




Four Tellings

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

October 12, 2011



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Join Us for Harvest Fest This Weekend

**This year's Harvest Fest will be on:
Saturday October 15, 2011 12:00–3:00PM**

Please join us for our annual fall family festival at Four Winds!

- Friendly costumes are welcome
- Bring your own table service
- Musicians welcome to play (students too!)
- Drop Acorn Shop items in office by Friday—see attachment to newsletter for ideas
- Drop chopped vegetables off for Stone Soup by Friday—no grains, please
- Bake sale items welcome. Remember to follow allergy policy: no nuts and don't forget to label your ingredients!
- Delicious Food: cider, tea, soup, and baked potatoes
- Activities will include the ever popular *Mother Earth's Cave*, Storytelling, and Games

In keeping with last year's festival, this year, the *Harvest Fest* will continue to be a smaller event than in previous years, focusing on our community of family and friends. We hope to reduce the need for heavy volunteer efforts during the festival so we can all come together for this community gathering. But that doesn't mean we don't need you! Please consider donating an hour of your time to make this festival possible. Contact Eduardo Nigro at Eduardo.Nigro@Navistar.com to find out how you can help.

The festival will again feature a musical circle with *Tenpenny Annie*, a band made up of Four Winds faculty and parents.

Inside

From the Desk of Marianne
Guarantor Community Loan
Calendar of Events

2

Parent Council Update
Buildings & Grounds Update

3

Policy Reminder
Save the Date
Four Winds Wish List

4

Volunteers Needed
General Announcements

5

SCRIP News

6

Focus on Seventh Grade Part 2

7

From the Desk of Marianne Fieber

I can't tell you how wonderful it was to have Johanna Rohde here for her first of seven weeks with our students last Wednesday. This is such a gift for our students and school. Shortly after she arrived, we headed up to the community room and when we opened the cabinets and saw the eurythmy slippers and copper rods she was delighted. I had forgotten that we owned copper rods and they are one of the tools eurythmists use in working with both students and adults. I spoke with Ms. Rohde on Thursday and we set a date for an evening event where parents can experience and learn a bit more about the art of eurythmy. There is a *Save the Date* notice at the top of page 5 in this newsletter.

Friday was a busy day for us. We made full use of our Teacher In-Service day and filled it with an Office Staff orientation, a presentation about our newly forming 403(b) plan for faculty, First Aid Training, CPR Training and discussions about remedial interventions appropriate in a Waldorf School. This is a follow-up to last year's exploration of RtI (Response to Intervention) used in public schools. The faculty members are working on developing tools and strategies to support a variety of learning challenges which have, or may, present themselves in our students.

I want to thank Debra Joslin, parent of Avery (Rainbow Garden,) who has begun to support our marketing efforts by sending out our Benchmark E-blasts to announce our events. This is a visible, yet often unrecognized, effort which takes a particular skill and patience and we are very pleased to have Debra.

Harvest Fest is just a few days away and I look forward to seeing everyone. There is much to do and if you haven't found a way to support the festival, please contact your class representative from Parent Council. They have imagined a wonderful community festival for us all to enjoy!

Four Winds Waldorf School Guarantor Community Loan—Part 3

We've been discussing the nature of the Guarantor Community—which was formed as a group of parents, faculty and staff—to provide a guarantee on the loan Four Winds Waldorf School received from [RSF Social Finance](#) (RSF) to purchase our current home in Warrentville. The guarantors promise to cover a portion of the remaining loan in the event that Four Winds were to default on the loan. This week I'd like to share some details around the nature of the investment made by the guarantors. As previously mentioned, each guarantor invests 50% of the amount for which they are providing a guarantee. Therefore, if I invest \$1000.00 with RSF in a Social Investment Fund, I agree to guarantee \$2000.00 of the remaining portion of the loan. On their website, RSF Social Finance describes the Social Investment Fund as:

...a unique opportunity to invest in a diversified, direct loan fund comprised of over 75 leading non-profit organizations and for-profit social enterprises. It represents a great way to achieve substantial social and environmental "returns" while generating a financial return similar to that of a bank CD.

See the [SIF prospectus](#) for more information.

