



August 16, 2019

Dear Early Childhood Families,

It is hard to believe autumn is around the corner! But summer will indeed come to an end, and we will all soon come together with excitement to begin the new school year. Teachers are already gathering, preparing the classrooms, imagining them filled with children, and collecting and sharing songs, stories, puppet shows, and recipes. We welcome back two early childhood teachers who have been away, Christi (Pierce) Nordoff and Beth Oakley. Here are the teachers for this year:

Parent Child Classes	Somer Serpe
Rose Room Nursery	Beth Oakley, assisted by Eleana Peterson
Sun Room Mixed-Age Kindergarten	Kirsten Hascup, assisted by Elizabeth Brady
Rainbow Room Mixed-Age Kindergarten	Christi Nordoff, assisted by Anna Drubel
Farm and Forest Mixed-Age Kindergarten	Christianna Riley, assisted by Diane Prusha
After-School Care	Diane Prusha, assisted by Renannah Weinstein
Before-School Care	Eleana Peterson

We look forward to seeing you all soon, and greeting old friends and new!

Here are some important upcoming dates and times we would like you to note:

Wednesday, September 4th, 8:30 am, New Parent Orientation

Please join all new parents—both Early Childhood and Grades—in the Grade School Building Library.

Thursday, September 5th, 6:30 - 8:00 pm, EC Welcome night

Please join all Early Childhood parents and teachers for introductions and discussion about the coming year. Teachers will share a few practical details for the start of school; please bring any questions you may have regarding our program.

Monday, September 9th, 11 am, Early Childhood Short Morning and Picnic

Please come with your child to your child's classroom for a one hour Welcome Morning. This will be a chance to find your child's cubby, see the classroom, and meet friends, followed by a Potluck on the upper early childhood playground. Please bring a dish to share, a blanket to sit on, and plates and cutlery for your family. Please have your child sit to eat with you, and as families finish eating, children may go to play on the playground. During this picnic, please have your child under your supervision.



Tuesday, September 9th, First Full Day of Early Childhood

Tuesday is our first full day. School begins at 8:15. Pick up is at 12 noon or 2:45. If you have children in the Grade School please pick up at the Early Childhood Building first, since our dismissal is five minutes earlier. (Families who have enrolled in the early drop off program should bring their children at 7:30 am to the Rose Room Nursery to meet Eleana Peterson.)

Monday, September 23rd, No School Rosh Hashanah

Please note that this day is a holiday, and school will be closed.

Tuesday, November 19th and Wednesday, April 15th are Early Childhood Class Nights. Please mark these class nights in your calendars now and book your babysitters early. These nights are created for you and are the only times that all our parents can be together to share questions and insights about parenting, the children and the class as a whole. These nights help to strengthen the social fabric of our class!

Some more practical details: The first few weeks of school can be a little hard on some children. Even the most outgoing child may have trouble separating from his or her family. In the morning, arriving on time will help in your child's smooth transition. Please know that the teachers will receive your child with warmth and love – tears and all! Tears often disappear shortly after the parents leave, but will usually continue as long as the goodbye is prolonged. A warm hug and kiss and an unwavering goodbye will show your child that you know he or she is in a safe, loving environment. Once your child feels this trust from you he or she is free to start a day filled with new relationships with teachers and friends! If tears last unusually long, or you have worries, the teacher will be more than happy to discuss how to support your child with this transition.

Each teacher holds office hours during the week, and she will let you know that schedule. You can also of course make appointments for meetings or phone calls on other days. Your class teacher will let you know the best way to contact her.

We are enclosing a general list of what your child will need at school. Your child's class teacher may have some items to add. They will also make an appointment for a home visit that will happen shortly before school begins, or for some children, shortly after.

We look forward to a wonderful year with you and your children!

Warmest Wishes,

All the Early Childhood teachers at the Berkshire Waldorf School



WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS FOR SCHOOL*

Indoor shoes or close fitting slippers

Outdoor shoes

Rain pants

Rain boots

Raincoat

A change of clothes to keep at school (extra underwear and socks)

Seasonal

Sun hat

Snow pants

Snow jacket

Snow boots

Warm hat

Mittens

Long underwear/woolies

Tuesdays

A vegetable

(each classroom has a slightly different snack schedule,
ask your child's teacher)

Afternoon Only

A nutritious lunch in a small bag or lunch box

A small blanket (some teachers may ask for pillows)

*Please see your EC handbook for more details on many of these items