



# Four Tellings

*A weekly bulletin for family and friends of Four Winds Waldorf School*



January 11, 2012

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## A New Year of Thanks

A big thanks to *Jolynn and Mike Blair*, grandparents of Rachel and Michael Blair, for their donation of our elegant new hallway furniture. Additional thanks to *Vicki Blair* for putting it all together with great style.

Vicki also put together our Christmas display, and on top of being our school's personal decorator, Vicki is also class parent for 3rd grade. Sean Blair serves on the Finance Committee. We very much appreciate the continued support and wonderful gifts the Blair family brings to the school.

—Four Winds Faculty & Administration

## Family Bowling Night - RSVP Today

When: Friday, January 13th, 3:30PM  
Where: Fox Bowl in Wheaton  
RSVP: Front Office ASAP!!

Join Parent Council for a bowling night this Friday! It is a great time to get together, relax, and have fun with families from the school. Early Childhood families are especially encouraged to attend so that they can meet other families with older children. The cost is \$8/person, which includes two games, and shoes.

## Four Winds Mission Statement

Four Winds Waldorf School is committed to awakening the intellect, imagination and determination of every child, leading to a life-long love of learning. Within a protective and nurturing environment, teachers and parents work together to build a community where each student's confidence, sense of responsibility and self-reliance unfolds.

### Inside

From the Desk of Marianne  
Sled-a-thon  
Calendar of Events

2

General Announcements

3

Save the Date

4

SCRIP Update

5

Focus on Fourth Grade Part 1

6



## From the Desk of Marianne Fieber

Welcome Back! I hope everyone had a great break filled with light and laughter while spending time with family and friends. It is good to see everyone back and ready to take up the work once again. The weather has been remarkable and I am curious about when the snow will begin to fall—hopefully in time for our Sled-A-Thon on January 20th. We'll see... maybe we'll be jumping?!

For the past year or so I have been involved in helping shape a truly remarkable collaborative event around the ideas of associative economics and building regenerative communities. The event has finally come into form and it will be in the form of the Great Lakes Region of AWSNA's (Association of Waldorf Schools in North America) annual teacher conference. This year the conference is going to be held at the Minnesota Waldorf School in February. The brochure for the event is attached so you can take a peek at what we'll be up to. The title of this conference is Straight from the Heart(land): Building Regenerative Communities. I have been honored and humbled to be part of a workshop team to share what I have been developing for years under the name of Songtrails Projects. The themes being addressed in this conference are deep and far reaching. I hope the impact will ripple throughout the region and beyond. I will do my best to share with our Four Winds Community some of what I experienced as part of this event.

I was perusing one of my new favorite magazines in the Faculty room (Ode: for Intelligent Optimists). The December 2011 issue was dropped on the table and one of the articles is entitled "The Art of Trying" written by Paulo Coelho. It is a short piece but packs a thoughtful punch and I want to share a couple of quotes which I found particularly provoking and delightful as we strive to create a truly nurturing community at Four Winds in which we are all safe to explore who we are, our innate and latent capacities as well as unknown strengths while navigating a life filled with unexpected challenges and adventure.

*"The wise understand that repetition has a cause: to teach the lesson that still needs teaching. Repetitive situations require different solutions every time. The one who fails must not see this as a mistake, but rather as a step toward greater self knowledge."*

*"It's like Thomas Watson said, 'Would you like me to give you a formula for success? It's quite simple, really. Double your rate of failure.'"*

Certainly we don't wish failure on anyone or to have that as the only state of being, but when it happens, we can learn from it if we stay awake and let ourselves receive the gift.

## Sled-A-Thon

As you look outside it is hard to visualize a snow covered landscape but do not worry, it is coming! How do I know? Well, let's just say we are long overdue for a big snow storm...and between now and January 20th the odds are in our favor!

Before break, all grades students\* received their Sled-A-Thon information packets. Please continue to collect new pledges as we get closer to our event date.