The primary difference between a guarantor loan and a direct SIF investment is the terms of the agreement. A guarantor establishes a direct supportive



This Week's Calendar

- October 12, 2011 (Wednesday)
Oak Tree visits Fayban Windmill
 1:30–3PM Leadership Council
 3–4PM Executive Steering Committee
- October 13, 2011 (Thursday)
SCRIP Orders Due
 8:30AM Groman Cafe
 10:30–11:30AM Social Inclusion Coordinating Group (SIGG)
 3:15–5:30PM Faculty Meeting
 7PM–Richard Dancey Lecture
- October 14, 2011 (Friday)
Newsletter Submission Deadline
 3 – 4PM Student Service Committee Meeting
- October 15, 2011 (Saturday)
 12–3PM Harvest Fest
- October 17, 2011 (Monday)
 6:30PM–Board of Trustees Meeting
- October 18, 2011 (Tuesday)
- October 19, 2011 (Wednesday)
Oak Tree visits Herrick Lake
 8:45 School Tour
 1:30–3PM Leadership Council
 3–4PM Executive Steering Committee
- October 20, 2011 (Thursday)
SCRIP Orders Due
 8:30AM Groman Cafe
 10:30–11:30AM Social Inclusion Coordinating Group (SIGG)
 3:15–5:30PM Faculty Meeting



Buildings and Grounds Update

*It is wet, the dew
Insects and birds might like it
Give fairies thimbles*

A Building and Grounds Committee Haiku on mowing the lawn in the mornings.

Building and Grounds *desperately needs volunteers* willing to help mow the lawn on a regular basis. Even if you can do it once, or a partial job—*any amount would help.*

Right now, there is only *one parent* doing it, and it has been so time consuming that other building maintenance work isn't getting done. Please consider helping. Send your name and availability to David Heater at djheater@hotmail.com

We are also working to replace the aged and decrepit stumps in the early childhood playground with fresh cuttings soon!

relationship to an organization such as Four Winds Waldorf School. They agree to keep their investment in the fund for the length of time the loan granted to that organization is being repaid. There are two ways to be released from this commitment. One is through the identification of a "replacement" guarantor to secure that portion of the loan amount. The other is through the decrease in principle. As the principle is repaid, the amount of investments required to cover the loan may begin to decrease. The funds invested in a SIF are used to support other enterprises within the following sectors:

- Food & Agriculture;
- Education & the Arts; and
- Ecological Stewardship.

Our Four Winds Guarantor Community currently invests \$71,500.00 (cash/stock) with RSF Social Finance to guarantee \$143,000.00 of our total mortgage.

Parent Council Update

As mentioned in the *Four Tellings* of September 28th, *The New Family Welcome Dinner* was a huge hit. Based on comments from current Parent Council members, who were new families during last year's dinner, such an event is a great opportunity for the newcomers to meet each other. Among many benefits, it helped them feel more secure as they were becoming part of our Four Winds Community.

In our last Parent Council meeting we reviewed the outcome of the dinner and discussed many ideas to make it even better for next year. We also planned and worked on our next upcoming event: Harvest Fest, from noon to 3PM, this coming Saturday!

So, what is planned?

- Baked potato and stone soup. Apple cider and tea.
- Bake sale
- Acorn shop
- Obstacle Course for the little ones
- Money raffle
- *Mother Earth's Cave*
- Games
- Story telling
- Music circle with *Tenpenny Annie*

By the time you are reading this, I am confident that you will have already been contacted by a Parent Council Representative and engaged as a volunteer. After all, it is one hour of your time that adds up with everybody else's one hour to create a wonderful Harvest Fest. So please, if you haven't done so, volunteer for one of the time slots suggested by your Parent Council Rep.

And for those who cannot come on Saturday, we could definitely use a hand on Friday with things like acorn shop inventory and stone soup ingredients. Please contact your Parent Council to see how you can help.

Thank you!
Eduardo Nigro, Parent Council Chair

Policy Reminder

Grade School Afternoon Pick-up Procedure

As a reminder, there are two methods for picking up your children or carpool students.

