



“Waldorf education goes deep. In contrast to current ‘mile wide, inch deep’ curricula in some other school systems, Waldorf education takes time to develop understanding, independent thinking, the imagination, and self sufficiency. These attributes enable people to use their knowledge with wisdom and care.”

*Katharine Smithrim, Professor,
Faculty of Education, Queen’s University*

Elementary School Grades One to Seven



*Preparation for active intellectual, physical and artistic development
in a harmonious environment
that honours and celebrates childhood.*

Mulberry School

GRADES 1-7 • KINDERGARTEN • MORNING GARDEN
PARENT & CHILD • PARENT & INFANT

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Waldorf Education: Bringing out the thinker, the scientist, the poet, the musician, and the writer in your child.

Mission Statement

Mulberry School endeavours to awaken and nurture a reverence for life, a sensitivity to beauty and a love of learning.

By schooling the head, hands and heart through work and play, our Waldorf education nourishes children, parents, the community and the world.

We offer programs for the infant, toddler, pre-school, kindergarten and school-aged child, as well as adult education opportunities.

We seek to be rooted in and responsive to the needs of the environment, the community and the spirit of the School.

*Originally adopted by the Mulberry School Board of Directors,
Martinmas, Remembrance Day, November 11, 1998*

Curriculum Overview

Grade		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Language Arts and Humanities	Fairy Tales and Nature Stories	•	•					
	Fables and Legends		•	•				
	Old Testament Stories			•				
	Myths: Norse and Native American				•			
	Myths: India, Egypt, Persia and Greece					•		
	Ancient History to Roman Times					•	•	•
	Medieval Europe to Renaissance						•	•
	Reading	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	Grammar			•	•	•	•	•
	Writing	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Poetry		•	•	•	•	•	•	
Speech		•	•	•	•	•	•	
Mathematics	Introduction to Numbers	•						
	The Four Processes	•	•	•				
	Fractions				•			
	Decimals					•	•	
	Geometry					•	•	•
	Ratio, Proportion, Business Math						•	•
	Volume/Measurement			•	•		•	•
	Review of Processes	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Science	Nature Study	•	•					
	Farming and Building		•	•				
	Human and Animal Beings				•			
	Geography				•	•	•	•
	Botany					•	•	•
	Geology						•	•
	Physics						•	•
Languages	French	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	German	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
The Arts	Drama	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	Recorder	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	Singing	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	Choir				•	•	•	•
	Musical Notation			•	•	•	•	•
	Painting, Drawing, Modeling	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	Form, Geometric Drawing	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Handwork (knit, crochet, sew, weave)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
	Woodwork					•	•	•



Learning literacy through the arts.



Morning Main Lesson

Each school day starts with a two-hour period in which the main academic work of the day is presented. The subject is taught for a three or four week block. This approach allows for freshness and enthusiasm, and a concentrated, in-depth experience with each subject area as well as time for integration and reflection before the subjects are reviewed.

The Class Teacher

The class teacher teaches the main academic subjects, coordinates with specialty teachers, and provides the link between home and school. The class teacher encourages mutual respect, love and understanding, and a deeper recognition of each child's individual needs, which helps each child develop to his or her potential.

Textbooks

Children create their own workbooks for each subject, recording and illustrating the substance of the teacher's research and presentation. These books, often artistic and beautiful, are an important way in which art is integrated into every subject.

Language Arts

Literature and language arts are learned in the same way that they originated in the course of human history. Human beings first perceived the world, pictured it, spoke about it, and out of the sounds and pictures, abstracted written signs and symbols. In the Grade School, this process is accompanied by much phonetic work in songs, poems, and games that help to establish a joyful, living experience of the language. Special attention is given to oral memory, the enrichment of vocabulary and the development of fine motor skills. Children gradually learn to read what they have written in their lesson books. Grammar, spelling, poetry, creative writing, drama, research skills and well-chosen children's literature provide a rich medium for the students' development in language arts.

Fine Arts

Fine arts, including drama, painting, music, drawing and modeling are integrated into the entire academic curriculum, including mathematics and the sciences. The Waldorf method of utilizing arts throughout the curriculum awakens imagination and creative, flexible thinking, bringing vitality and wholeness to learning.

Science

Science is taught experientially. In the upper grades, the teacher sets up an experiment, calls upon the students to observe carefully and discuss their findings so that they can understand the underlying scientific law or formula. Through this process, independent thinking and sound judgment develop. The sciences begin with Nature Studies in the early grades and then move to more challenging subjects such as zoology, botany, chemistry, astronomy and physiology.

Mathematics

In the lower grades mathematics are taught through movement, art and a lively imagination. The use of concrete objects and much repetition lays a strong foundation for the work in upper grades. Form drawing transforms into geometry in Grade Six.

