

From: E&H Engelbrecht [mailto:ehengelbrecht@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2016 4:59 PM
To: PCD <pcd@bainbridgewa.gov>
Subject: Madrona School CUP

October 28, 2016

Mr. Joshua Machen, AICP
Planning Manager
City of Bainbridge Island, Planning Division

Dear Mr. Machen:

We are writing today to show our support for Madrona School's plan to build a new school facility on North Madison Avenue. We have been members of the Madrona School community since our daughter was 18 months old (she is now 7 ½) and have found it to be a warm and compassionate community. Our daughter is thriving in this environment that honors the human spirit, instills and nurtures a sense of wonder and creativity, and offers academics integrated with art and movement, developing resourcefulness, compassion and confidence. We are excited at the prospect of the school growing into a new space that will provide an opportunity for even more families to participate in this joyful education.

I understand that some have voiced concerns over potential traffic, noise and light pollution. I think if more were known about the values of the school and our track record of being good neighbors, these concerns would be alleviated. Most of our families are islanders too and none of us want to do anything to harm the wonderful community in which we live. The school is pro-actively planning how to be a good neighbor and has created a traffic, parking and lighting plan in response to concerns that were raised at a public meeting in July. At our recent Michaelmas Festival, we accommodated 90 cars in the meadow and not one car parked along the shoulder of Madison or Windsong Loop. We had new signage and backup plans for overflow parking off site with a shuttle. We are all committed to being good neighbors and positive members of the North Madison neighborhood.

Having a larger, rural campus will help us more fully realize our vision of a lively, hands-on Waldorf education with room for children to move their bodies, work in the garden, tend forest paths, play, explore and be happy. Our students learn by doing using real tools: making bread, carding wool, chopping vegetables, etc. They play with beautiful, simple toys, made of natural materials like wood, wool or silk, that stimulate open-ended play and develop imaginations. They learn world languages beginning in kindergarten, and learn how to be good citizens of the community and the world.

Having a wide variety of educational choices - excellent public, independent, Catholic, Carden, Montessori and Waldorf schools – is why so many of us make our home here on this wonderful island that with its vibrant culture and strong community. We sincerely hope the City of Bainbridge Island approves Madrona School's plans for its future home.

Warm Regards,

Eric and Heather Engelbrecht