

Lakota Waldorf School

A different approach to learning

The first impression one gets when entering the Lakota Waldorf School is that many things look different; there are no electronic toys, no computers, children in kindergarten play with wooden toys, with cloth, there is a lot of singing, storytelling, baking, painting, the walls are painted in warm pastel colors; there are tipis and horses painted on the walls of the school.

The children in the little house beside the kindergarten, the 1st/2nd graders, also sing a lot. They clap with their hands while learning numbers and math; rhythmical play helps them to experience the counting while learning; they step the numbers with their feet in the circle. There are activities everywhere. The first grade teacher introduces the academics with storytelling--the basic learning tool in the kindergarten and lower grades is storytelling. All students start the day together with a Lakota prayer song. Before every meal, thanks is given to the Creator in a Lakota prayer. Lakota Language is used in the everyday activities, but not only the Language, also traditional customs are a part of the curriculum. For example, end of August the children go and collect chokecherries and they learn to prepare and dry them.

"Here the children don't have to sit still all day at a desk and work.

With the Waldorf way they learn by doing, they can move, use their imagination and experience. In our traditional way we had no electronics, we used our imagination and learned by watching the adults and experiencing what we saw. This is similar to how Waldorf

There are more than 1,000 Waldorf schools around the world in many diverse cultures and nations. Waldorf schools are non-sectarian schools. The best way to describe Waldorf is: a method that is based on profound understanding of human development that ad-

curriculum, it cultivates social and emotional intelligence, and connects children to nature. The Waldorf approach leaves a child free from pressure and testing demands, engendering a lifelong love of learning.

Naomi Last Horse, 1st/2nd grade teacher

Lakota Way of Life and that's what our Lakota Waldorf School is about".

Currently, Lakota Waldorf School operates a mixed-age kindergarten and a combined 1st/2nd grade, the children will grow with the school and add a new class

the children's health and wellbeing and the children are also involved in the food preparation.

The children make their own bread every Wednesday, and pizzas on Fridays. They spend a lot of time outside, playing, hiking and taking care of the chickens. Children participate actively in the organic school garden. New at Lakota Waldorf this year is the chicken coop with 9 chickens. It is a highlight for the children to gather the eggs every day. This healthy meal program is aimed at reducing health risk factors for reservation children, reducing the risk of diabetes, obesity and to support improved wellness outcomes.

The goals and activities of LWS go beyond providing an alternative education. The experiential approach has proven to build strength, identity, and self-determination in children and adolescents for the future. The children learn by connecting with the world and all the good, true and beauty lives in the world.

"Receive the child in reverence, educate the child in love, send him forth in freedom," is the slogan that best describes the teaching goals of a Waldorf.

Studies show that of Waldorf schools graduates 94% attend college or university, 47% choose humanities or art as a major, 89% are highly satisfied in choice of occupation, 91% are active in lifelong education, 92% placed a high value on critical thinking.

A good source of information about Waldorf is: www.whywaldorfschools.org

For more information about call the office: 605 455-2487.

Or visit the website: www.lakotawaldorfschool.org



teaching method works." says Joyce Little Whiteman, Kindergarten teacher at Lakota Waldorf School.

The Lakota Waldorf School, located at 3 mile creek, near Kyle, S.D., was founded as a NPO 501(c)(3) in 1993 by Lakota parents and Elders, who were seeking a teaching method that allows the language and culture to be a part of the daily curriculum.

dresses the needs of the growing child, like the 7-year rhythm of the child, and the knowledge that the child is not only a physical being but also a being of soul and spirit relating to soul and spirit realities.

Waldorf teachers strive to transform education into an art that educates the whole child- the heart, hands, and head. Waldorf provides a detailed, artistic

at Lakota Waldorf: "Being a Waldorf teacher I have learned so many great inspiring things about the children I teach. We learn mostly Lakota songs, or translate Waldorf songs into Lakota language. We pray in Lakota as it should be and we focus on subjects in blocks, so it isn't over whelming for the children to have all this pressure to complete. Instead each child learns the subject (main lesson) in 4-week blocks always beginning with a story that connects them with an experience related to their culture and lives. It's been a journey so far and I not only learn about my students, but myself also. Everything in our curriculum is using their imagination and hand, hearts and soul. Everything is a circle, everything is connected just like our

every school year. To enable any family that wishes to attend, Lakota Waldorf School does not charge tuition. The school bus runs a route through Kyle/Medicine Root District, and surroundings, and plans for a second route to Manderson, Porcupine and Wounded Knee are under way.

Lakota Waldorf School strongly emphasizes a healthy meal program, which is possible through a grant from a S.D. Foundation. All meals are organic, prepared and cooked fresh, no processed food and no candy. There are vegetables, fruits, buffalo meat bought from the tribes buffalo herd, oatmeal and cornmeal for breakfast, sweetened with honey and not with sugar. The cooks at LWS work all day for



Oglala Lakota College Board Election in Oglala District Official Results

OLC conducted a board election for the Board of Trustee in one District. The Oglala District had three candidates for a four year term they were Donovan Young Man, Warren Cross, and Ingrid One Feather. The Official results were Donovan Young Man 145, Warren Cross 101, and Ingrid One Feather 58. Donovan Young Man will be seated as the

Board of Trustees member in December.

There was one local board election in Oglala District. The candidates for 1 four year term and 1 two year term at Oglala District were Trudy New Holy, Tyler Yellow Boy and Avis Blacksmith. The Official results were Trudy New Holy 212, Tyler Yellow Boy 199, and Avis Blacksmith 149. The candidate with the

highest votes, Trudy New Holy will be seated in the 4 year term.

For more information or questions, call the Election Committee members: Jonnie Clifford, member - 455-6047, Faith Moves Camp, member - 455-6038, and Diane Winters - 455-6022.