1. On Foot (park on the street or in the lot and walk to the dismissal zone for a hand-off from the teacher)
2. By Car (by driving through the dismissal zone, remaining in your car and driving away when you have finished loading)

For the safety of our students and all community members we would like to clarify the following points:

1. Students will not be released to “go to a parent” who may be finishing up somewhere in the building or is on the playground. We ask that parents or designated pick-up adults pick up the students directly. Students will remain with their teacher until 3:00PM and then be escorted to the office to ensure ongoing supervision.
2. Students will not be allowed to walk, unescorted, across the parking lot to sit in a car waiting for an adult. They will remain with the teacher and be taken to the office at 3:00PM until they are picked up.

We hope everyone will help us keep our children safe by abiding by these procedures as stated in the handbook on page 22. Thank you.

—Marianne Fieber

Save the Date

Queen of the Sun: A Documentary film (83 minutes)

Friday, October 14th 7:00PM

Rudolf Steiner Branch, 4249 N. Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, IL 60618

“Without bees,” Albert Einstein said, “man would only have four years of life left.” From the director of *The Real Dirt on Farmer John*, comes a profound, alternative look at the tragic global bee crisis. Juxtaposing the catastrophic disappearance of bees with the mysterious world of the beehive, *Queen of the Sun* weaves an unusual and dramatic story of the heart-felt struggles of beekeepers, scientists and philosophers from around the world. Featuring Michael Pollan, Gunther Hauk and Vandana Shiva, *Queen of the Sun* reveals both the problems and the solutions of renewing a culture that is in balance with nature. Conversation with refreshments to follow viewing of film. Suggested contribution: \$5.00

Journey to Self-hood - Celebrating the work of Rudolf Steiner through Eurythmy, Poetry and Music

Saturday October 22nd 7:30–9:00PM

Spring Valley Eurythmy performance at Chicago Waldorf School, 1300 W. Loyola, Chicago.

Pre-sale tickets on sale at the Four Winds Waldorf office \$12 (\$15 at the door).



Four Winds Wish List

Every week the *Four Tellings* will be publishing a list of things that parents, teachers, and our administrator have noticed that the school needs. This list may include material items or volunteer needs. Please take a moment to consider if you have any of these items available, or know of someone who does.

- Oak Tree Kindergarten is in need of carpet runners for in front of their sink.
- John Keeney is looking for a slide projector.
- Grades faculty would like a shed, or wood to build a shed, to house shovels and gardening equipment.
- A Thursday Lunch Server is needed to serve Two Mothers rice and bean bowls between 12:30–1:15PM. Contact Marianne for more information.
- Bruce Cooper is looking for wood carving tools, a workbench, and soapstone blocks.
- Oak Tree Kindergarten is looking for big wooden trucks. Contact Carlene Mogavero.
- Grades teachers are looking for a volleyball net and ball set.
- Early Childhood is looking for benches to add to the outside play area.

Four Tellings



Fifth Grade Fundraiser

The 5th grade will be selling flower bulbs to raise money for their class trip fund. Use the attached order form to place your order for yourself, family and friends.

For a minimal fee, the 5th graders will come to your house to plant your bulbs if you live within a specified area. **Orders are due by Friday, October 14th.**

SCRIP Order Deadline Change

Important! The deadline to turn in your Scrip orders and payment has moved!!!

New Deadline:
Thursdays 8:30AM

Orders placed and paid for by the deadline will be ready for pickup the following Thursday.

Eurythmy: a Demonstration and Introduction with Johanna Rohde

Tuesday October 25th 7:00–8:30PM in the Community Room

Ms. Rohde has begun working with our Grade School students once a week in eurythmy. We offer this opportunity for parents to meet her, learn a little more about eurythmy and experience just a taste of this exciting work.

Volunteers Needed

School Cleaning

Tuesday's School Cleaning Crew is doing such an amazing job every Tuesday cleaning classrooms and common spaces in time for the Wednesday tours. We can confidently welcome visitors and future families and share with them the truly unique and fabulous learning environment we are creating for our children. That said, the Tuesday crew is looking for a couple more volunteers who can join in this effort. There is a 2 hour window needed from 8:00–10:00AM which is looking for a couple hard workers who want to joyfully clean in the Early Childhood classrooms. If you are interested, please contact Robyn Abend by leaving a message at the school front office. Thanks!

Office Help

The front office needs volunteers Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 8–12:30PM to answer phones and put band-aids on boo-boos. A volunteer providing office support allows Kristie McHugh and Anna Morris to get their work done and keep the school running smoothly. Please let the front office know if you are able to help either of these mornings.