We have begun planning the logistics in greater detail. The goal is to have the event from 12:15PM to 2:45PM on Friday, January 20th. Parent volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks so if you are interested please contact



## This Week's Calendar

January 11, 2012 (Wednesday)  
1:30–3PM Leadership Council  
3–4PM Executive Steering Committee

January 12, 2012 (Thursday)  
SCRIP Orders Due / Pick-up  
8:00AM Groman Cafe  
10:30–11:30AM Social Inclusion Coordinating Group (SICG)  
3:15–5:30PM Faculty Meeting  
6PM Strategic Planning Committee

January 13, 2012 (Friday)  
Newsletter Submission Deadline  
8–9:30AM Finance Committee  
3–4PM Student Service Committee Meeting  
3:30PM Family Bowling Night

January 14, 2012 (Saturday)  
9–12PM Waldorf School Journey

January 16, 2012 (Monday)  
NO SCHOOL

January 17, 2012 (Tuesday)

January 18, 2012 (Wednesday)  
8:45AM School Tour  
1:30–3PM Leadership Council  
3–4PM Executive Steering Committee



## Classified & Newsletter Submissions

Please submit classifieds and newsletter content by Friday afternoon before school ends to be published the following Wednesday.

Classifieds should to be submitted to the front office. Ads cost \$5 for a 50 word ad that will run for two weeks. All classifieds are subject to editing.

Newsletter content can be emailed to Kassia Shaw at [kassia.shaw@me.com](mailto:kassia.shaw@me.com).

## Pictures This Week

Thank you to the following for your beautiful pictures this week:

Roberta Nigro  
Carlene Mogavero

Please send your pictures to Kassia Shaw ([kassia.shaw@me.com](mailto:kassia.shaw@me.com)) by Friday, for a Wednesday publication date. Thank you!!!

me at [m\\_sean\\_blair@yahoo.com](mailto:m_sean_blair@yahoo.com).

\* A special note from Early Childhood: Early childhood children, though free to sled during our outdoor time, are not participating in the Sled-A-Thon. Early Childhood families are encouraged to adopt a grades student (sibling or friend of the family) to support with pledge contributions.

—Sean Blair

## Annual Fund 2011

We continue to get closer to our goal of \$40,000 and participation 100%.

As of Monday we have reached \$ 28,130 with 74% among the Faculty, 100% among the Board of Trustees and 60% among the parent body.

Contributions made since January 1, 2012 will be available as a tax deduction on your 2012 taxes.

Please check to see if your company has a gift matching program to give your donation an extra boost. Supporting documentation as to our 501(c)3 status can be requested through Marianne Fieber. She will be happy to assist you.

You may also have supportive grandparents, aunts, uncles or siblings that are recognizing the benefit of a Waldorf education for your children. Please suggest they offer a tax deductible contribution.

## Parent Feedback Survey 2011-2012

Thank you to those parents who have taken the time to complete and fill out the surveys for this school year. The Professional Development Committee will be reviewing the information and share it with the teachers.

## Elves' Market—Review

The numbers are nearly all in and we had a very successful event on December 10th. There was an incredible showing in terms of the volunteer support. We couldn't have done this without all the elves—young and older. The place was swarming with activity, music and energy and we realized a decent profit. Here is the high level breakdown for you to consider.

Total Net Profit for the School was: \$2,499.72 after expenses and upper grades class trip donations.

As a thank you to our Helper Elves from Grades 5, 7 and 8, we made contributions to their class trip funds in the following amounts:

5th Grade = \$50.04

7th Grade = \$75.60

8th Grade = \$103.72

Silent Auction brought in \$550.00

Ornament Fundraiser = \$165.00

Vendor & Photography fees = \$350.00

Over 2200 sparkling stars were circulated during the course of the day. There were some cash sales in addition to the pre-paid event registrations and Renter Elf reservations.

The Bookstore realized about \$974.00 from their sales in the Elves Market.

The team will be holding a more formal review this week and if you haven't submitted feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Thank you, again Four Winds—it was a wonderful day!

## Whole Childhood: The Prime Sustainability Issue of Our Time

Parents and community members may enjoy this article from a past issue of *Vision Magazine*. Even though it was written in 2008, it seems quite appropriate and worth a read.

[Vision Magazine Freedom of Choice Our Green Energy Alternatives](#)

## Save the Date

### Four Winds Parent Performance: *The Tin Fiddle Band*

Saturday, January 21st

Show starts at 9PM

The Lodge on the Fox, 35 North Water Street, Batavia

Come out and support Four Winds Waldorf School parent, Jeremy Sauer, and his band, *The Tin Fiddle Band*, at their upcoming show in Batavia. The band plays Country, Folk and Southern Rock music inspired by artists such as Merle Haggard and Willie Nelson.

