learn about cooking and preparing meals this way. Older kids are sometimes asked to pack individual snacks in their lunch bags.

### **Snow Days**

Some years, the snow and ice can be fierce in Denver! On a snowy morning, please check the local news, our school website or school phone message for school closure information (see your Parent Handbook for complete details.) DWS tries to remain open as much as possible. However, please don't feel compelled to bring your child just because school is open, especially if you live far away or don't have a good snow car.

### **Sports Program at DWS**

All that Eurythmy, folk dancing, stomping around in math class and games on the playground seems to add up to surprisingly coordinated middle and high school students. Our Sports Program includes volleyball, cross country and basketball teams that compete with other small, private schools. It is a great experience for the kids, and fun for the community to cheer our "Spartans" on to victory.

### **Sports at Other Area Schools**

Many of our high school students join other sports teams like track and field, lacrosse, or swimming, in a cooperative arrangement with East High School. We have also had competitive fencers, Irish step-dancers, and martial artists among our students. Our students in the lower grades often participate with Parks & Recreation programs throughout the city. Contact Michael Quinn, our Athletic Director ([athletics@denverwaldorf.org](mailto:athletics@denverwaldorf.org)), for more information on how to participate.

### **Spring Break**

Each April, school will be closed for a two-week break, so remember to plan ahead and make arrangements. Parents sometimes arrange child care co-ops or use our enrichment camp.

### **Stringed Instruments**

Violin and cello playing is fun, and it helps kids develop all sorts of skills beyond making beautiful music. Hand-eye coordination, teamwork and following a director, the "language" of written music, the discipline of practicing --it all starts in 3rd Grade, when your child will choose one of these two instruments. You will need to rent or buy an instrument and make sure it gets to school on the right days. In this time when many schools have cut out elementary music altogether, an early strings program is a special aspect of our school.

## **Supplies**

Most school supplies are bought by the teacher at the beginning of each year, paid for by the school (and your tuition). If your child needs a few special supplies, the teacher will let you know in the first few weeks of school.

## **Television, Computer Games & Other Media**

Television affects children's capacity to imagine, problem-solve and think creatively. It is okay for adults, but our teachers ask that we do not let our kids watch much of it. It distracts them from their real work of play, imagination, reading, homework, music practice, and running around like crazed squirrels. What works for many of our families is to keep the TV off during the week, with no "screen time" on school nights, then to allow a limited amount of TV or videos on weekends. Please, no "screen time" in the morning before school.

## **Unicycle Club**

Have you ever seen jousting on unicycles? It happens around here. Kids can learn to ride at Unicycle Club, starting in first grade, one afternoon a week right after school. Our teacher, Jessie Cartwright, runs this club, based on interest. The school has a few unicycles, or if your child catches the craze, you can buy your own. Helmets are required.

## **Valentines**

Your grades child will make homemade valentines for all of his or her classmates so be forewarned. Kids often forget to mention this until the night before. Store bought valentines are discouraged. It's homework -- but fun!

## **Volunteer Appreciation**

A nice treat toward the end of the year! The staff takes a few hours one day to serve great food and offer warm appreciation to parent volunteers. You will be amazed at how much work the volunteers do at this school, and how much fun they have.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Speaking of volunteering...you can do this! Everything from helping children make crafts at the Holiday Fair to coordinating the Grocery Certificate program is done by volunteers. Within your child's classroom, field trip drivers, classroom cleaners, special event helpers, treasurers, and more are needed. We add so much talent, experience, and energy to the school every year. It is the best way to feel like an essential part of this community. Talk to the staff or a Parent Council member if you need a place to start, and watch for calls for volunteers.

## **Waldorf Evening Presentations**

Through the year, the teachers present special evening seminars to help parents understand Waldorf concepts and philosophy. Families can learn to create rhythm and consistency in a young child's environment. Such topics as nutrition, warmth, creating rhythm and the use of telling stories may be presented. Topics relating to older children, such as puberty and teenage difficulties, and topics of interest to adults are also presented. Watch for these!