**Please call the office at 613-542-0669
for enrolment information.
Tuition Assistance and Grade School Entry
Scholarships are available.**

Humanities

The extraordinary humanities curriculum begins in Preschool and Kindergarten with Fairy Tales and stories from around the world. The Grade School children are taken through the full sweep of the world's cultural heritage – from early mythology and legends to The Old Testament, Norse Mythology, Aboriginal North American, Asian, Middle Eastern, African and Greek cultures. By experiencing these cultures through their legends and literature, the children gain flexibility and an appreciation for the diversity of humankind.

Music

Music permeates classroom life in any Waldorf School from the very beginning. Singing and recorder playing begin in the First Grade with the class teacher. In the Fourth Grade, choral singing and musical notation are introduced and students are encouraged to play a string or woodwind instrument through private lessons. Music is taught not only for its own sake, but also for the harmonizing and humanizing force it brings into the students' lives.

Languages

French and German are formally taught beginning in Grade One, giving the children insights into other cultures. Language lessons are presented orally in the first three grades, using games, poems and songs. Reading, writing and grammar are introduced later in the grades and build upon the oral work.



Chalk Board Drawing by Bonnie Dawson, Grade One Teacher

Practical Work

Practical work is an integral part of the Waldorf curriculum from Kindergarten through the grades. Children learn knitting, crocheting, and needlework in the early grades so they can create many beautiful and functional objects, such as recorder cases, cleaning cloths, hats and slippers. Research has found that for young children, such hand activity increases nervous system development, meaning that as fine motor activity whirs away, the number of synaptic connections in the child's brain increases, thereby increasing learning capacity. Coordination, perseverance and imagination are schooled through practical work. Activities throughout the grades, including gardening, house building and woodworking, give students an understanding of how things came to be and a respect for the work of others.

Physical Education

The healthy development of the child's body and physical skills is given equal weight to intellectual development in a Waldorf School. Children need daily movement opportunities. Coeducational games and sports in regular physical education classes as well as two daily recesses help develop coordination, individual skills, teamwork, and later, healthy competition.

Festivals

Together we mark the year and the changing of the seasons with the children. We celebrate many seasonal festivals with stories, songs, food, special events and fairs. In some cases festivals are held within the class with reverent acknowledgment. Events, such as the Lantern Walk, Winter Fair and May Fair are celebrated by the entire school community. The entire community, children and parents, anticipate each festival with great joy.



About Mulberry School

Mulberry School started as a playgroup in 1993, inspired by the principles of Waldorf education. Our school now offers our well-loved Parent and Child programs, Morning Garden and Kindergarten, and Grades One through Seven.

Mulberry School is an independent, non-denominational school, governed by the Faculty and Board of Directors, and supported by the Administrator and standing committees of the Board. We are a non-profit Ontario corporation and a registered charity.

Mulberry School is a Waldorf Developing school within the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America. Waldorf education was founded in 1919 by Rudolf Steiner in Stuttgart, Germany. Today there are more than 800 Waldorf Schools worldwide. The Waldorf curriculum and teaching methods address the whole child – head, hands and heart, through each stage of the child's development.

Our outstanding faculty play primary roles in the life of our school. In addition to their Waldorf experience, our teachers have diverse educational credentials and excellence in many other fields.

At Mulberry School we encourage each child's natural love of learning by providing a beautiful, caring environment that engages the whole child. Our rich and integrated curriculum offers a balance of humanities, mathematics, literature, science, fine arts, physical education, music and handwork. Our children develop emotional stability, intellectual flexibility and moral values along with strong academic skills: a sound education for their future.

Mulberry School is enriched by its vibrant community. We celebrate seasonal festivals, offer parent information and education events, and host guest speakers on parenting issues and Waldorf education. Mulberry School welcomes children and their families from all religious, ethnic, cultural and economic backgrounds.



Educational Philosophy

Waldorf education is schooling for responsibility, freedom and human dignity. Based on a deep understanding of the human being and his or her place in the universe, it lays the basis for the development of "human beings who are able of themselves to impart purpose and direction to their lives." Waldorf education gives the young person a thorough academic training, a creative approach to learning and thinking, and it fosters the development of wholeness.

Waldorf schools practice an approach to education that begins with a deep comprehension of developing children (mind, body and spirit): what they are, how they develop, why they act and react in certain ways.

From Grade One through Seven, the Waldorf curriculum places great importance on appreciating each age level's mental, emotional and physical nature. For each of these grades it ensures that the materials presented are in harmony with the child's nature and needs. The uniqueness of the curriculum lies in how the children are taught. They are not addressed as beings of "head" alone, but of hands and heart as well.

A Waldorf education prepares the student to enter adulthood with self-discipline, independence, social awareness, analytical faculties, wonder and reverence for the world.