

Four Tellings

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The weekly bulletin for family and friends of Four Winds Waldorf School

January 26, 2011

To accomplish great things, we must dream as well as act.
-Anatole France

Calendar of Events

Thursday January 27
Scrip Orders Due.....10 AM

Saturday January 29
Four Winds Town Hall Meeting.....10 AM
Pot Luck.....12 noon
Community Conversation.....1-2 PM

Wednesday February 2
Parent Tea.....8:15 AM
Candle DippingIn School

Thursday February 3
Scrip Orders Due.....10 AM
Parent Council.....7 PM

Saturday February 5
Preschool Sampler.....10 AM- noon

Tuesday February 8
Community Conversation.....7 PM

Wednesday February 9
Parent Tea.....8:15 AM

Thursday February 10
Scrip Orders Due.....10 AM



Business Resource Directory

We are coordinating a resource directory of our parents and their personal businesses for our web site. If you would like your business listed, please fill out the form in the school office. Thank you!

Name Our School Store!

~ Got any ideas on what to name our school store? Please email Melissa at Kikstartbaby@aol.com by mid-winter break with any suggestions. If yours is chosen you will receive a jar of honey, or another great prize from the store! More updates on the store coming soon, thanks for everyone's support!

Scrip Orders!

Have you forgotten we have the easiest way for the school to make money? Please participate by placing your order TODAY! www.shopwithscrip.com

TOWN HALL MEETING

Saturday, January 29, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

This is an annual meeting for our school that is **important for every family to attend**. It will include a State of the School report from the Board of Trustees, an introduction of the Budget for 2011-2012 and reports from Parent Council, Faculty, Administration and Enrollment. There have been so many changes this school year, and we are celebrating that we are here and growing! Take this chance to check in on the pulse of the community. Join us afterwards for a Potluck Lunch from 12- 1 pm and our first Community Conversation from 1-2 pm (see page 2.) **Child care will be available only for those who pre-register by Wednesday, January 26th:** \$5/child for the morning; \$3/child for the afternoon. During the potluck, children will be joining parents.



Candlemas

On Wednesday, February 2nd, our students will participate in our Candlemas festival by making hand-dipped beeswax candles. This festival falls 40 days after Christmas, and occurs perfectly between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox: the days immediately become longer. It commemorates the "The Light of the World" or the first public presentation of Jesus. Many candles are lighted for the celebration of this day. In the past, it was customary to bless the year's supply of candles on this day, hence the name Candlemas. This festival also celebrates Bridgid, the first woman Bishop, in whose convent the light within did not extinguish for several hundred years. She is remembered as a woman intensely devoted to healing and serving her people. Bridgid's symbolism, a glowing candle, offers hope for the coming spring. Finally, this day is also celebrated in the US as "Groundhog's Day," a day of eagerly anticipating the coming of spring.

Parents, especially those who do not have small children (as we will be working with hot wax,) are needed to help with the classes as they dip their candles. Please contact Kelly Kasper at 773-405-5580.

Facebook Magic

The magic of Facebook is that you can help spread the word about Four Winds. Are you on Facebook? Go to Four Winds Waldorf on Facebook, click "Like" and then spread the word by clicking "suggest to a friend." Thanks so much for helping us get out the word on our wonderful school!

-Kelly Kasper & Carlene Mogavero, FW Facebook Administrators



Save the Date!

Enjoying Your Child's Adolescent Years

Tuesday, March 8, 7 p.m.

Presented by Carol Triggiano, Master Teacher, Chicago Waldorf School

Adolescence is a time of tremendous growth, challenging emotions, social learning and dawning potential. Come and explore ways to not only handle the stormy teenage years, but also to actually enjoy them. With Steiner's view of the developing human being and the wisdom of a Waldorf curriculum, YES, it can be possible. Come and hear how we can frame adolescence in an holistic picture of child development. Bring lots of questions.

