



RALEIGH DAY SCHOOL Newsletter

August 2023, Issue 19

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 8/15 & 21** – Parent-teacher meetings (see pg. 2 for more)
- 8/20** – Community potluck & school beautification (11-1)
- 8/23** – Grades first day of school, **11:30 dismissal**
- 8/23** – 1st Grade Rose Ceremony (8:45 – 11:00)
- 8/24** – Early Childhood (EC) first day of school
- 8/24-25** – **12:30 dismissal**
- 8/28** – After care and extended care begin
- 9/4** – Labor Day, **no school**

Click to view the [school calendar](#) for more important dates



FROM LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

An important reminder that **school hours have shifted this year**. Drop off in the morning is still 8:15, but our school day has extended to 2:30. Thursdays we will continue to dismiss at 2:00 to accommodate faculty meetings.

Drop-off in the mornings this year will be different: all children/students will enter the school building by way of the “grove door”. The door will be locked at 8:30 daily; this is the time when students should be in the classroom for the start of morning lesson. If a student is to be late, the parent/guardian will text the Administrative Director (Lucy Chartier: 919-649-1370) to gain entry into the building. In this case, please wait with your child/student at the grove door until the door is opened and a member of the RDS team receives the child/student.

Grades classes begin on Wednesday, Aug 23, 2023. **Early childhood classes** begin Thursday, August 24. Wednesday - Friday of that week are half days. Wednesday release is 11:30; Thursday and Friday release is 12:30. Aftercare will begin Monday, August 28.

Aftercare: We must have your **intention to enroll in aftercare** (both 12:30-2:30 and 2:30-3:30 or 2:30-5:00) in order to successfully create this program and support our families. Please respond with your intention to enroll by August 4 by emailing Lucy Chartier (in Subject line state “Aftercare”).

Parent-Teacher meetings will be held the week of August 14 and 21; see below for dates and times.

- EC Hummingbirds - Monday, August 21 5:00-6:30
- First Grade - Tuesday, August 15, 5:00-6:00
- Second Grade - Monday, August 21, 5:00-6:30
- Fourth Grade - Tuesday, August 15, 6:15-7:45



The **Rose Ceremony** for rising first grade students is on Wednesday morning, August 23. This ceremony is traditional among Waldorf schools around the world. This is a reverent moment in the life of the rising first grader and their parents. In the ceremony the child is acknowledged as transitioning from the early childhood/kindergarten to the grade school through the symbolic act of "crossing the rainbow bridge", thereupon welcomed by the first-grade teacher. First-grade parents, please plan to attend the Rose Ceremony and remain on campus for the morning until release at 11:30. This will be a time to visit with other parents of first grade students and to share in morning refreshments. This is a "best dressed" event for your rising first graders.

Back-to-School potluck and meet-and-greet will be held Sunday, August 20 from 11-1. We will gather for the potluck social from 11-12 and then we will work together to prepare our campus for the beginning of the school year with a grounds beautification effort from 12-1. Many hands make light work and as we know working together builds a strong community. Tasks we will be working on include trimming shrubs, laying mulch, renewing sandbox, washing windows, scrubbing cubbies and hallway walls, planting flowers, weeding and trash pick-up... Some tools that would be helpful to bring: work gloves, hedge trimmers, shovels, wheelbarrows...

Order **SWAG** for community building, to promote school spirit. It would be great to have 100% participation so we could get a school photo in our shirts/hats, etc. Maybe we can have a school spirit Friday when we all wear our RDS clothes! Click [here](#) to place your orders: We receive 12% from every sale. Hope to see some RDS t-shirts when we return to school!



If you haven't done so and want to **chaperone/drive** on a school field trip (grades 1-4 only), please complete a background check: <https://app.sterlingvolunteers.com/en>

Our teachers have been BUSY this summer with continuing education and professional development. All our teachers have attended Waldorf education programs and classes. Two of our teachers were immersed in intensive programs for 3 weeks on campus in New York and New Hampshire. Our teachers commit a tremendous amount of time and energy in preparation for the coming school year and we look forward to all that they will bring forward in this new year.

WHAT MAKES OUR SCHOOL SO SPECIAL?

