

TEACHER PROFILE

Daisy Barnard

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Daisy Barnard's search for a life path has covered a lot of ground. From playing the French horn to religious studies, then veering to yoga and sunbathing on a beach in Jamaica, Barnard has explored many things. However, it was on that beach where she saw a magazine ad that said "Do you want to be a Waldorf Teacher?" The question hit her like a "bolt from the blue," Barnard says.

Not one to ignore her passions, Barnard went home to Washington state, sold her mobile home on a lake, packed up her possessions and moved to Emerson College in England, even though she had not yet heard of Rudolf Steiner. Fortunately, it was just what she was looking for and she found the two-year training "magical".

Barnard's path to Waldorf started in Colorado Springs where her dad was a professor at Colorado College. "My whole early childhood was theater and music, and a rich after-school life," she recalls. Barnard's education began at "two hippie, experimental schools, and then I started public school in third grade. It was a hard transition," she says.

Barnard continued her education at Lawrence University in Wisconsin, where "I thought I was going to major in French Horn, but ended up in religious studies," she says. After college, unsure what to do, Barnard moved to Washington State "on a whim because I loved Kurt Cobain so much. He had already died, but it was a tribute." She taught yoga for three years and at one point, her aunt mentioned that Waldorf might be a good fit. Barnard didn't act on the suggestion, but in 1996, on that beach, she was ready.

Barnard went on to teach a wide variety of grades and subjects at schools in the Los Angeles and Bay areas of California for 17 years, while also getting a master's degree in mythological studies. What is Waldorf's appeal? "There's a beauty that makes sense to me in Waldorf schools. There is the physical beauty of the schools...plus I would not

be able to work outside of this paradigm that kids are more complex than their minds and their bodies,” she says.

Ready for something new, Barnard interviewed at SFWS with retiring high school English teacher Pam Colgate, and the pair discovered that Barnard’s dad and Colgate knew people in common from the college. “It felt very clear this would be a good fit.” Her family moved to Santa Fe in 2017 and her children, Buck Barnard, Grade 1, and Lark Miller, Grade 10, both attend the school

And has it been a good fit? “Honestly, it has been wonderful,” says Barnard. “I love my colleagues so much. And the kids are cool and different here. I can get to authenticity with kids here more quickly. I appreciate that a lot.”