

CALGARY WALDORF SCHOOL

Options for Reducing Tuition Fees 2017-2018

The Calgary Waldorf School is committed to providing an inclusive environment where all families wishing to have a Waldorf education for their children feel welcomed and valued as members of our school community. The School charges tuition fees to cover the basic annual operating costs of the school's program. In addition, we raise funds through donations and special events for several initiatives such as specialized programs (Eurythmy, Learning Support), Waldorf Teacher Training, and a Tuition Assistance Fund to help families who need assistance to pay their tuition fees.

We know that many families in our school community must stretch their resources, make choices, and be creative about earning additional income in order to pay their fees. However, even with these efforts, some families' earnings may not be sufficient to pay the School fees. It is our goal to help families who are in this position to stay as part of our school community, and to help remove the financial barriers for new families wishing to join our school community.

1. Calgary Waldorf School Tuition Assistance Fund

The Tuition Assistance Fund is supported by an allocation of 1% of tuition fees and a portion of the proceeds from our School's fundraising activities such as special events, the Annual Giving Campaign, and the profits from our school store, the Pixie Hut. The Tuition Assistance Fund also annually receives 5% of the total amount of an Endowment Fund held in our School's name at The Calgary Foundation. The Endowment Fund has a current capital amount of \$919,225 and has been made possible by the very generous contributions from an anonymous donor as well as donations received for this purpose through our Annual Giving Campaign. Currently the School grants \$180,000 in Tuition Assistance per year, which helps reduce fees for approximately 18% of our students.

Who Can Apply for CWS Tuition Assistance

The amount of assistance granted to each family is based on family size, income and assets, amount of tuition to be paid, and commitment to the school. Extenuating circumstances are also taken into consideration. Grants vary from year to year depending on the available funds and the pool of applicants but, in general, a family of four people with a combined annual income up to \$80,000 (gross) may qualify for some assistance. Families who qualify for assistance usually receive a 20% to 50% reduction in their fees.

Application Procedure for CWS Tuition Assistance

Renewing families:

1. By March 1st, complete the Enrollment Renewal Forms and pay half the March deposit.
2. By March 1st, submit the Tuition Assistance Application.

New families:

1. Complete the New Student Application process and pay the Initial Deposit when offered placement in the Class.
2. Up to two weeks after student acceptance, submit the Tuition Assistance Application.
3. Mid-school-year enrollments are not eligible for Tuition Assistance.

Application Forms are available at the school office or on our website: www.calgarywaldorf.org.
Please turn over for more Tuition Reduction/Subsidy Programs available to Waldorf families.

2. Subsidies for Parent & Tot and Preschool Fees and for Kinder-Aftercare Fees

There are two Child Care Subsidies available through the Government of Alberta.

Applications are available online (see website links below).

- a) A “**Stay-at-Home Parent Subsidy**” applies to our Preschool Program and our Parent & Tot Program. Parents may qualify for up to \$1,200 per year per child. Eligibility is based on income, number and ages of children, and price of programs in which they are enrolled. For example, a family of four with a combined income of about \$72,000 (gross) or less and two children enrolled in an eligible program may qualify for the full subsidy of \$1,200 per year per child.
- b) A “**Child Care Subsidy**” may be available for up to 100% of our Kinder-Aftercare fees depending on the parents’ financial means.

To apply or assess whether your family’s income may be eligible for either of these subsidies, go to www.humanservices.alberta.ca, click *financial support*, then *child care subsidy* from the menu on the left. There are several selections on how to apply or how to estimate your subsidy. The application form is the same for both subsidies. Key phrases you will need to know:

Our Preschool programs are *Licensed Preschools*; our Parent & Tot programs are *Early Childhood Development programs*; our Kinder-Aftercare is a *Licensed Daycare* or *Daycare Centre*.

Subsidies are paid directly to the School. Once you have been approved, contact the school office to work out arrangements for reimbursing the subsidy or adjusting your monthly CWS fee payments.

3. Parents’ Choice Bursary Program

An initiative of The Prosser Foundation for low income families enrolling in Kindergarten or above in an independent school. The Foundation selects families giving priority to students entering the school for the first time at the qualifying level. To be eligible, the family must meet current government criteria for being classified as “low income”. Once a family is selected, the bursary covers 50% of tuition costs, up to a maximum of \$3,500 per year per child, paid directly to the School. This bursary will then be continued up to Grade 12, as long as the family remains financially eligible. More information and the Application Form can be found on their website:

www.theprossercharitablefoundation.ca. Under News/Events you will find a guideline for incomes considered eligible for the grant. Please contact Cari Vaughan, Financial Manager at our School, if you would like to pursue an application for the Parents’ Choice Bursary Program. Applications (and annual renewal applications) must be submitted to the School by March 1st and the School will forward them to The Prosser Foundation. Applications submitted directly to the Prosser Foundation will automatically be disqualified.

For more information on any of these programs, or to discuss your options confidentially, please contact Cari Vaughan, Financial Manager of the Calgary Waldorf School, at: 403 – 287 - 1868 ext. 184 or c.vaughan@calgarywaldorf.org