## **Warmth**

One part of the Waldorf philosophy is to support children's health by keeping them warm. Please send your children to school in layers, so they can take them off and put them on as needed in our variable climate. Hats, gloves, polar fleece or wool vests, and good boots help keep them comfortable during the large amount of outdoor playtime they enjoy every day.

**Website**

Check out our website [www.denverwaldorf.org](http://www.denverwaldorf.org) to check the events and sports calendar, read about the curriculum, find school forms, and more.

**Woodworking**

Starting in 5th Grade, each student takes woodworking. Their first project is to carve a wooden mallet from a hickory limb, using only hand woodworking tools. The wooden mallet is then used with other hand tools to make all their other woodcarvings as they continue through the grades. Woodworking strengthens a child's discipline and focus to create something beautiful out of nature.

## Contact Information

**Questions Regarding your Child**

We ask that parents first contact the teacher or staff member directly involved or closely associated. If there is still a concern and you need more assistance, the College of Teachers is available to the parents as a resource to help. Please contact the member on the College with whom you feel most comfortable.

Parents may also direct concerns to the Administrative Director, Judy Lucas, x108 or [admin@denverwaldorf.org](mailto:admin@denverwaldorf.org).

The faculty and staff of The Denver Waldorf School are committed to training in Restorative Practices, which includes deep listening and conscious responding.

## Contact Information (continued)

Administrative Director	Judy Lucas, <a href="mailto:admin@denverwaldorf.org">admin@denverwaldorf.org</a>	x108
When in doubt about whom to call	Christa Gustafson, Main Office Manager	x100
Health and medication policies	<a href="mailto:dws@denverwaldorf.org">dws@denverwaldorf.org</a>	
Class/Field Trips		
Attendance		
Family contact information	Brooke Camfield, Database Integration Coordinator	x101
	<a href="mailto:database@denverwaldorf.org">database@denverwaldorf.org</a>	
Newsletter/ Broadcast Email/Website	Molly Burke, Community Development Coordinator	x103
School events/school calendar	<a href="mailto:communicate@denverwaldorf.org">communicate@denverwaldorf.org</a>	
Parent education		
Enrollment activities	Leigh Rhysling, Enrollment Director	x106
Curriculum materials	<a href="mailto:enroll@denverwaldorf.org">enroll@denverwaldorf.org</a>	
Promotion of Waldorf education		
Payment plans	Lori Pucelik, Business Affairs Director	x104
Tuition assistance	<a href="mailto:business@denverwaldorf.org">business@denverwaldorf.org</a>	
Contributions or donations	Ben Drotar, Development Director	x107
Grant and funding opportunities	<a href="mailto:develop@denverwaldorf.org">develop@denverwaldorf.org</a>	
Volunteer opportunities		
Grocery certificates		
Tuition payments	Carolyn Goodman, Financial Coordinator	x105
Questions regarding billing	<a href="mailto:finance@denverwaldorf.org">finance@denverwaldorf.org</a>	
Grocery certificates		
Extended care	Dawn Archer, After Care Director	x113
	<a href="mailto:After_Care@denverwaldorf.org">After_Care@denverwaldorf.org</a>	
Enrichment camps	Carla Abate, Enrichment Program Director	x127
	<a href="mailto:camps@denverwaldorf.org">camps@denverwaldorf.org</a>	
High School questions or issues	Lydia Fiser, High School Coordinator	x109
HS calendar of events	<a href="mailto:highschool@denverwaldorf.org">highschool@denverwaldorf.org</a>	
Building questions or issues	Reese Jordan, Facilities Manager	x 115
	<a href="mailto:facilities@denverwaldorf.org">facilities@denverwaldorf.org</a>	

## Traffic Flow & Parking Map



### Entrances

-  Main Entrance
-  Before Care Entrance
-  After Care Entrance
-  Festival Hall Entrance
-  Gym Entrance

### Drop-off & Pick-up Grades 3–8 Students: School Side of Street

*West Side of South Pearl or North Side of Warren Avenue*

**NO PARKING OR DROP-OFF ON:**  
*East Side of Pearl Street,  
West Side of Pennsylvania Street, or  
South Side of Warren Avenue*