



# Four Tellings

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

October 19, 2011



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## Harvest Fest Thanks

Thank you to all the families who attended Harvest Fest last weekend. We ended up with a beautiful, sunny, fall day. It is always such a pleasure to share the season with the community. Many thanks to Eduardo Nigro for coordinating this fun family festival! And, of course, many thanks as well to the teams of parent and faculty volunteers who made the festival possible!

## November Parent Handwork Group

Beginning November 3rd parents are invited to a weekly Elves' Market Workshop on Thursday mornings after Groman Café in Sunrise Garden. We will work from 8:00-9:00AM and clean-up in time for the Parent-Child class to begin at 9:30AM. Kassia Shaw will help coordinate our crafting work which will surely create some wonderful treasures our young people may purchase as gifts for their siblings or relatives. Feel free to drop in and work with the group, or on your own project for the Market. Younger siblings are welcome.

## November Food Orders

November and December's Food Orders will be going out today in the family folders, and as an attachment to the *Four Tellings*. Please turn in your orders no later than Wednesday, October 26th.

## Pictures This Week

Many thanks this week to Michelle Rosen and Roberta Nigro, who submitted pictures of Harvest Fest. Thank you as well to Carlene Mogavero for submitting pictures of Oak Tree Kindergarten's visit to the Fabyan Windmill last week. Keep the pictures coming! The *Four Tellings* publication deadline is Friday.



## Inside

From the Desk of Marianne  
Calendar of Events

2

Annual Fund  
Harvest Fest Initial Numbers  
Buildings & Grounds Update

3

Leadership Council Update  
Rev. Dancy Lecture Notes  
Four Winds Wish List

4

General Announcements

5

SCRIP Update

7

Focus on Seventh Grade Part 3

8



## From the Desk of Marianne Fieber

Thank you to all of the amazing volunteers who made Harvest Fest a truly wonderful afternoon for everyone. The weather cooperated and we had such a perfect day, a few gusts blew some of the craft items around and the Acorn Shop was relocated to the Handwork Room, but all in all... wonderful. The music circle was a hit, the food delicious, the activities well attended. There was a lovely showing by a number of alumni and previously enrolled students and their families. We had a few guest families as well, checking out the school for possible enrollment. One new mom expressed how warmly she felt received and grateful to be shown around the school. She plans to visit again. This is the kind of community spirit that we can all be so proud to be a part of. Bravo!

On October 7th we had a really fruitful Teacher In-Service Day. The Office Volunteers and Staff met to go through a number of SCRIP procedures to help keep that important function running smoothly. The Faculty met with representatives from MetLife for another step towards offering our Faculty/ Staff an opportunity to participate in a 403(b) program. Darci McCarthy trained the faculty and staff along with office volunteers in First Aid. After lunch the Early Childhood Teachers, office staff and I completed our CPR training while the Grades Faculty discussed remedial and therapeutic interventions which would be used to support our students if learning challenges appear. The day was a "free" day for our students; however we were fully engaged in some significant adult education. Thank you Darci for the trainings!

October 7th I flew out of here, in my car, and headed to Chicago for a weekend of meetings with a collaborative group developing AWSNA's February Great Lakes Regional conference. I met with representatives from AWSNA, the Minnesota Waldorf School (site of the conference), the Fund Sharing Group of the Mid-States Shared Gifting Group of Rudolf Steiner Social Finance and Michael D'Aleo. Mr. D'Aleo is a master Waldorf Science Teacher who will be the keynote speaker for the conference. (He happened to be in town for his week-long session of Teaching Sensible Science for Waldorf Teachers.) The conference in February will take up the theme of Rudolf Steiner's fundamental social law from a number of perspectives that impact not only Waldorf Schools but any number of initiatives that are working to respond to the times in which we live. There is a growing awareness that how we function as a society needs to change. Change is often met with fear and stress however if we find our partners who share similar values and ideologies, we can take courage in knowing that we are participating in something that will make the world a more humane place to exist and where our children are allowed to develop more health-fully. There will be more on this conference as we get closer to the date.. It was an inspirational weekend. The following is one translation of the fundamental social law which has been a topic of study among the faculty and board at different points over the course of the years. It is worth considering and recognizing how we, as our Four Winds community have been engaged in it through our activities.

The more a person works for the benefit of the community, and the more the community is structured to provide for the needs of each individual, the greater the well-being of the whole community will be.



