The Parent Association is pleased to welcome new and returning families to the community. Parents and guardians are an integral part of the success of the children at Mountain Oak. Through participation, community fellowship and teamwork parents are engaged in many facets of the school.

Throughout the year, opportunities arise for social activities, volunteering and parent education. Deeper benefits of this education are enhanced when parents take advantage of opportunities to gain knowledge about the pedagogy and participate in the vibrancy and life of the school. As lifelong learning develops, being involved shows your child that education is a vital part of life and important to you as a parent. Here’s a quick glance at many of these opportunities and what to expect as a parent/guardian at Mountain Oak. Some of this is discussed in more detail in the school handbook and on the website. Throughout the year you will receive updates in the ‘Wednesday’ newsletter via email or hard copy. It will provide information about school events, class meetings and much more. If you do not receive the weekly email or need a hard copy please let the office know.

Listed below are some highlights of the school’s day to day activity and ways you can get involved.

**Curriculum**

* Within the **Mountain Oak School** classroom, teachers blend academic and a variety of artistic disciplines so that the whole child is involved in every aspect of learning. The curriculum appropriately meets students at their developmental stage.
* The curriculum seeks to awaken a student's genuine enthusiasm, interest in the world, love of learning, and sense of purpose in life.
* Opportunities often arise to support class lessons and chaperone field trips.

**Class Meetings**

* Throughout the year your child’s teacher will host class meetings. Please ensure you are available to attend these.
* Class meetings can inform parents/guardians about current studies, child development changes to be aware and class events.
* Class meetings are a great way to support your child, to meet other parents and begin to find your place within Mountain Oak School.

**Class Parents**

* Each class has a designated parent volunteer that supports the class teacher and assists families in finding avenues of participating in class activities and integrating into the broader school community.
* Class parents will reach out to families to invite participation in activities and to enlist support for the teacher and the students.
* If you have questions regarding class activities, parent association or want to help please reach out to your class parent.

**Festivals**

* **Mountain Oak School** embraces the changing rhythms of the calendar year through a variety of festivals and activities.
* There are two larger festivals and several small festivals throughout the year. Our two large festivals include the *Festival of Strength and Courage* in September and *May Day* in May. Dates are listed on the school calendar.
* These festivals are a great opportunity for parents to participate. Participation by parents in these festivals is meaningful and strengthens the community. Please join us and feel free to invite other family members.
* If you have questions about the festivals, the website, your class teacher, class parent, and other parents are a great resource to learn more about them.

**Community**

* Community is essential to the life in a Waldorf school.
* At Mountain Oak we joyfully come together for festivals, events, dinners and to work together on fundraising, projects and workdays.
* Many parents find a supportive group of like-minded families at Mountain Oak to connect with.

**Fundraisers**

* Throughout the year there are several fundraising events for both school wide initiatives as well as individual class projects. Money raised by fundraisers is used to improve the school and support opportunities available to students.
* Fundraiser selection criteria is aligned with principles that support the well-being of the planet; the people, the animals, the environment. Thoughtfulness toward child development must be considered and favoring of local businesses or charities when possible are also foundations of fundraiser choices.
* Fundraisers also give us a chance to work and play together.

**Parent Education**

* Rudolf Steiner envisioned schools as community learning centers.
* There are many educational opportunities that are hosted or publicized for parents at Mountain Oak; these events can be found in the weekly newsletter.
* Throughout the year we invite all parents to attend a monthly book study/parenting support group, and other occasional events to explore the development of their children through the lens of Waldorf and strengthen our parenting skills.

**Volunteering**

* There are many different ways to volunteer at Mountain Oak. Volunteer needs are often shared by class teachers and in the weekly ‘Wednesday’ newsletter.
* We recognize that everyone has different talents and resources they bring to the school and we try to identify different ways for parents to volunteer, participate and support the school.
* If you have time, skills or resources you want to share with the school please reach out to your class teacher, administration or the volunteer coordinator.

**Parent Association**

At Mountain Oak School, teachers and administrators are dedicated to student success and hold a deep-seeded passion for education. To support the school with this task Parent Association (PA) gathers once a month to collaborate with faculty and administration. By attending these meetings, parents are invited to participate and be involved in many different areas within the school and to develop a fellowship of parents. Parent Association participates in fundraising, special projects, facilities, festivals and school promotion. All of these areas of participation help Mountain Oak to continue to grow and prosper. Parent Association is a great way to be a part of our community. Look for announcements in the ‘Wednesday’ to find out when PA meets.

We look forward to meeting you and your family! Thanks for joining us!

The MOS Parent Association