

Parent Handbook ~ 2020/2021 Year of Classes

Clothing

We strive to create an environment for the children that is gentle on the senses, full of natural shades, images, colors and is simple. Along with being practical and non-distracting, we ask that the children's clothing also be simple and functional. Clothing should be comfortable for the child (natural fibers preferred), free from images and easy for them to move, work and climb in. A heart, rainbow or animal etc. is ok, as long as the image is wholesome. The clothing should be accessible for your child to take on and off. Remember, while at school, the children are little farmers!

Morning Routine:

*Please have your child use the outdoor or indoor bathroom and **wash hands at drop off**. Long hair should be out of the face and tied back before school.*

Please have your child place their shoes neatly before entering the classroom. ("brother" shoe next to "sister" shoe) and be sure that everything they have taken off makes its way to their hook/cubby.

Many trinkets, treasures and toys from home find their way into the classroom. We ask for your support in reminding the children to keep those items at home or in the car. Many small trinkets that have come to school in pockets have been lost on campus or fought over, causing unnecessary tears and distraction. We welcome treasure gifts for our nature table, simple show and tell (the children love to see big crystals!) and flowers. If your child has something to bring for the entire class, please check in with the classroom teachers who will find an appropriate time to share.

**Remember to sign your child in [post COVID requires parents bring their own pen]! And, please make contact with at least one teacher before you go.*

Below is a list of what your child should have in their cubby:

2 pair pants

2 long sleeve shirts

2 pair socks

2 pair underwear

1 warm shirt (sweater, fleece)

1 warm hat

1 sunhat (that fits and stays on, with a brim)

*1 set of **waterproof** rain gear and/or snow gear*

Pair of rain/snow boots

Pair of slippers or inside shoes (slip-ons, rubber sole, no animals or sparkles please)

Please make sure that all clothing/shoes/slippers/hats are **labeled.*

*It is best if these items are kept at school so that they will always be there when needed. Sometimes we wear rain suits for water play on days when it is not raining. And if it is a cold morning we'll wear warm hats to go out even if it warms up later. Check your child's extra clothes basket often, everything should fit neatly in there. Replace extras that have come home and please be sure that all caregivers know to wash and replace clothing items as needed. **Thank you!***

Craft Curriculum

Throughout the year, our mixed-age kindergarteners will work on a variety of seasonal handcrafts. The children will participate in these crafts according to their stage of development as they each delight in gaining new skills. We create together using natural materials which are also nourishing for their senses and give the children a tangible sense of how things are made and where such materials come from. At BeeLoved Farm, the children paint outdoors and have the experience of being surrounded by seasonal hues, chirping birds and sunlight. We use a method of watercolor painting called, "wet on

wet". We provide the recommended, therapeutic grade paper used in most Waldorf kindergartens. This method of painting focuses on giving the child/painter a "color experience" and is more about the process and less about the end product. In this way, the child is free to explore the colors mixing together to create a dream-like scene of color and light. Sometimes, the teacher will first tell the children a seasonal story to demonstrate how to hold the brush. The colors chosen often reflect the season and the paintings are also used for other crafts as well. (Autumn lanterns and Springtime baskets).

Here is a list of craft activities the mixed-aged kindergarten children will participate in:

Watercolor Painting

Gift wrapping

Sewing

Finger knitting

Lantern making

Jewelry making

Woodworking

Wet wool felting

Wreath making

Clay modeling

Drawing

Dyeing with natural pigments

Paper making

Food preservation

Beeswax modeling

Candle making

"Up-cycled" wool projects

Embroidery

Festivals

When the first Waldorf Schools were established in North America, teachers looked to their European mentors and teachers to give them a picture of a healthy "festival life". Many of the traditions that we celebrate in Waldorf Schools today include festivals which are celebrated not only in Europe, but also in many parts of the world. As we follow the natural rhythm of the seasons and the dance between longer and shorter days throughout the year, we as teachers seek to find an archetypal, universal story of how these cycles are reflected both outside in the world and also within ourselves. As early childhood teachers, we are always looking to offer to the children a universal picture of the relationship between man and nature. Thus, we seek to find common themes celebrated in many parts of the world.

In Autumn, during harvest time, we celebrate Michaelmas, when the brave knight Michael shines brightly with his sword of wisdom and goodness. As we approach the deep winter, we go out into the darkness with our homemade lanterns to remember the flame of light within and the warmth of community. During Advent and Hanukkah we sing songs by the fire, walk through an evergreen spiral with our little light and then back out again, symbolizing the guiding light of wisdom and the breathing in and out of time. With the arrival of Spring, our homemade baskets spring alive with fresh, green grass. And finally, May Faire is a celebration of joy, growth and the approach of summer. If your family celebrates a special holiday that is not already included in our curriculum, and you

would like it to be, please let us know. We would love to celebrate along with you.