## This Week's Calendar

October 19, 2011 (Wednesday)  
*Oak Tree visits Herrick Lake*  
*Second Grade visits Larson's Farm*  
 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 (SICG)  
 3:15–5:30PM Faculty Meeting

October 21, 2011 (Friday)  
*Newsletter Submission Deadline*  
*Grades 2,4,7, & 8 will attend the*  
*Eurthym Spring Valley*  
*Performance for Students*  
 3 – 4PM Student Service Committee Meeting

October 24, 2011 (Monday)

October 25, 2011 (Tuesday)

October 26, 2011 (Wednesday)  
 1:30–3PM Leadership Council  
 3–4PM Executive Steering Committee

October 27, 2011 (Thursday)  
*SCRIP Orders Due*  
 8:30AM Groman Cafe  
 10:30–11:30AM Social Inclusion Coordinating Group (SICG)  
 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](mailto:djheater@hotmail.com)

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

## Annual Fund

It is ANNUAL FUND season! Every year Four Winds Waldorf School conducts an Annual Fund Campaign. Tuition dollars do not cover the costs of the remarkably rich education offered by a Waldorf School. Tuition levels are purposely kept at a level which makes it possible for a greater number of families to consider this holistic approach to education for their children. Each year the budget includes a target for a dollar amount to be raised for our Annual Fund as well as other fundraising activities which support the fiscal health and sustainability of our school. For 2011-2012, the Annual Fund goal is \$40,000.00.

More importantly, beyond the dollar goal, we have a goal of 100% participation from our community. Any amount is accepted as participation which allows each family to give what is possible for them and in addition to the knowledge that the school benefits, each contribution is fully tax-deductible. We see this as a WIN-WIN! The 2011-2012 Annual Fund Brochure will be coming out shortly along with a pledge card to assist you in making a contribution or pledge toward this year's goal. You may want to investigate if your company matches charitable contributions which can match or double the amount donated by you.

We have scheduled a PLEDGE DAY on November 8th. Coffee and treats will be offered at drop-off time for anyone bringing in a contribution or pledge. A display in our front hallway will be a visual representation of our participation goal which we hope to reach by the time we leave for our holiday break! If you have any questions about the Annual Fund or the corporate matching gift program, please speak with Marianne Fieber or Rich Hill.

Our fundraising goals for 2011-2012 are:  
Annual Fund - \$40,000.00  
Scrip - \$5,000.00  
Bookstore - \$4,000.00  
Festivals - \$2,500.00

## Harvest Fest Initial Revenue Report



Here are the numbers for Harvest Fest's initial accounting:

Acorn Sales:	\$375.70
Food:	\$197.00
Bake Sale:	\$200.75
Raffle:	\$118.00
	(school's portion)
Winner:	Laura Lundstrom
Total:	\$891.45

We're still waiting for the expenses to find out the total amount raised. The 8th grade had a fundraiser of Greenery and Mug Scarves, the Bookstore offered some stylish totes which will be available for purchase through the Bookstore and Elves' Market December 10th.



## Leadership Council Update

Here is what Leadership Council has been working on this month:

- Creating a building/classroom improvement process communication form
- Developing a plan to collect 2D and 3D art for *ArtWorks* in November
- Scheduling CPR training
- Planning Elves Market craft projects for grades classrooms
- Scheduling a Eurythmy lecture and demonstration
- Bringing Richard Dancey to present his lecture, "Strengthening the Spiritual Life of our Children"
- Continuing to help the school follow AWSNA's second phase of a developing school model by looking closely at the process/time line
- Streamlining the cleaning plan

—Mari Cooper

## Highlights from the Lecture: Strengthening the Spiritual Life of our Children

Last Thursday evening Reverend Richard Dancey, a priest from the Christian Community Church\* came to our school and shared his thoughts on children today, their relationship to the challenges they face during these times and how we as parents and adults can help strengthen and allow them to co-create a sustainable environment for all life. He referenced a question posed by a woman named Felicitas Vogt, a former Waldorf class teacher who has worked in the realm of students and drug use. When she speaks with parents and teachers she challenges us all with the question, "Do you love the times you're in?"

Children have chosen to be born at this point in the story of the world which contains a great number of wonderful technological advances that seem to be multiplying ever more quickly. Electricity is a powerful energy force which surrounds us almost 24/7. It allows for the digital images which are prevalent in our experiences day-by-day. These images; such as a digital picture of a beautifully colored Sugar Maple are dead compared to the actual tree itself one experiences when standing in front of it; looking up, smelling it, seeing the rich gold and orange of the changing leaves. We breathe in the living tree through our senses. We cannot breathe in the digital tree no matter how beautiful.

