



# RALEIGH DAY SCHOOL Newsletter

November 2023, Issue 22

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**11/02** – Teacher workday & conferences – **no school**

**11/03** – Parent-Teacher conferences – **no school**

**11/09** – Lantern walk 5:30pm – **11:30 dismissal**  
(Rain date 11/16) (See song lyrics below)

**11/22-24** – Thanksgiving break, **no school**



## FROM LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Our first Parent Circle meeting of the school year was held on Thursday, October 12. More than half of our parents met in-person at the school to begin planning for the 2023-2024. What a great turnout! We are so excited to welcome the enthusiasm and energy of so many parents. It is your commitment to Raleigh Day School that will ensure our success.

As you know, we postponed our school photo day when we became aware that several of our students would be away that day. Thank you to Laura and Skipper Warson for donating their time and expertise as our photographers, and to Mary Peters, Nicole Hogan, Rebecca Robinson and Liz McCrea for the coordination of this event. We will notify you when a date has been set, which will likely be before Thanksgiving break.

We would love to have photos of our students (and parents) in RDS swag, both on our website and social media. This is a great way to show support for the school. Please consider investing in RDS Swag! This is a great way to take our brand to the community and invest in the school: we receive 12% on all purchases. The orders take 3-4 weeks for delivery so if you order now, we can all be ready for cooler weather with sweatshirts and jackets. Click [here](#) for the link to place your order.

We are so proud of our teachers, who continue their professional development in Waldorf education throughout the year and during each summer. Sometimes this involves travel and residency. This month, November 13th-17th, Ms. Jamie will be engaged in immersive studies in New York at Sunbridge Institute, a Waldorf education program. In her absence Ms. Leni Covington, our board member, mentor and friend will take the lead in the Early Childhood program, assisted by Ms. Kait.

Thank you to Rachel Goodwin for creating our GoFundMe campaign. In just a few weeks we have already had donations from 19 people totaling over \$3,800! If you

haven't, please share the link with your friends via social media or email, AND please consider giving: no amount is too small. Of most importance is that we have 100% participation by our families to show our own support. The funds collected will go toward the acquisition of our future RDS home.

One of our favorite festivals to celebrate is the Lantern Walk. This year the Lantern Walk will be held on Thursday, November 9 at 5:30. The celebration of festivals is an important part of our curriculum and helps our children and students have another experience of what they are learning in class and helps support their experience of nature and the seasons through beauty and mystery. It is also important that each child/student has a shared experience with their classmates. Please consider the Lantern Walk a part of the school day and plan to attend with your child(ren). Allow plenty of time to reach the site of the Walk, to be held in Youngsville, on time so you and your child will be present for the story to be told around the campfire and to walk together with the whole school community.

### GLIMMER LANTERN LYRICS

\*Glimmer lantern, glimmer, little stars a-shimmer, over meadow, moor and dale, flitter, flutter elfin veil; pee-wit, pee-wit, tick-a-tack a tick, coo roo, coo roo.

Glimmer lantern, Glimmer, little stars a-shimmer, over rock and stock and stone, wander tripping little gnome; pee-wit, pee wit, tick-a-tack a tick, coo roo, coo roo.

\*I go with my bright little lantern, my lantern is going with me; In heaven the stars are shining, on earth shines my lantern with me. The light grows dim as we go in; la bim ba la bim ba la bim; The light grows dim as we go in; la bim ba la bim ba la bim.

You may find the music on YouTube by searching "Waldorf Lantern Walk Songs"

## FROM PARENT CIRCLE

The RDS GAMES DAY will be held on Saturday, 11/18 (times TBD) with the option to picnic afterwards. Please stay tuned for the signup genius with more information.

The RDS GAMES DAY will be a cooperative challenge day for the whole school where there will be 8 teams of 4-5 students, working together to tackle different obstacles together. Each team will have a representative from each class.

## FROM FUNDRAISING

GoFundMe as of 10/28/23= \$4,015 from 22 donations!

Our campaign goal is \$25,000 and will help with our vision of purchasing our permanent school home.

## CLASS ACTIVITIES

### EC

The early childhood has now celebrated another birthday! We were able to celebrate Luna's 5th birthday last week. We are singing strong and long! Our multi-stanza autumnal songs take the children magically through the season. They are hearty farmers and fluttering leaves! They have also built a relationship with the meditation garden (there are hidden trees to climb!). We look forward to singing Lantern songs and preparing our lanterns very soon.





## CLASS ACTIVITIES

### First Grade

The 1st grade has been working in a math block where we are singing our 2s, 3s and 4s tables to Row, Row, Row Your Boat and She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain. We are enjoying our rhythmical beanbag exercises and are becoming comically efficient! Tongue twisters are a fun way to experience differing consonants. We have also been exploring all things pumpkin in excitement for Halloween.





## CLASS ACTIVITIES

### Second Grade

This month we are studying the fables, learning how to pull ourselves into the higher realm of being human, through the examples of these tricksters. We were busy this month learning phonics rules, and writing.

### Fourth Grade

The 4th grade has been studying local geography. We have been learning about where we are on the earth and trying out new perspectives as we learned how to map the world around us. Our 4th grade students are showing new maturity and their capacity for compassion as they utilize our weekly 'town hall' meeting time to address social concerns of the classroom and of the playground.



## THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY

**Mary Peters** and **Nicole Hogan** for leading the 2023-2024 Parent Circle.  
**Liz McCrea, Rebecca Robinson & Nicole Hogan** for volunteering to be class parents.  
**Rachel Goodwin** for creating our GoFundMe campaign.  
**Kerianne Studioso and Laura Warson** for taking up the work of our social media.  
**Alexis Pharr** for the donation of soil for our garden projects for second grade.



# LANTERN WALK

Each November, Raleigh Day School celebrates The Lantern Walk as a reminder that each of us has a divine spark and inner light that we must ferry out into the world and share with others. The festival is held after dusk, when our lantern light breaks through the outer darkness of approaching winter. It marks the end of harvest and the beginning of winter.

The festival, often called Martinmas, originates from St. Martin of Tours, who started out as a Roman soldier. He was baptized as an adult and became a monk. It is understood that he was a kind man who led a quiet and simple life.

The most famous legend of his life is that he once cut his cloak in half to share with a beggar during a snowstorm, to save the beggar from dying from the cold. St. Martin is known as a friend of the children and patron of the poor.

In preparation for this annual tradition, the children hear the story of St. Martin, sing songs and make their own lanterns in class. As darkness falls, we will walk along a path through the woods, singing our lantern songs and carefully carrying our lanterns in a mood of peaceful reverence. This symbolic act brings home the deeper truth, in the words of Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism: "There isn't enough darkness in the entire world to snuff out the light of one little candle."

Please plan to gather at the site of our Lantern Walk (location TBA) promptly at 5pm Thursday November 9th! Please dress your children warmly!!! You will be greeted upon arrival and your child(ren) will be given the lantern they made in school.

Please remember that this is a time for your children to find the light within the changing of seasons. We ask that conversations are kept to a quiet minimum in order that we may help the children uphold the reverence of the time we are together. It is not necessary to 'explain' the purpose of the festival to the children. Rather we encourage you to allow them to rest in the experience of the evening, the deeper meanings penetrating each person as they are ready to receive the message.

We look forward to sharing this beautiful, reverent evening with you and your children!