We are small, but mighty! **Our children/students** are our anchor. They are fully engaged, enthusiastic, and joyful. Witnessing them “in action” every day at school reminds us of the importance to the Waldorf approach to education. What can be better than children experiencing a true love of learning in the context of beauty, creativity, music, color, and movement?

Our parents are committed to ensuring their children have the benefits of Waldorf education. They support RDS through volunteerism: supporting their classroom teachers (being a class parent, signing up for field trips), participating in playground beautification days, helping with community activities, e.g., holiday faire, open houses; fundraising, and attendance at parent-teacher meetings, Parent Circle meetings, and other educational opportunities.

Our teachers are dedicated to the principles and practices of Waldorf education. They are committed to collaboration and support of each other, providing mentoring to each other, and engaging in ongoing professional development. These practices benefit their classroom work and student relationships. The coming school year promises to be filled with the excitement and success of growth and change!

Thank you to each parent/family for entrusting your children to RDS. You are the reason we continue this important form of education. **Thank you** to our faculty for your exemplary commitment to this work you have undertaken. We are so fortunate to have you as a part of the RDS journey.

FROM PARENT CIRCLE

Get involved! A great way to support the school and your teachers! Parent Circle is the vehicle to help plan and create events (social opportunities like the family camp out and parent dinners out) and fundraising (like the Run-a-Thon), teacher luncheons, and coordinating grounds beautification days. There are many opportunities to help with the daily/weekly support of the school building to help us defray costs of operation. Can you commit an hour or two per week? Or per month? Many hands make light work!

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A WALDORF PARENT WITH RAELEE PEIRCE

Many of you have already met Raelee Peirce, either during your onboarding process or having attended her workshop last year. Raelee is a tremendous resource for RDS and our parents. She is steeped in Waldorf education and Simplicity Parenting and is committed to our school and our parents. Raelee is offering a day-long retreat in September for our parents. Please join us for this engaging and educational opportunity. Raelee also offers a multi-session course that will allow parents to go even deeper and have ongoing support for parenting homelife. See links below.

Click [here](#) for the Simplicity Parenting Retreat.

Click [here](#) for the Simplicity Parenting Fall Virtual Course & Coaching.

A WALDORF MOMENT WITH RAELEE PEIRCE

Your Morning Rhythm

In Waldorf education, the morning rhythm holds significant importance as it sets the tone for the rest of the day and provides a foundation for the child's learning and overall development. The morning rhythm is carefully crafted to align with the natural rhythms of life and the developmental needs of the child.

Here are some key points to keep in mind in creating your ideal morning home rhythm before school:

1. **Sense of Security and Predictability:** The morning rhythm provides a predictable and stable routine for the child. Knowing what to expect at certain times of the day creates a sense of security, reducing anxiety and stress. This stable rhythm allows the child to feel grounded and comfortable in their environment, fostering a positive learning experience.
2. **Cultivation of Inner Discipline:** Following a daily rhythm fosters inner discipline in children. By engaging in various activities at specific times, they learn to transition smoothly between tasks and develop the ability to focus and concentrate on activities with a sense of purpose.
3. **Rhythm as a Teacher:** Waldorf educators see rhythm as a silent yet powerful teacher. The predictable structure of the morning rhythm helps children internalize a sense of order, enabling them to manage their time and tasks effectively.

Learn all about creating home rhythms on Saturday, September 9 at the Simplicity Parenting Retreat with Certified Parent Coach, Raelee Peirce.



SUMMER EVENTS & ACTIVITIES WITH FACULTY FAMILIES

EC: Puppetry and storytelling study and work.

EC: Study of using natural dyes for silk dying.

EC: Ms. Jamie and her family on summertime adventures to Scotland.

4th grade: Ms. Power touring the Pacific Northwest.

4th grade: Ms. Power creating her new classroom using Rudolf Steiner's inspiration for the 4th grade student, using the lovely French technique, Lazure.

2nd grade: Clay sculpture of a dragon in Ms. Minick's teacher training.

2nd grade: Ms. Minick and daughters in their garden.

1st grade: Ms. Caldwell and her daughter in Charleston.

1st grade: Goats being raised by Ms. Caldwell's Family.

1st grade: Ms. Caldwell and Family visit.

MS. JAMIE



MS. POWER



MS. MINICK



MS. CALDWELL