Photo Archiver

A volunteer is needed to archive school photos so those managing *Four Tellings*, Benchmark e-blasts, the website, and other marketing activities have easy access to a folder of supporting photographs. Our existing photos need to be gathered then sorted by year and event and stored in one place. This work could be done at home at your convenience. Please contact Jocelyne Roy at pocallaghan@comcast.net or 630-778-9575 if you are able to provide this much needed service.

Calling All Crafty Handwork Enthusiasts!

The Elves' Market is December 10th and will include an Acorn Market with gifts that can be purchased with acorns for siblings, aunts, uncles, Moms or Dads. We want to keep the value of the items between \$0.50 and \$5.00.

We need some "Elves" to get the workshop in gear. Items such as knitted animals, felted gnomes, beaded necklaces, gift cards, bookmarks are just a few of the ideas for gifts. If you are interested in helping to form a handwork/craft group or to be a busy crafty elf and make some items for the Acorn Market, please contact Marianne.

Pictures This Week

Many thanks to Roberta Nigro, who generously shared some of her pictures from school this week to be featured in the *Four Tellings*. Do you have pictures to share? Please submit them by Friday to Kassia Shaw at kassia.shaw@me.com.

SCRIP Success Story

Do you have a SCRIP success story you'd like to share? Once a month the *Four Tellings* would like to feature how members of our community use their SCRIP cards to benefit the school. If you're interested, please contact Corrie Goldberg at corrie23@sbcglobal.net.

Featured October Family: Brian and Kassia Shaw

How often do you use SCRIP?

We try to place an order, even if it is only one or two cards, every week. We love the idea of earning money for the school without having to spend anything additional out of our weekly budget.

What is your favorite feature about the SCRIP program?

We love PrestoPay! In the first few weeks, there were so many steps we had to remember (placing our order, bringing a check in by Thursday, and then picking up the cards the following Thursday) that we always seemed to miss one deadline or another. But, once we signed up for PrestoPay, it was really easy to order and pay all at once—just by signing into our account with a pin number—that now we find ourselves ordering more cards, more frequently, as we anticipate upcoming purchases in the coming weeks.

We also love that you can use PrestoPay to get ScriptNow! e-cards (within minutes of purchase) and reloads for existing cards.

How long did it take for you to set up your Presto Pay account?

It took us two days to set it up. It took only a minute to set-up our account on the first day, but then the company made two small deposits that night into our bank account. We let Corrie know the next day when the deposits were made and she then activated our account. And that was it! Now when we buy cards, we just sign-in to our account, buy our cards and approve our order with a pin number. It is so easy!

Have there been any surprises for your family using the SCRIP program this year?

We were surprised to find Target and American Express cards this year. We try to use SCRIP cards for specific merchant purchases whenever possible because they give back more money to the school. But, for places like Costco, Trader Joe's, or even our cell phone bills, we love using the American Express cards because we know that at least part of our purchase is going back to the school.

Are there any other tips you'd like to share?

We aren't traditional brick and mortar shoppers. SCRIP has encouraged us to look closely at our spending habits and challenge ourselves to see how we can best fit the program into our lives. We use ScripNow! for many of our online purchases—mostly for convenience when we don't remember to purchase a card the week before for something we might need this week. We use the American Express pre-paid cards to pay bills. And finally, we use try to use the grocery cards whenever possible.

Once you make a commitment to the program, it is very easy to work it into your weekly budget. Our advice is to set up a PrestoPay account, and then start by focussing on one area of your budget that will always be paid with cards. After you become comfortable with the system, move on then to other areas.



SCRIP Cheat Sheet

Participation Goal:

100% of the Four Winds School Community

How Can I Buy SCRIP Cards?

Register with shopwithscrip.com and enter enrollment code: L99B27DD227L2

Or...a growing number of cards are available for direct purchase from the front office.

When are orders due?

Thursday mornings at 8:30AM—please note new time!!!!

When can I pick up my cards?

The following Thursday...or register with Presto Pay and get select eCards within 1 hour of purchase.

Can I reload my cards rather than buy new ones?

Yes you can! See shopwithscrip.com for more details.

What if I have more questions?

