



# Newsletter

September 2021





## Cultivating Community

One of the essential values of our school is developing a creative, cohesive community. All of us are here because of the children. Yet, how do the adults engage with the school? How do we manage the quality of our interactions? How do we forge a creative community?

Traditionally, the social element has been nurtured through festivals. They are indeed the heart of The Acorn School. For example, the warmth and good will that erupted during, and then after, our May Day Festival was just short of a miracle. Our special thanks go out to Eric and Renee Meyer, and Ryan and Emily Hall for all your efforts in hosting us on that beautiful land in Meggett.

## Tables For the Grades

Isla and Bea Roule's grandparents Bobby and Sandra have contributed more than their share to our school. These are the set of tables and benches that Bobby built on short notice for the grade school students. He also built all the tables in the outdoor classroom, the wooden crates, the wooden wheelbarrow, and finally the beautiful wooden shed that holds all our tools and supplies. Another example of how kindhearted souls can make important contributions to our community.





### Empowering our “Fresh Air Approach.”

Rudy Box is a new dad at the school, and he recently donated a Heppa Filtration System and a fogger to The Acorn School. Rudy is the GM at Airmax and has helped us step up our efforts to create a high-quality indoor environment for the students. The bathroom continues to be sanitized each morning with our Benefect sanitizer. The fogger allows us to cover every surface, the ceiling, the floor, and everything in between. The duct system has also been sanitized with Benefect. Rudy is also going to be installing infrared lights in the HVAC unit to further enhance our ability to keep the air fresh.

Our most sincere thanks go out to Rudy and his family. I have placed his business cards on the table in the grade school entrance. If you need help upgrading the air quality of your home or business, please give Rudy a call at 843.614.3276.

### School Calendar

If you go to our website and click on the Oak leaf in the upper right had corner of the homepage you will enter the parent portal. There you will find the newsletter, the parent directory, the school calendar among other things. Please take note that the school calendar is not static and is updated regularly. Here is the link:

<https://acornschoocharleston.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Acorn-Calendar-21-22.pdf>

### Parental Involvement

Our school is growing, and parents are invited and encouraged to engage in committee work. The call rings out to emerging leaders to help carry the school through the next phase of our development! We need volunteers to recreate our monthly potluck events. We need volunteers to work on the upkeep of our gardens. We need volunteers to read to the children during library time or the pre-nap ritual. We need a parent committee to help keep communications flowing, to figure out challenges, to help the teachers plan the festivals. Lia Malone is actively working on organizing the activities and we will keep you updated.

Similarly, the current Board of Trustees has carried the school since 2016 and it is now time for new people to take on these leadership roles. Board members are a company of courageous types that guide our ship as it sails across the zesty seas of modern living. Not a task for the faint of heart, but for those who love The Acorn School we encourage you to reach out to express interest.



### Birdie Will Arrive Soon

Miss Katie's due date is the end of September, and she will begin her maternity leave just after Labor Day. Needless to say, she will be missed. We have hired Maria Phillips, a trained Waldorf teacher with over ten years of experience, to cover for Katie. Maria and her husband drove to Charleston from Oregon! She is a wonderful teacher and colleague. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to her and welcome them both to SC.

### New Faces Abound

We have many new employees this year. Here are faculty bios and link for you:

<https://acornschoocharleston.org/about-acorn-school/faculty-and-staff/>

### Bios

#### Katie Ulm, Lead Kindergarten Teacher, Director of the Early Childhood Program

Katie Ulm found Waldorf education after eight years of nannying, forming and running childcare cohorts, and working multiple years teaching at a local Montessori school. Her first encounter with Waldorf education left a lasting impression that changed the course of her life forever. In 2016, Katie attended a lantern walk, a beloved Waldorf tradition and Acorn School staple, with her goddaughter who attended the school. From the moment she stepped foot in the classroom, and with the events that unfolded with this beautiful experience, a new soul stirring journey had begun. She was hired in 2017 as an assisting teacher to master teacher and founding Acorn School lead, Christi Nordoff, and enrolled in her training through Sunbridge Institute within the first weeks of joining the Acorn School community. Katie has been with the school ever since, and after graduating from her training program in 2020, took over as lead teacher and later took the position of Director of the Early Childhood Program. Katie will be welcoming her first child in the next few weeks and looks forward to joining parents on the profound path of parenthood.