To help our children cultivate the strength and courage needed to find the balance necessary for a holistic life, a balance of the technological and real, we can look to the four elements. Earth, water, fire and air have been known throughout the ages as the building blocks of all life and are explored in many ways within the Waldorf curriculum. They can guide us in this work with the spiritual aspect of our children as there is a spiritual nature to all of the elements. The following are offered as a sort of "Cliff Note" version of what was suggested by Rev. Dancey as to a strengthening activity or gesture of each element.

**Earth:** stillness and quiet. Supporting a rhythm of activity and stillness in our children's lives allows them to experience a movement in their being. Do we allow our children to be still and quiet?



## 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.

continued on page 5

## Four Tellings



**Water:** streams of stories. Stories touch our hearts and communicate the history of person to person which provides a window into the soul of the other. How do we share our stories?

**Fire:** sacrifice. The candle is pure sacrifice as it gives up its substance to the flame. How do we model graceful sacrifice for our children?

**Air:** prayer. This is the attitude of gratitude which paves the way for respectful, rich and remarkable relationships with the people, place and beings around us. How do we express gratitude and appreciation?

It is extremely important to establish a relationship with the natural world and the elements themselves in order to remain in the world in a balanced way. This won't happen on by itself. This balance requires a conscious effort on the part of each person, out of freedom. It can't be forced. It can be lovingly cultivated and allowed to sprout in the heart and soul of each individual. It is a sacred act; teaching and parenting and it occurs every moment and through every gesture.

\* The Christian Community is part of an international movement for the renewal of religion, founded in 1922 in Switzerland by the eminent Lutheran theologian and minister Friedrich Rittelmeyer, with the help of Rudolf Steiner.

[The Christian Community - Movement for Religious Renewal](#)

—Marianne Fieber

## 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.

## All School Clean-Up

Coming soon in November!

Come one, come all! Join us for a community-wide clean up day as we prepare our beautiful grounds for winter. Keep posted for more details as the date gets closer.

## Save the Date

**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).

**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.

**Ted-X Lecture by Four Winds Parent and Board of Trustees President, Rich Hill**

Friday, November 11th

Grounds for Hope Cafe in Lisle

Come and learn from over 10 speakers who will share with us on how “Good is Happening” in our community and surrounding Chicagoland. Speakers include a leading Argonne National Laboratory Director for Computing, the founder and leader of the amazing Red Bull Air Force, a previous TEDxNaperville attendee now sharing with us why the current US space program is anything BUT dead following the space shuttles final voyage, and best of all...our very own Rich Hill will also be a featured speaker! Tickets sell out fast. Visit [www.tedxnaperville.com](http://www.tedxnaperville.com) for more information.

## 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.

### 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.

### Development Chair

We are in need of someone willing to serve as a Development Chair to work with Marianne in coordinating both short and long term fundraising efforts, and strategic retention planning. Please contact Marianne Fieber if you are interested.

### Buildings and Grounds

Buildings and Grounds is desperately looking for help with maintaining our grounds. Please contact David Heater at [djheater@hotmail.com](mailto:djheater@hotmail.com) if you are able to help in any way.

## New Fundraising Opportunity: iGive.com

Thank you to Melissa Rutkowski who set up an iGive account for the school. It is a great tool for making online purchases. Simply sign-on to [igive.com](http://www.igive.com) and designate Four Winds as your school. Then, use their links to find over 900 online stores to do your shopping. The site tracks purchases made each month, donating a portion of those total purchases back to the school. Visit the site for more information: <http://support.igive.com/KB/a115/how-igive-works.aspx>.

## Oak Tree Kindergarten's First Field Trip

This fall, Oak Tree Mixed Age Kindergarten's focus in movement journey circles, stories, activities and field trips will focus on the grain process. We have heard how the farmer must sow, water, harvest, thresh, winnow, mill and bake the wheat. In class we ground wheat berries in our handmill for our Michaelmas dragon bread. Last week we visited Fabyan Windmill in Batavia which at one time was a working mill. Next week we will be visiting Graue Mill in Hinsdale which is still a working mill grinding corn into fresh cornmeal. In the spring we will plant some wheatberries to grow grass for our springtime baskets so we will experience the beginning of this amazing transformational process. After the winter holidays we will turn our attention toward the wool process which will culminate in field trips to Kline Creek Farm to see the lambs and Esther's Place to work with wool with our own hands!