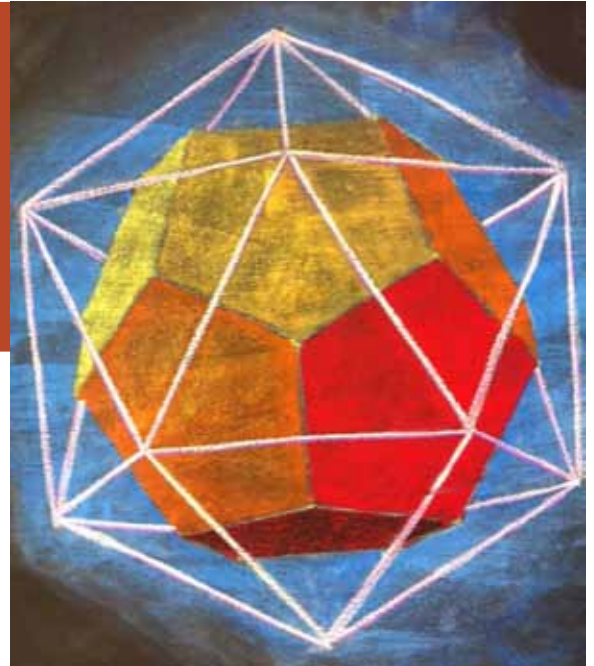
Contact Corrie Goldberg at corrie23@sbcglobal.net

What are some of the most popular SCRIP cards?

Target • Lands End • Speedway • Whole Foods • Panera • Chipotle • Starbucks • Jewel • Home Depot • Amazon • Marathon • Jamba Juice

Focus on Seventh Grade

Led By John Keeney



“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 seventh grade, led by John Keeney. I asked Mr. Keeney to provide a parent education article to share with the community that was relevant to the development of his students. Attached to the newsletter, please read the articles he submitted. Here is what he had to say about them:

The ideal model in the Waldorf School—that a grade school teacher travels with his or her class for the entirety of their elementary school years—is unique among modern approaches to education. Even a casual consideration of the concept will bring up strong feelings of both its remarkable potential and its inherent risks. Among the obvious risks is that no teacher will be an expert in everything that will need to be presented over an eight-year journey. Each teacher will have unique strengths and, by extension, weaknesses. The obvious benefits are many, perhaps the most obvious being the remarkably deep personal relationships that can grow between teacher, student and parents over eight years.

The Waldorf curriculum is also unique in that it is designed to meet the students in a way that evolves as they do. At every stage it is meant to appeal to—and lead to—what is most human in the children; to see their world from manifold perspectives, to exercise the full range of their potentials, to make them aware of the benefits of membership in the family of mankind. It’s about how to participate in life. It’s an education that stresses the verb over the noun.

The teacher’s job in this is to understand—as deeply as possible - who the students are.

Looked at from this perspective, there are hidden gifts—benefits of the eight-year voyage shared between teacher and class - that are not so obvious.

From the teacher’s point of view, a significant part of the task is working to understand how best to relate to the students as they evolve. The relationship a teacher has with a seven year old in the first grade is clearly very different from the relationship that will exist when the student is fourteen and ready to graduate. In interacting with the teacher every day, as a result of his or her wish to understand, the children have the experience of being recognized for who they truly are. Nothing will build inner confidence better than seeing the reflection of one’s best self in the eyes of another.

As their social and intellectual awareness develops, the students begin to perceive their teacher as a human being, with all the vulnerability that implies. Underneath this dawning awareness comes the perception that the teacher is really working to grow and change every year, every day—admittedly with mixed success. But simply that they witness the attempt on the part of their teacher to metamorphose can make a profound and lasting impression; it shows them through long experience that such transformation is possible. That’s a lesson that’s useful.

I was asked to find an article for this week’s *Four Tellings* that shed some light on the work of the seventh grade. Understanding adolescence has been much on my mind, and I found this article written by David Mitchell, a remarkable teacher and human being. It contains the kind of insight that we as teachers and parents thirst for. In the process of looking for it, I came across this other—rather lengthy—article regarding the importance of the social element in education. While it is a little off-topic for the exploration of the seventh grade, I thought it was well written, thorough and worth reading. Enjoy!

– John Keeney