Birthdays

As part of our school's festival life, we celebrate the birthday of each child in our program. The birthday celebration is a special time for the children to learn about one another, to be celebrated and to reflect on how much they have grown. Our birthday ceremonies are held soon after morning drop off and take place as close to the child's actual birthday as possible. Both parents are welcome to attend and the ceremony will be scheduled in advance so that one or more parent can attend. It has become our tradition that the "Birthday Child" bring a fruit snack to share with his/her classmates during our morning snack time. Please bring the fruit packaged and/or unwashed. The teachers will wash and cut the fruit in our classroom kitchen. Home grown fruits are most welcome!

Our ceremony is simple, meaningful, and lasts for about 30 minutes. We begin with a story and a song and then a lighting of the child's birthday candles. While we light the candles, we will invite you share something special about each year. For example, "When Sonya was 1, she learned to walk and loved to play with her little bear." And so on. After the candle lighting, your child will receive a gift and the whole class will play a special game before our usual morning activities begin.

We look forward to celebrating your child's birthday with you!

Dates to Remember

September, 2020

8/18/2018 First Day of Classes (Orchard Farmers)

8/19/2020 First Day of Classes (Vegetable Farmers)

9/24 Michaelmas Festival (Orchard Farmers)

9/25 Michaelmas Festival (Vegetable Farmers)

November

11/11 Martinmas Festival / Lantern Walk (at BeeLoved Farm 6-7p.m.)

11/24 Field trip to Dave Moore Park (Orchard Farmers) 8:30-12:30

11/25 Field trip to Dave Moore Park (Vegetable Farmers) 8:30-12:30

11/26 – 27 No Classes / Thanksgiving Break

December

12/8 Morning Holiday Caroling at drop off begins (Cowboy Campfire)

12/17 Advent Spiral 8:45-9:45 a.m.

12/18 Advent Spiral 8:45-9:45 a.m.

12/21-1/1/2021 Winter Break

January

1/5/2021 Classes resumes

February

2/11 Valentine's Day Tea / Orchard Farmers (details about our annual tradition TBA)

2/12 Valentine's Day Tea / Vegetable Farmers (details about our annual tradition are TBA)

March

3/12 Grandparent / Special Friend day (*Orchard Farmers!)

3/12 Grandparent / Special Friend day (*Vegetable Farmers!)

3/30 – 3/31 No Classes / Spring Break

April

4/1 – 4/2 No Classes / Spring Break

4/29 May Faire Celebration (8:30-12:30) / Orchard Farmers

4/30 May Faire Celebration (8:30-12:30) / Vegetable Farmers

May

5/20 End of year celebration / class picnic (Orchard Farmers) 12:30 pick up for all

5/21 End of year celebration / class picnic (Vegetable Farmers) 12:30 pick up for all

Warm “Snack Time” Meals

Tuesday / Red Day:

Homemade Bread and Dahl (Red Lentils, Coconut Milk, Bouillon)

Wednesday / Yellow Day:

Homemade Bread and Dahl (Red Lentils, Coconut Milk, Bouillon)

Thursday / Orange Day

Homemade Vegetable Soup and Corn Bread

Friday / Green Day

Homemade Vegetable Soup and Corn Bread

Weekly Rhythm

Tuesday: Bread Day / Gardening Day

Wednesday: Bread Day / Gardening Day

Thursday: / Soup Day / Seasonal Craft

Friday: Soup Day / Seasonal Craft

BeeLoved Farm’s Approximate Daily Rhythm

8:15 - Arrival (approximately 15 minute window)

8:30 - Circle Time

8:50 - Indoor Play / morning activity

9:25 - Tidy Time

9:35 - Story / Puppet Play

9:45 - Bathroom

9:50 - Coats/Shoes/Hats

10:00 - Snack

10:20 - Outdoor Playtime

11:50 - Bathroom & Wash Hands

12:00 - Lunch

12:30 - Send-off Goodbye (for Play-Schoolers)

12:45 - Framing Quiet Time

1:00 - Naps/Rest time Folk School Children will lie down for 40 minutes*

2:35 - 2:45 Arise and Soothe (Play-schoolers) and Pick-up for all

**NOTE: There is a \$1.00 per minute late charge that shall be presented at time of late pick-up unless special circumstances arise and/or arrangements are made. We appreciate your timeliness!*

BeeLoved Farm School Children's Center ~ Verses

Our Snack Verse:

"Blessings on the blossom, Blessings on the root, blessings on the leaf & stem, blessings on the fruit. We ask this blessing on our snack and peace upon the earth."

Our Lunch Verse:

"Earth who gives to us this food. Sun who makes it ripe and good. Dear Sun, Dear Earth by you we live, our loving thanks to you we show. Blessings on our lunch and peace upon the earth." We ask this blessing on our lunch and peace upon the earth."

Morning Kindergarten Verse:

"Good Morning Dear Earth, Good Morning Dear Sun, Good Morning to the Trees and the Flowers Every One, Good Morning to the Creatures and the Birds in the Trees. Good Morning to You and Good Morning to Me."