

# Whistler Waldorf School

*A Developing Waldorf School*

EDUCATION FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

## What is the Alta Lake School?

**Mission Statement:** "The Alta Lake School is committed to providing children with purposeful education which fosters inner strength through spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical growth."

The school was started in 2000 by a group of parents who wanted to provide a Waldorf education to their children in Whistler. We started out in a one room school and have grown to a full school encompassing pre-school to grade 8.

The Alta Lake School is a non-profit Group 1 independent school, funded by the BC Ministry of Education and meets all of the BC curriculum requirements and is a developing school with the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America.

## What characterizes Waldorf education?

A central aim of Waldorf education is to develop and integrate the faculties of thought, feeling and action in the child. The child is seen to have physical, emotional, and spiritual needs as well as intellectual ones, and both teaching style and curriculum seek to nourish all of these aspects. The child's development grows from an early sense of wonder to intellectual awakening and a thirst for knowledge. As the child moves from kindergarten through to high school the curriculum is designed to present each subject at a time and in a way which will best awaken the child's faculties. The teacher, who ideally stays with their class from first to eighth grade, shapes the subject matter to suit the experience, abilities, and individual qualities of his or her particular class.

A Waldorf school differs from other educational institutions in many ways. Parent involvement and understanding of our objectives is basic to our success. The participation of all parents is important, not simply because we are a non-profit endeavour, but because we are building a community and demonstrating a community-building spirit to our children.

## What are the registration policies and procedures?

Upon receiving a completed application form (and presentation of the child's birth certificate), an interview will be arranged with a member of the enrollment committee to introduce the Alta Lake School, our mission, values, fees and general structure. Following that interview, an interview with the class teacher and you and your child will be arranged. This interview will allow the class teacher to assess the suitability of Waldorf education for your child and family. Following the teacher interview, a member of the enrollment committee will meet with you again to firm up practical matters such as fee payment, volunteering and family involvement in school festivals and celebrations. Those enrolling for the coming school year will be required to provide the following:

1. A completed application with \$50 registration fee.
2. A non-refundable cheque for the first month's tuition, due upon confirmation of admission, following interview process.
3. A cheque for the classroom supply fees, dated August 1.
4. Post dated cheques starting August 1, dated for the first of each month through April 1, to cover the balance of the school years tuition fees.

## Foreign Students

Because we receive funding from the provincial government, the fee structure does not reflect the actual cost of operating the school. Foreign students do not qualify for the government funding so the fees reflect this gap in funding. Please see program page for current rates.

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## **Mixed Age Kindegarten ages 3 1/2 to 6 1/2 years**

In preschool your child will play at cooking, they dress-up and become mothers and fathers, kings and magicians; they sing, paint and colour. Through songs and poems they learn to enjoy language; they bake bread, make soup, model beeswax, build houses out of boxes, sheets and boards. To become fully engaged in such work is the child's best preparation for life. It builds the powers of concentration, interest and a lifelong love of learning.

As the children progress through to kindergarten, they are ready for longer and more complex songs, stories and handcrafts. Finger knitting, beadwork, simple weaving, clay and wax modeling, and sewing are introduced. Imaginative play deepens and becomes more social. By stimulating the imagination, cultivating a sense of wonder and developing an enthusiasm for the work, the teacher truly prepares the child for intellectual learning in the years ahead.

### Preschool

2 mornings	\$1840	8:30 am – 12:00 pm (Mon, Wed)
2 full days	\$3360	8:30 am – 3:00 pm (Mon, Wed)

### Kindergarten

2 1/2 days	\$3470	8:30 am – 3:00 pm (Tues & Thu) 8:30 am – 12 noon (Fri)
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\* all prices includes a warm organic snack.

## **Grade School ages 6 - 13 years** (must be 6 as of May 31, 2008)

In the Waldorf elementary school, a two hour main lesson is presented by the teacher each morning which focuses on a specific academic subject for a three to four week period. The lesson is presented, reviewed and presented again in variations ranging from story-telling to drawing, painting and beeswax sculpture. Song and verse are a part of daily school life. Afternoons are taken up with handwork, foreign language lessons (French), music lessons (recorder and violin starting in grade 4), gardening, physical education and exploratory nature walks.

5 days	\$4310	8:30 am – 3:00 pm (12:00 pm on Fridays)
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Note: All monthly tuition is based on 10 equal payments from August through May 1<sup>st</sup>. Siblings receive a 35% discount and 2<sup>nd</sup> and subsequent siblings receive a 70% discount. A 3% discount will be applied to all accounts paid in full by August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005. In Waldorf schools the child is expected to meet the age required by May 31<sup>st</sup> of the year in which they enter. To families for whom full tuition would be an extreme hardship: Please ask about our tuition adjustment application process. We endeavor to assure that no child will be turned away due to financial hardship.

**Foreign Students** in Kindergarten add \$1820 and Grade School: please add \$3640 per year.

**Supply Fees (per year):** Pre-school - \$50, Kindergarten - \$100, Grades 1 to 3 - \$200, Grades 4 to 8 - \$260