FROM THE DESK OF *Marianne Fieber*

I had another experience of synchronicity this weekend. I was listening to *Being* NPR's Sunday morning program hosted by Krista Tippett and she had on a woman named Frances Kissling. The topic was entitled; *Listening Beyond Life and Choice*. The specifics of the topic, though interesting, were not what grabbed my attention but rather the challenge of civil discourse. Frances Kissling spoke about the need to find the courage to be vulnerable when we are speaking with other human beings who may not necessarily share our views yet express them just as passionately as we express our views. This is a challenge. It is so easy to put blinders on, closing down our ears and heart in order to feel we are being authentic and true to what we hold as a belief. What if the other person makes a statement, big or small, that changes our firmly held belief? Will we be accused of being a flip-flopper or lacking somehow in a real opinion or direction? Would that shatter our sense of how we view the world and our relationship with it? Change is stressful. It is often wrought with varying degrees of pain, confusion and lack of clarity. It takes a degree of faith to enter into a process of change since few of us have the capacity for crystal ball gazing with 100% accuracy.

Carlene Mogavero and I spent a good portion of our Saturday at the Clarus Center at a workshop on Optimal Anxiety. This was given by Dr. Paul Foxman (he helped found the Lake Champlain Waldorf School). The workshop was a powerful experience and identified some significant warning signs that I need to be aware of in an effort to prevent burn-out for myself and the others around me. At the workshop, there was also a short presentation by a woman who does consultation on public speaking. She has developed a practice of coaching people on their body language in an effort to bring greater consciousness around the impact a speaker may have on a group through their body gestures. One thing she stated was that a simple adjustment in how we present ourselves can affect the outcome of a conversation or presentation. If we speak with a receiving gesture in our heart space, open to the other, rather than thrusting forward our chest as if wearing body armor, ready to make our opinion heard with a demand for an answer, the more likely we will experience a more production dialogue. It is simple but hard stuff. We need courage to be vulnerable – almost seems like an oxymoron, but when I allow those two gestures to stand side-by-side I see the wisdom in it.

As we prepare ourselves to come to the Town Hall Meeting and the first Community Conversation, I encourage us all to imagine ourselves embraced by safety and collegiality to co-create together the kind of place we want for our children and for ourselves. We may not get everything we hope for, there will undoubtedly be some compromises, but through

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dialogue we can find those places of compromise and perhaps discover something greater than what we imagined on our own. That is the magic of collective consciousness. No one person has all the answers. No one person has the whole truth. We need each other to build something that will meet our needs, our desires and our wildest imaginations. Each of us holds a spark of the divine and as Starr-Bresette said last week, we must strive to honor that in one another.

I am looking forward to our series of conversations.

Remember to order some Scrip or pick some up in the front office. It is a pain-free way to give a little back to our school.

-Marianne Fieber

Four Winds Waldorf Summer Camps

A program of exciting camp options are being developed and planned for Summer 2011 and I hope to see many of our students joining us for one or more sessions. Throughout the summer we will be offering Early Childhood Camps with Kristie McHugh, new to our faculty as the Extended Care Provider, taking the lead. We will have our very popular Outdoor Camps for Grades and Early Childhood aged children as well as movement, recycled crafts, storytelling, clay work and science explorations along with a couple extreme adventures and outings to round out our offerings.

New this year will be an opportunity for two young people, heading into 7th or 8th grade, to participate in our CIT or Counselor in Training Program. There will be an application process to select the right individuals who will support the Early Childhood Camp Counselor in delivering the program. Please stay tuned for further details and registration information for all of our camps. Make sure you set aside some summer time for our Four Winds Waldorf Camp!

Parent Tea Update

Eight parents attended our first Parent Tea today. We worked on an artistic project and shared our experiences of other schools and Four Winds. We had parents of young children, middle-schoolers, and one whose child had graduated from our school two years ago. She shared her son's experience of transitioning, and how is now thriving in high school. Our next discussion will focus on physical ways to work with a child's body. To inform and support our conversation, we will read the article, "How the Body Midlines Affect the Learning of Mathematics." This is an article in *Lilipoh* (summer, 2010), and you can get a copy of it on Parvaneh Smith's desk. If you would like to read the article and join us at our next Parent Tea, we will be meeting on Wednesday, February 2, from 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. We hope that you will join us for fun, community, and sharing.