—Carlene Mogavero





## SCRIP Sales Need a Boost

A big thank you to the families who have utilized the Scrip program through online orders and inventory purchases this year, especially to those who have made regular Scrip purchases part of their routine buying habits.

*Unfortunately Scrip sales have not measured up to the goals laid out by the board and they have shown a significant drop off over the past two weeks. We really need the ongoing support of every Four Winds family, faculty member, and friend of Four Winds to make the program a meaningful source of funds for our school. As a reminder, fundraising efforts such as the Annual Fund, Scrip, and the Spring Fundraiser are integral to balancing the school's budget. Scrip provides us with a way that we can all help to raise those funds without needing to solicit or sell anything or to spend money above and beyond our regular shopping budget, but it will only work if we all commit to using the program.*

If you are not already registered to place online orders with 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, go to [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com) anytime and place your order online. As long as your cash or check payment is turned in to the office by 8:30AM Thursday it will go out with this week's order (online orders paying with Presto Pay may be placed up until 10AM on Thursdays to be included with the weekly order). Cards will be available for pickup in the office the following Thursday. If you forget to place your order on time or an unforeseen need arises, a limited selection of cards is also available for purchase from the office at any time for your grocery, gas, home improvement, dining, and other needs.

Please give some thought to how you might be able to use Scrip in the weeks ahead. Grocery and gas purchases are a great way to start. Home improvement/hardware stores might be a need for fall cleanup/winterizing efforts, perhaps long underwear or winter outerwear are on the shopping list, maybe a trip to Target is in your future, or you want to start your holiday shopping early this year. There are so many ways to use Scrip, we are sure that every family can find a way to use Scrip this week. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Corrie at [corrie23@sbcglobal.net](mailto:corrie23@sbcglobal.net) to work together to find a solution for your situation.

## SCRIP Cheat Sheet

**Participation Goal:**  
100% of the Four Winds School Community

**How Can I Buy SCRIP Cards?**  
Register with [shopwithscrip.com](http://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](http://shopwithscrip.com) for more details.

**What if I have more questions?**  
Contact Corrie Goldberg at [corrie23@sbcglobal.net](mailto:corrie23@sbcglobal.net)

### Scrip Tip of the Week

The Scrip order deadline has been moved to 8:30AM on Thursdays for those orders being paid for by check or cash. Orders paying with Presto Pay can be placed up until 10 am. Please make note of this change so that you don't miss out on getting your cards asap. Presto Pay also allows the convenience of Scrip Now! e-cards and card Reloads, which can get your Scrip cards to you in as little as an hour.

## Four Tellings Submission Guidelines

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).



## Focus on a Grade 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 the *Four Tellings* takes a closer look at John Keeney, the seventh grade teacher. Mr. Keeney joined *Four Winds* as the teacher of its first grades class in 1997, and is now guiding his second class through the grades. He received his Waldorf certification from the Arcturus Rudolf Steiner Education Program in Chicago in 1998, and since then has served as an instructor there in choral singing and other subjects. John studied music and political science at West Virginia University, and luthiery at The Apprentice Shop in Spring Hill, Tennessee. He is an accomplished artist, musician and actor, and currently serves on the Cultural Arts Commission of the City of West Chicago.

Last week, his students were asked to come up with interview questions, here are a few he selected to answer.

### **Why did you decide to become a teacher?**

My experience in school was pretty unsatisfying. When I was in my late twenties, I came across an issue of a magazine called the Utne Reader that focused on several alternative approaches to elementary education. When I read the article about Waldorf education, I found myself tearing up - I felt in reading it that I could have enjoyed

school. The following day I took the first steps on the path to being a teacher.

### **When did you start taking an interest in math?**

I was first fascinated by math in fifth grade when my teacher told us about Fibonacci numbers. I spent that whole evening playing with the idea. The next day, the class had moved on to something else, but I had a glimpse into a magical quality in numbers. I also had a great teacher in junior high school for three consecutive years who gave me a pretty firm foundation in algebra and geometry.

### **Where did you go in Ireland?**

When my father and I went to Ireland in 2009, we did the grand tour. We took a rented car from Dublin, headed south, and for two weeks worked our way clockwise around the emerald isle. My favorite places were on the west coast: The Gap of Dunloe on the Dingle peninsula and Slieve League on the Donegal peninsula. The Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland was also pretty spectacular. It was all pretty spectacular.

### **What would you do if there wasn't coffee?**

If there were no coffee, it would be necessary to invent it.