



# RALEIGH DAY SCHOOL Newsletter

June 2023, Issue 18

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**06/02** – Last day of school, **11:30 dismissal**

## FROM LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

### NEW FAMILIES

We are pleased to welcome new families to our RDS community for the 2023-2024 school year. Welcome to Courtney and Evan Schuman and their daughter, Mae, who will be joining our 2nd grade class; to Ashley Inzer and Spencer Schwieterman and their children Sloan, joining 2nd grade class, Quinn, joining 1st grade class, and Silas, joining the Early Childhood class (and they have actually joined us for the month of May and have integrated beautifully with their classes!); Michael Campites and Alison Stuart and their daughters Olivia, joining the Early Childhood class and Vivien, joining 2nd grade class; Rachel and Robert Goodwin and their daughter Clara, joining the Early Childhood class; and Nicole and Gajendran Narayanasamy and their daughter Nila, joining the Early Childhood class. Several other students are in the application process, and we expect our enrollment to continue over the summer.

### SAYING GOODBYE TO MR. RAYNER & MS. BRIDGET

It is with great sadness that we say 'good-bye' to two beloved teachers: Mr. Rayner and Ms. Bridget. Mr. Rayner joined us when we had just an idea of forming a Waldorf-inspired school. He helped create our form and grade school structure in year one and has actively participated in our development as a school. Mr. Rayner nurtured his class with love, energy, humor and skill. He will be deeply missed. We send our love and best wishes with Mr. Rayner as he moves on to new adventures.



### NEW SPECIALS TEACHERS

What a successful year we have had! Your support and commitment to RDS has allowed us to hire 3 new specials teachers for the coming year. If you haven't done so already, please read our new teachers' biographical information on our website: Joanna Hody, master handwork teacher, Jean Marie Whaley, music teacher extraordinaire, and Nicole Narayanasamy, polyglot enthusiast!

Ms. Bridget joined us in year two as an active and invested member of our team. She envisioned and created our Parent Circle and has been instrumental in parent-led fundraisers in these 2 years. Ms. Bridget has supported our teachers beyond her duties as an Early Childhood assistant in her organizational skills, and creation of systems and processes that will benefit us well into the future. She and her husband Matt were instrumental in the creation of our first newsletter and have produced the newsletter every month since. They have helped with multiple revisions of our website and created presentation materials to introduce community members to RDS. Bridget is an active member of our Board and participated in our Strategic Planning Committee. We will miss her every day.

### **FACULTY CHANGES FOR NEXT YEAR**

As difficult as it is to let go of those we love and value, we embrace the new with enthusiasm! We are excited to announce our new faculty line-up. Our 4th grade class will be taught by Ms. Heather Power. While Ms. Heather has taught Early Childhood for many years, her earliest teaching experience was in the grades. She taught several of our current 3rd graders in their kindergarten year and she has taught handwork to the whole class since they were in grade 1. We are thrilled to have her carry this class of special children into their next phase of academics.

Due to attrition in the 3rd grade, the Board of Directors has closed the class at this time. We are grateful and pleased that Ms. Minick will be teaching our growing 2nd grade class. Ms. Minick and her children joined RDS in our founding year as a family and she joined our faculty in our 2nd year. She is a gifted and compassionate teacher.

The rising 1st grade will be fortunate to have Ms. Caldwell as their teacher. She joined our faculty this year and has quickly become a beloved teacher and steadfast colleague. Ms. Caldwell brings a decade of experience at the Waldorf School of Bend (Oregon) as a teacher, administrator and Board member. We are thrilled to introduce her to our new 1st grade children and families!

Ms. Jamie will be leading our Early Childhood program next school year. She will be spending much of her summer at Sunbridge Institute in New York pursuing her 2nd year of Waldorf Early Childhood teacher certification. Ms. Jamie has been utilizing the Waldorf education model for the past 5 years under the mentorship of Ms. Power and other Waldorf teachers. She is a gifted early childhood educator, adored by her students and parents alike. Ms. Jamie is a trusted and valued member of the faculty and we welcome her as the lead Early Childhood teacher.

We are happy to announce that Ms. Olyvia Bosier will be joining us as our Aftercare Teacher. Ms. Olyvia is pursuing her teaching credential at Wake Tech and has experience as a nanny and a camp counselor. She is energetic and joyful and looks forward to helping our younger students experience a restful early aftercare and to facilitating a playful extended aftercare for all students. Watch for her bio on our website soon. Welcome Ms. Olyvia!