### Town Hall Meeting

Saturday, January 28th

10:00AM–12PM Town Hall Meeting

12:00PM–1:15PM Potluck

1:30PM–3:00PM Community Conversation

Come one, come all! Four Winds' Annual Town Hall meeting will be held Saturday, January 28th from 10AM–12PM. Childcare may be available—contact the office so that they can gauge interest. This is a wonderful opportunity to get our entire parent body together at the same time, and we would like to see every family represented this year.

Afterwards, Parent Council invites everyone to a community potluck and conversation at school. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Valentines Day Needle Felting Workshop

Saturday, February 11th

11:00AM–1:00PM

Cost: \$14/participant (\$10/participant if you bring your own mat and felting needles) due no later than 2/8.

After some interest from the Elves' Market, Kassia Shaw has volunteered to host a series of crafting workshops throughout the rest of the school year. The first



## Karen Friede's Caramel Recipe

As soon as Karen Friede (5th and 7th grade parent) brought her now famous homemade caramels to the *Elves' Market Bake Sale* last month, parents began asking for her recipe. Thankfully, she was willing to share, and she promises that with a candy thermometer, this recipe is a cinch!

1b. of butter  
 1 can of sweetened condensed milk  
 4 cups of brown sugar  
 1 pint of Karo Syrup  
 2 tsp. of vanilla  
 ¾ tsp. of salt

Put all ingredients in a pan except for the vanilla.

Using a candy thermometer, stir constantly until the temperature reaches 240 degrees. When it reaches 240 degrees, add the vanilla, then boil to 242 or 246 degrees.

Pour into a 9x12 buttered pan, let cool, cut and wrap each candy.

*Thank you Karen!*

## Four Tellings



## 2012 SCRIP Challenge!

### Who:

Everyone in our community

### What:

1. Register for PrestoPay this month by going through the [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com) website.
2. Order at least 1 SCRIP card a month by going to [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com) and enter the code: L99B27DD227L2. Pay with Presto Pay, OR bring your check to the office.

### To What End:

Every SCRIP order equals money for our school—sometimes small, sometimes large percentages—that add up fast!

### Fine Print:

\* Orders are due by 8:30<sup>AM</sup> every Thursday for the following Thursday pick-up (PrestoPay orders are due at 10<sup>AM</sup>).

\* ScripNow! are ecards that are available within minutes of ordering directly to your email account if you use PrestoPay!

in the series will be a needle felting workshop to create rosy wrist corsages for Valentine's Day. Please do not bring young children as the needles are very sharp. The workshop is open to parents and children, ages 7 and up (children must be accompanied by an adult). Bring your own lunch. Kassia needs a minimum of 5 participants to run the workshop. Payment is due in the front office no later than Wednesday, February 8th.

## Make a SCRIP Resolution This Year!

We hope that you had an enjoyable and refreshing break and took time to reflect upon dreams and goals in the year ahead. We likewise hope that along with resolutions to fortify physical health and emotional well-being you have room to add a resolution to support Four Winds School in an easy and sustainable way by using the Scrip program. As with building any new good habit, it starts with intention, resolve, and small changes to build upon.

Our request this week is that every family at our school purchase at least one card through the Scrip program in the week ahead and use it for gas, groceries, home improvement, or whatever spending needs that you anticipate having.

Please feel free to purchase cards from the selection available in the office inventory, or place an order online. If you've never placed a Scrip order please see the instructions below or contact Corrie Goldberg at [corrie23@sbcglobal.net](mailto:corrie23@sbcglobal.net) and she will be happy to assist you.

When placing your weekly Scrip order, please remember that *your order must be placed and paid for by cash or check in the office by 8:30<sup>AM</sup> on Thursday to be included in the school order (orders paid with PrestoPay can be received as late as 10<sup>AM</sup>)*. Unpaid orders remaining in the system will be cancelled after 2 weeks of nonpayment. To register to order through Scrip, go to [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com) and enter enrollment code L99B27DD227L2 to place your order from over 600 vendors. If you've already registered, just go to [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com) and place your order online.