-Kelly Kasper and Parvaneh Smith



The Summer Camp Program needs your help!!!!

I would like to give our summer camp program a catchy name. Does anyone have any ideas? I'd love to hear from members in our community on what may be a name that represents our Four Winds Waldorf camp program. Please jot down your suggestions and submit them to me in my mailbox in the front office. I will be taking suggestions until February 1st. Thanks.
-Marianne Fieber

Take another look at the School Store!

You'll find new games, new treats, with new ideas and toys to come! You've seen these cute little containers on the Four Winds School Store shelves. A sweet 3 year old girl came up with this idea for a great Valentine gift! Little cloth babies tucked into a silk blankie cozy in their own little zip up home (later to double as a jewelry case!). What little girl wouldn't LOVE this!? Wishing the shelves had some specific toy? Let us know and we'll try to get it for you! Contact Dianne @ Our Children Our Earth (630)406-8267 (info@OurChildrenOurEarth.com) with your ideas. Ordering Ose-theimer soon for Valentine's Day/spring/Easter, call by Feb 2nd with any special requests!!



Weekly Regular Meetings

Grades Faculty - Tuesday 1:15 pm
Early Childhood Faculty - Tuesday 1:20 pm
Student Services Committee - Tuesday 2 pm
Leadership Council - Wednesday 1:15 pm
Executive Steering Comm.-Weds 3 pm
SICG- Thursdays at 11:15
Special Subject Faculty- Thursday 12:45 pm
Full Faculty - Thursday 3:20 pm

Re-Thinking Childhood: Parenting and Educating Children in a Time of Global Transformation

March 4-6, 2011, Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, WI

Our world has been changing rapidly. How can we best prepare children for an unknown future?

Sharifa Oppenheimer, author of *Heaven on Earth: A Handbook for Parents of Young Children*, and **Joan Almon**, Executive Director of the Alliance for Childhood, will share practical information and motivational wisdom to help us in our lives and work with children of all ages. Breakout sessions will engage participants in conversation and artistic and creative activities to help deepen and integrate new ways of thinking about and being with children. One session is entitled, "Growing Up Fully Human in a Dehumanizing World" by **Joan Almon** will explore the strong sense of children to become part of the world and in participating with us in its healing and transformation. Info: 262-642-9672 or <http://waldorftraining.com/marchconf120610.htm>. Attending this event from FW are **Carlene Mogavero, Maryla Sikora, Barbara DuRocher and Karen Hays.**

Classifieds

Place classified ads here! \$5 for 50-word ad to run 2 weeks. All ads subject to editing.

Gently Used Hiking Boots, women's size 8, best offer. View in school front office. Offered by Naomi Studebaker.

Host Families Are Needed The Toulouse-Chicago student exchange program enables high school-age students the opportunity to live with an American host family for two weeks. During the weeks of **April 23rd to May 6, 2011**, French students ages 15-19 will be placed with families locally. Students originate from a high school in Toulouse, France. Students are occupied with touring and visits to Chicago up to four days per week with our Chaperones. Students enjoy dinners and hospitality with host families during evenings and weekends. Hosting an exchange student allows your family to share American hospitality. Call today to choose your student! To find out more contact: **Dottie Lipinski or Amy Hansberger.** dmlip@wowway.com, 630.251.4270

The Chestnut Tree Daycare (Waldorf-inspired), Downers Grove, IL (by Good Sam Hospital.) Now offering day, weekend and evening care for children ages 1 1/2 to 12 years. Daily & weekly activities include: painting, coloring, collage, bread-baking, beeswax, puppetry, circle games, nature crafts and yoga. Outside green area on very large lot w/ outside play daily. Seasonal Celebrations enjoyed! All Organic menu served daily w/allergy and gluten-free menus available to sensitive children. I am a Natural Foods chef & pastry chef and I love teaching whole foods cooking classes to the children. Please contact Emily Marx, 630-322-9118 evenings, emilyteagarden@yahoo.com.