#### Amanda Mosiman, Kindergarten Teacher, Handwork Teacher

The moment I walked into a Waldorf classroom fifteen years ago I knew my purpose was to work with children in a Waldorf setting. I went on to work in that kindergarten in San Diego, another in Boulder, and a parent child class in Fort Collins before having my own children, Calla Lynn and Oak. Then after the gift of staying home with them for seven years, I joined Acorn School last fall as a handwork teacher and kindergarten teacher. I'm so happy to be a part of this community, and to be outdoors with the children every day.

#### Maria Phillips, Lead Kindergarten Teacher, Handwork Teacher

I was introduced to Waldorf Education back in 2007 when I attended an Early Childhood training in Manila Philippines. After working for 12 years as a Behavior Therapist, I was in search of other



means and ways to help the children I worked with who were mostly under the spectrum and after the EC training, I knew then that Waldorf Education was what we needed.

I worked for nine years as assistant and lead teacher at a Waldorf daycare in Manila Philippines. When I moved to the United States, I taught a year as an Aftercare Teacher in Tomball TX and two years as Lead Teacher in Boise ID. I completed my Waldorf teacher training in Eugene Oregon.

I found my way to Acorn School through a Waldorf website, as we were planning to head South for the winter. I did my research on the school and on the day I met Dr. Stevens and the beautiful teachers at the Acorn School, I knew I was home.

[Nozomi Garcia](#)  
[Kindergarten Teacher, Waldorf Teacher Training Intern](#)

I'm from Japan and a proud mama of two sons: Oscar, who is 22 years old; and Yuuki, who is 20 years old. We lived in California for 12 years and then moved to Charleston. The first time I heard about Waldorf education was in a child development class in college. I worked with other schools for many years after that. I encountered Steiner's books during one of my spiritual studies some years ago. Last year, my friend told me that Rudolf Steiner was the founder of the international Waldorf Education movement.

I was shocked to hear that and researched Waldorf education. Although I did not know a lot about him, I knew it would work wonderfully for children. I later found out that there was only one Waldorf school in Charleston and sent an email to Mr. Lee, and wrote that if there was no position available, I could work as a volunteer!

[Martha Ann Nichols](#)  
[Kindergarten Teacher](#)

Hi there! My name is Martha Ann Nichols. I have spent the last eight years working with children. This is my first year working at Acorn! After being a full-time nanny for several years, I was ready to start teaching again. Finding this school felt meant to be. I've found where I feel at home! I have already learned so much from the amazing Acorn team. I greatly appreciate everyone who has been supportive of my Waldorf journey!

[Daniel Abdon, Grade School Teacher](#)

Daniel Abdon joyfully returns to The Acorn School after being completely charmed by his experience here this Spring. Daniel is a former resident of Minneapolis, MN, where he worked in three different Waldorf schools over the past two decades. His first class was at a pioneering school called Spring Hill School, where he taught for eight years. He and Lisa Bartmann were colleagues there, and she is his direct connection to finding Acorn. He also taught first grade at the Minnesota Waldorf School and was a long-term sub at the City of Lakes Waldorf School. He most recently spent three years at CLWS with a class of 28 amazing children who will be entering 5th grade this



Fall. Before working with Waldorf education, Daniel taught early childhood music classes through MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis, and trained as an actor and singer at Webster University in St. Louis, MO. For over a decade Daniel has taught private piano lessons and has sung with a vocal ensemble called S.T.A.R.S. (Singers Taking Action Reaching Souls.) The ensemble continues to travel and perform around the country, and internationally. Their website is: [www.starsfoundation.net](http://www.starsfoundation.net)

#### [Eun Perry Bio, Kindy Afternoons](#)

Hello, my name is Eun Perry. I moved from Seoul, South Korea to NC when I was 9 years old. I am fluent in Korean and visit Korea every summer to spend time with my family back home. I attended Appalachian State University I'm Boone, NC where I got my degree in Sociology of health and aging. Now I am attending MUSC for my Master's in Healthcare Administration. My passions are cooking, spending time in nature, and prior to the pandemic traveling and going to live music events which I hope to return to soon.