## CHANGES TO OUR DAILY RHYTHMS

As you are aware with the recent publishing of the 2023-2024 school calendar, we will be extending the school day to 2:30. Therefore, we will be offering early aftercare for children in the Early Childhood program from 12:30-2:30. Extended aftercare hours will be offered from 2:30-4:00. Commitments to aftercare will be on a full semester basis. In order to cover the salary requirements for aftercare teachers, we will be unable to decrease your financial commitment once you have enrolled in the afterschool program.

The rate for next year will be \$10/hour for each child. If you have not done so already, please email Lucy with your intention to use aftercare next year and the days/times you will need. Please note that we cannot accommodate "drop in" aftercare needs.

## THANKS TO OUR PARENTS

A special thanks to all parents who contributed time, service, and monies to our various fundraising events this year as well as Teacher Appreciation Week, holiday and festival celebrations, weekly teacher luncheons, classroom support, chaperoning field trips, grounds workdays, flowers, and for kind words, and smiling faces! The saying, "many hands make light work" is so true. Everything you do to help support the work of the school is vital and appreciated. Thank you for being a part of the RDS community.

*We wish you all a happy summer, filled with dreaming, play, discovery, imagining, stories, music and sharing the love of family and friends. We look forward to seeing you all in August!*

## FROM FUNDRAISING

**THIS YEAR OUR PARENT LED FUNDRAISERS EARNED: \$6,729.43!**

**THIS MONEY ALLOWED US TO:**

- Buy frames for the new hammock swings
- Pay for substitute teachers
- Pay for faculty mentoring
- Provide each faculty member with a stipend to put toward their summer training
- Host Parent Circle activities including teacher appreciation offerings, a guest speaker event, Parent Circle gatherings, and the May Day Reception

**WE ALSO RECEIVED DONATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY TOTALING \$24,100 FROM:**

- The Pharr Family
- The Sumanaseni Family
- Epic Games
- Edward Dickinson
- Alan King

*Thank you to our sponsors and families for giving time, energy and money to help fund our school. Everyone's contributions are greatly appreciated!*

## FROM PARENT CIRCLE

What a successful year we have had as a growing parent community! Many thanks to all who volunteered and participated in Parent Circle activities this year. We look forward to seeing everyone next year!

Don't forget to show your spirit by getting some cool SWAG. Click [here](#) to place your orders. We receive 12% from every sale. Hope to see some RDS t-shirts on the beach this summer!



## WHAT MAKES OUR SCHOOL SO SPECIAL?

We create this newsletter every month to keep you informed on the activities, decisions, important dates, and other happenings that occur throughout the school year. We also aim to create a sense of community among families by recognizing all the efforts and contributions from each of you that are so vitally important to our school. We feel this is a good time to also express our deepest gratitude for the number one reason we're all here. . .OUR CHILDREN.

We relish the joy of our RDS students! Their ability to play creatively, to find joy in the freedom of discovery, of raucous laughter and movement is something precious to behold. We love their serious engagement in the work set forth for them: memorizing complex narrative and acting out their story for family and friends; skillfully attending to their tasks of snack preparation; listening attentively to morning lesson; working with great care on knitting, crochet, needlework projects; fully immersing themselves in the fluid motion of their watercolor painting creations; and making music - singing and clapping and flute playing! At RDS, the learning process is facilitated through all of these: art, music, movement, play and "work" (chores) that helps students experience a sense of purpose. This, combined with attention to the social dynamics of the class and the value placed on development of community, helps create a safe, supportive, loving learning environment. This is important in fostering a sense of security and interconnectedness.

**Thank you for sharing your child's journey with us!**











# AS ALWAYS. . .



## THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL COMMUNITY

**Lucy, Heather** and **Jamie** for promoting RDS at a recent tabling event at Moore Square Park

**Melanie** and **Lucy** for hosting the Unslumber Party fundraiser and all who attended

**Nicole H.** and **Lucy** for providing coffee, pastries and snacks during our TAW

**Nicole** and **Chris P.** for their generous donation of outdoor gear to our extra clothing closet

**Lexi, Steve** and **Mary** for chaperoning the strawberry picking field trip

**Mary** and **Lucy** for chaperoning the 3rd grade field trip to Raleigh City Farm

**Kelsey** and **Melanie** for chaperoning the 3rd grade field trip to Minka Farm

**Melanie, Patrick** and **Nicole, Vitaly** and **Anna** for providing the delicious food for the Teacher Luncheon

**Mary & her parents, Nicole H. & her mom, Lexi, Tara, Jean Marie, Bridget and Lucy** for help with the May Day Reception

**Michael** for our beautiful new RDS banner

**Bridget** for leading our volunteers, for exceptional organization skills and for tireless devotion to RDS

**Matt** for ongoing attention to our website, all print designs, producing our flyers, and being on-call for urgent revisions of the above