



RALEIGH DAY SCHOOL Newsletter

September 2023, Issue 20

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

9/4 – Labor Day, **no school**

9/29 – Michaelmas Festival, **early dismissal 12:30**
Rain date – 10/6)



FROM LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

It was so nice to see many parents and students at the **Sunday potluck/grounds beautification day** before the start of school! Delicious food, the expert wielding of power and hand tools, children, teachers and parents in the classrooms readying desks and crayons and pencils for the start of school on Wednesday: such enthusiasm was apparent as we prepared for our new school journey!. Thank you all for being a part of this back-to-school gathering!

And now our school year has begun! It was heartwarming to see our students and parents on our opening days. Classrooms are poised to hold the students and teachers in beauty and are inspirational for both academic and artistic expressions. The first two weeks of school are now behind us as we move into the joyful 'work' of the fall term. We look forward to an excellent school experience. **It is a gift to have each of you, parent and student, with us.**

Please welcome new students and their families:

- **Devereux Warson**, grade 4; Laura and Skipper Warson
- **Finn Dunn**, grade 2 and brother **Theo Dunn**, Early Childhood; Robyn Mooers and Paul Dunn
- **Savannah McCrae**, Early Childhood, and **Addison McCrae**, Early Childhood; Liz and Ryan McCrea
- **Jude Robinson**, grade 1, and **Anna Robinson**, Early Childhood; Rebecca and Dan Robinson
- **Madalene Skerritt**, grade 1; Petra and Tristen Skerritt
- **Etta Painter** (Early Childhood); sister Myla is a 4th grader and has been with us since grade 2; Kelsy and Greyson Painter

Reminder: we are still accepting enrollment in our **aftercare program!** Ms. Olyvia Bosier is our new Aftercare Teacher and comes with rave reviews from the students who have met her! Contact [Lucy Chartier](#) if you would like to enroll.

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>

Late School Day Arrivals - If your child arrives at school after 8:30 AM the doors will be locked. In this case, please text Lucy Chartier when your student arrives so someone can open the door for entry: 919-649-1370.

FROM PARENT CIRCLE

We are grateful to Mary Peters (Annadare, gr. 4, Owen, gr. 1) for chairing the Parent Circle (PC) this year! Mary worked closely with our former chairperson, Bridget Leibold, last year and has some great ideas for how Parent Circle can help support the school in 2023-2024. Nicole Hogan (Nicholas, gr. 2) will work with Mary as co-chairperson. Several other parents have reached out to express interest in PC as well. Please contact Mary or Nicole to let them know of your interests and availability.

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY

2nd grade parents for hosting the new 1st grade parents following our beautiful Rose Ceremony. New connections were formed and deepened, yummy snacks were shared.

The Hogans for their donation of mulch, pine straw, and the spreading of both on our playground. So lovely! And for the cozy additions to our library of a rug and cushions.

The Pharr Family for their generous donation to our scholarship fund.

Each family who contributed to the grounds beautification work on Sunday, August 20, brought food for the potluck, and helped put sparkle and shine in our school building.

Ashley Inzer for helping organize our library.

Leni Covington for the donations of many books for our faculty and student libraries.

Earl Power and **Justin Fox** for the annual renovation of the play structure

Ben Power for expert Google Drive assistance.

CONTINUE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF BEING A WALDORF PARENT

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 registration links below.

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.

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

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

CLASS ACTIVITIES

EC Hummingbirds

The hummingbird family is living into our daily rhythm and building new friendships. We greatly enjoy our daily hike through the meditative garden and crepe myrtle forest. Here are some photos of our time together thus far.



First Grade

In our first 2 weeks our first-grade students were introduced to grade school. They have experienced sitting upright at their desks, working on their individual chalk boards to create straight and curved lines, and have enjoyed listening to our first oral story. The morning greeting with Ms. Caldwell, daily chores, and learning daily verses are exciting new experiences for these eager students!

Second Grade

Our class has grown to 8 students this fall and our 2nd graders have warmly welcomed their new classmates to the community! We continue to work on healthy classroom habits, rhythm, and form. Movement and song enliven us as we begin our exposure to biography by studying the saints and history as we encounter animal fables and fairy tales from around the world. A focus on developing skill in handwriting and the experience of watercolor painting enrich our academic work and help us deepen our appreciation for beauty.



Fourth Grade

We have been busy with reconnections and review of 3rd grade content before taking up the exciting work of 4th grade! The 4th grade are enjoying tales of Norse mythology, and soon they will be learning about North Carolina geography and fractions. We are excited for our 4th grade field trips that will reflect and help consolidate our classroom learning later this year.