#### [Kristhielee Caride, Spanish Teacher, Kindy Associate](#)

Athlete, actress and teacher. Born in Bayamón, P.R. Kristhielee was part of the AREYTO Dance Corps, Official Folkloric Ballet of Puerto Rico, acquiring basic knowledge in other musical instruments and trained children and adults with disabilities in aquatic sports. Graduated from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, where obtained her diploma with a bachelor's degree in Theater Education and a second concentration in Drama. Professionally, has made several productions, which she has presented in NY, Spain and Scotland, where she would be representing Puerto Rico theatrically. Also, practiced education in theater to kids from seventh to ninth grade.

I could say that I found my way to Waldorf, during my new adventure to return to my goal in education, with all the experience of life, in the areas that I dominate and with all the desire to leave my print.

#### [Lisa Bartmann, Grade School Mentor](#)

While living in Minneapolis, a friend told me about the little Waldorf school that was only a block from our house. It was an immediate decision to have our five-year-old daughter attend. We loved the capes that the children wore, the wooden toys, the stories and verses, and the imaginary play. We began to meet other parents who were involved with this new-to-us Waldorf education, and we invited teachers from other communities to lecture on child development and how the curriculum met the child at each grade. I began the Foundation Studies for teaching and after four years taught at a Waldorf school just outside of Minneapolis.

Before moving to Charleston, I discovered that there was a Waldorf school in the area AND I knew Mr. Lee from his years teaching at City of Lakes Waldorf School in Minneapolis! Miss Christie and Miss Katie were the teachers, and I would help while Miss Katie went to her training.



I could feel the dream coming to fruition and that a supportive and lively community was already here, ready for others to join.

[Lea Malone, Parent Volunteer](#)

Hi! My name is Lea Melone partner to Daniel and mom to Ileana Ramos. Both Daniel and I were born and raised proud NY'ers (I think I am a little more proud than him, ha!) We moved to Charleston 2 weeks pre-pandemic. The catalyst for our move was “a gentler way of life” both for Daniel (a retired combat airborne vet) and Ileana. I'll be the first to admit I was terrified of the south. Being raised amongst a rainbow of humans who more than often felt comfortable with their opinions, I wasn't sure how I would find my footing here. We had done a search of Waldorf schools for the area, and we were told about The Acorn School. THIS is how I found my footing. Being a former television executive is what made me interested in the Waldorf mindset. Pretty much raising Ileana very different to what I had become accustomed to in my career. Here the learning process is “engaging head, heart and hands or thinking, feeling and doing” I think the same should go for the parent body. The Acorn School is entirely different than anything in the Charleston area. I have met some of my closest friends here, teaming together and learning (and laughing) from each other. When I was asked about taking on a role to head a PTA of sorts my first reaction was whoaaaa now! However, I know how much the teachers (in a VERY difficult & stressful year) and parents made it a place I wanted to bring my daughter back to. We are in Charleston, and we will never get that full diversity at a school like in NYC but at Acorn everyone truly has a vested interest in different cultures and ideas. I hope that I can be a parent liaison for parents that aren't as forthcoming with their thoughts. I want it to reflect socially what we want for our kids. Inclusion, acceptance, patience, embracing differences and being able to speak what is on your mind without judgement while learning about the Waldorf way through others. This will include festival planning as well educational sessions to help everyone better understand the curriculum. I hope I've made some sense of this new roll and have enticed whoever to come on board. I welcome any ideas and convos (and new names for PTA). We have a special, cool crew at Acorn. Hope to meet everyone at some point and feel free to say Hi! I'm going to take a wild guess that I'm probably the loudest one around...

Cheers,

Lea

[Parent Directory](#)

The Parent Directory is now available on our website. The new password is: acorn4316.



### Parent Lending Library

Our parent lending library is located by the entrance to the outdoor classroom. It is full of books, magazines and other reading materials designed to make the parenting challenge easier. Please help yourselves.

### Upcoming Events

- Monday, September 6, no school, Labor Day.
- Wednesday, September 29, Michalemas Celebration. Parents are welcome, details to follow.
- Friday, October 22, 3:00 pm, Class meetings in kindy and grades. Details to follow.
- Saturday, November 6, 4:00 pm, Lantern Walk and Potluck, Meggett, SC.
- Monday, November 22 through Friday, November 26, Thanksgiving break, school closed.
- Sunday, December 5, 5:00 pm, Advent Garden Ceremony.
- Monday, December 20-Friday the 31st, Winter vacation, school closed.

