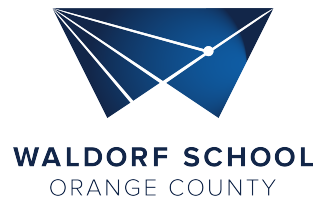


March 7, 2022



Dear Nursery parents,

Happy Sunday! I hope you are enjoying this glorious weather outside with your love ones.

Last week, we welcomed a new friend, Lucas Aguayo into our class. His parents are Jessica and Matthew, and grandmother, Julie. I hope you have had the opportunity to meet and welcome the Aguayo family into our community!

I would like to give everyone a friendly reminder that in our Early Childhood program, we want the children to be free from images on their clothing, lunch boxes, and etc. By providing items that are free of images, we give children the opportunity to enter their day at school free to imagine, create from within, be in the moment, and be connected with other children through activities and play. If you inadvertently send your child with clothing other than what is simple and plain, don't worry, but please don't be alarmed if you see your child wearing a different plain shirt from their extra clothes bag or wearing a shirt inside out to cover the one with images on it. Thank you for your understanding and support on this!

Today, I would like to share with you a recent article on the BBC on "What is the best age to learn to read?" As you know, in the Waldorf setting, formal academic lessons do not start until first grade. However the children in the Early Childhood are building an important pre-academic foundation through movement, play, practical activities, social interaction and connection with their peers, recitation of poems, singing songs, hearing oral stories told by the teacher every day, and through healthy preparation of their body to be ready to sit down at a desk for longer periods of time to receive formal academic lessons.

Melissa Hogenboom, a BBC science journalist attended a Waldorf school. From her own experience of sending her daughter to a mainstream British school she writes: "Watching her memorise letters and sound out words, at an age when my idea of education was climbing trees and jumping through puddles, has made me wonder how our different experiences shape us. Is she getting a crucial head-start that will give her lifelong benefits? Or is she exposed to undue amounts of potential stress and pressure, at a time when she should be enjoying her freedom? Or am I simply worrying too much, and it doesn't matter at what age we start reading and writing?" These questions are all important questions that often are living in young parents and questions extended family or friends ask when families choose to send their children to an alternative education like Waldorf. I hope you will find the article restores your confidence in the healthy development of children, where preparing them for later academics does not correlate to the need to sit them down at a desk to receive academic instructions.

[https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20220228-the-best-age-for-learning-to-read?
ocid=ww.social.link.email](https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20220228-the-best-age-for-learning-to-read?ocid=ww.social.link.email)