**Scrip Tip of the Week:** Are you already familiar with the Scrip program and the online order process? Do you occasionally miss orders because you forget your checkbook or lose out on using Scrip because unexpected spending needs pop up before you have time to get a Scrip card? *Please consider enrolling in PrestoPay as your Scrip resolution this year.* PrestoPay makes it easy to place and pay for your online Scrip orders in one easy step with automatic debiting from your checking account. PrestoPay will also allow you to purchase Scrip e-cards and Reload your Scrip cards in moments without having to wait for the school order cycle to receive and use your cards. Families who are enrolled in PrestoPay are not required to use PrestoPay to pay for their orders, but the option is there when they need it and it only costs 15 cents per use. Families who are enrolled in PrestoPay find using Scrip easier and more convenient and thus use Scrip more, and help Four Winds more with their Scrip spending. PrestoPay is pin-number protected and offers the same security as Paypal or online banking or bill paying so you can use PrestoPay with confidence.

—Corrie Goldberg



## Focus on Fourth Grade

Led by Nancy Schneider

*“Focus on a Grade” is a year-long series. Each grade represented at Four Winds Waldorf School will be featured in the Four Tellings for an entire month. We will be looking at different aspects of that grade from what’s going on in the classroom, to student work and activities.*

This week, *Focus on a Grade* takes a look at the fourth grade, led by Nancy Schneider. I asked Ms. Schneider to describe the grade’s overarching theme and block study. Here is what she had to say:

To understand the curriculum in fourth grade and why it is so perfectly suiting the nine and ten year old, you have to take a moment to look back to the previous years. Up until third grade most of the children have lived in a harmonious relationship to the world. With the deep studies of the Old Testament in third grade, they were able to reflect on moral standards that those stories represent. With the nine year change at the end of third grade it feels for some children as they have been cast out of paradise. They are all of a sudden no longer allowed to dwell in the world of fairy tales such as they have in first grade, or fluctuate back and forth between heaven and earth as in second grade when the stories of saints and fables are told. They have arrived now in the world of natural consequence and are desperate to seek knowledge from the intellectual point of view.

A child in fourth grade is at odds with the world. You could also see it as the appetizer for the main course, puberty. Questions will take on a personal twist, such as: “How do you know?” There is an awareness rising of what they are up to against the world and therefore our responsibility as teachers is it to give the children every possible opportunity to meet oppositions in sometimes unexpected ways. Those ways will help the child to have the experience of crossing and at the same time be led towards resolution.

You can see that most clearly in the fourth grade handwork curriculum. The children are asked to create an original design that is executed in tiny cross stitches. The outcome

will be a beautiful piece of wholeness made out of many little crossings. A different approach can be seen in form drawing. The teacher will guide the students in drawing celtic knots which stands in close connection to the Norse mythology the main theme of fourth grade. The main challenge drawing the knots is combining skills with beauty. The understanding and feeling of separateness is coming in handy here, otherwise there is the chance to get lost in the maze. Separateness will also appear in the math curriculum with the study of fractions where we will start with concrete objects as a demonstration of the whole before forming mental concepts.

Throughout the year the children will hear stories of heroes from the Norse mythology, some will be told, some will be read and some they will read all by themselves. The characters will represent someone to look up to and respect, as well as to laugh at.

As a preparation for my lesson, I find myself quite often reflecting on my own childhood as an Waldorf student. Compared to the years before, I have the most concrete memories of fourth grade. I still remember the day we talked about the ox in the animal block and the joy of painting it with red paint. The bag I made in handwork out of tiny cross stitches still has a special place in my mom’s house and is there to hold the outgoing mail. The other day I was visiting with an old friend who’s destiny brought him to Chicago as well, and recited lines out of our fourth grade play.

I also remember quite clearly that I felt all grown up and ready to challenge the world. I explored how it felt to step out of the frame given by people who love us, and experienced with astonishment that consequences were not told in nice pictures anymore, but put into action. The beauty is knowing that the frame created by those who love you will always be there to guide you through your childhood journey, no matter how much you challenge it, and at the very end just lets you be a child of nine or ten years.

—Nancy Schneider