

# Calgary Waldorf School Vision

Our vision is to foster the development of our students through care and respect; we strive to nurture reverence, imagination, creativity, independent thinking, academic excellence, enthusiasm for life, and capacity for life-long learning. As teachers and parents, we are committed to realizing these qualities in our consciousness and in our daily actions.

## Calgary Waldorf School Mission

- Recognizing and honouring the stages of child development as elaborated by Rudolf Steiner and Anthroposophy to ensure that these stages inform our pedagogy and curriculum so teachers will bring appropriate educational content through appropriate educational methods to their students at the right time.
- Providing a full, interdisciplinary educational program that balances and integrates the humanities, sciences, mathematics and languages along with visual, dramatic and musical arts, applied practical arts, movement and athletics which fulfils both the Waldorf and Alberta Education curricula.
- Creating a safe, healthy, caring and respectful school environment that is conducive to the development of self-esteem for students, teachers and staff.
- Fostering the development of students' self-confidence and self-responsibility to create and take opportunities to fulfil their potential.
- Preparing students for their further education beyond our school by helping them become adaptable to different teaching and learning styles and expectations.
- Demonstrating observable and measurable levels of progress and excellence in student achievements and teacher performance.
- Providing opportunities for the ongoing professional development of our teachers and staff.
- Raising awareness in members of our school community of the importance of moral, spiritual and ethical values and the reverence for life in the education and upbringing of children.
- Encouraging and facilitating the active and meaningful involvement of the parent body and providing parents with opportunities to learn more about Waldorf education in depth.
- Maintaining financial stability, administrative responsibility and responsiveness to the school community's needs.

## Calgary Waldorf School's Guiding Principles

**Education of the whole child.** We strive to nurture the healthy, timely development of the whole being of the child: the willing or doing (hands), the feeling (heart) and the thinking (head). We impart an engaging, enlivened and balanced curriculum that challenges our students artistically, physically and academically. It is not just what the child learns in facts and concepts that measure success, but the care, effort and thoughtfulness

embedded in the learning processes and products that bring value and meaning to the child's experiences.

**The uniqueness of each child.** We aim to assist children to make the full use of their innate qualities, their skills, talents, ranges of abilities and unique potential while empowering them to be proactive in their environment and adaptive to change. We seek to develop identifiable skills while nurturing each child's capacity for living fully in whatever future unfolds for him/her.

**The teacher as mentor, role model, and guardian.** Our teachers strive to teach with moral imagination, make use of their emergent creative skills and talents and be active learners in the subject areas they teach. In teaching the same class of children for longer cycles of time, teachers have greater opportunities to become aware of and foster each child's deepest and essential being.

**Community.** The school serves as a community in which children benefit from teachers, staff and parents striving together to support education and learning. We strive toward sound, socially conscious practices for stewardship of our environment and for serving the wider world outside our school.

**Integrating the philosophical and the practical.** Decision-making is guided by practical and philosophical principles: we respond to our social, cultural, physical and economic environment and emphasize teamwork and consensus-building.

**Social, cultural, and economic inclusion.** We strive to provide an educational program that values the inclusion of families, teachers and staff from diverse social, cultural, religious, ethnic, racial and economic backgrounds.

**Reverence for the spiritual nature in ourselves and in all things.** We seek ways to highlight and bring value to learning in deliberate measures that support children's openness to awe, wonder and inquiry, through the unique qualities of goodness, beauty and truth, as well as maintain a reverence for life in all its forms. We consider this as work with the spiritual nature of life and phenomena and recognise this education is entirely non-denominational without connection to any specific religious doctrine.

**Recognition of the spiritual nature of the human being.** We believe all children have a spiritual nature which is nurtured and drawn to consciousness by meaningful content in the curriculum and by teachers and other community members who uphold universal values such as acceptance, care, compassion, kindness, generosity, diligence, respect and honesty. We strive to honour, nurture and protect the childhood of our students, to guide them into healthy adolescence and to help them become fully human in ways that go beyond the simply material aspects of our nature and our world.

**[Note: These revised Statements of the Calgary Waldorf School's "Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles" were approved by the Faculty Council on June 8, 2010 and by the Board of Directors on June 10, 2010.]**