

Four Tellings

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

Calendar of Events

Thursday October 21
Board Meeting.....7 PM

Friday October 22
Free HANDLE lecture.....7 PM

Saturday October 23
Wattle Fence Workshop.....9 AM-3 PM
HANDLE Workshop.....9 AM-4 PM

Sunday October 24
HANDLE Workshop.....9 AM-4 PM

Thursday October 28
Scrip Orders Due.....10 AM
Nov/Dec Food Forms Due.....3 PM

Friday October 29
Orange & Black Spirit Day.....In School
Special dress day

Saturday October 30
Fall Story and Craft.....2 PM

Mon-Tues November 1 & 2
No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thursday November 4
Scrip Pick Up.....after 2 PM
Board Meeting.....7 PM

Sunday November 7
Artworks 2010 Orchestra Performance...11 AM
6th and 7th grade students will be performing at the
IBEW building in Warrenville.



It's time to sign-up for Parent-Teacher Conferences

in the school office. Conference times are Monday, November 1st from 12 noon to 7:30 p.m. and Tuesday, November 2nd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Childcare will be provided by the 7th grade for a donation. Be sure to sign up for child-care also, if you are intending to use it.

Cold Weather Gear and Halloween Costume Exchange

Bring items to school to exchange on Thursday and Friday this week. A table will be up in the hallway. Take whatever you need.

Food Forms for Nov/Dec due back to the office with payment by **October 28th.**

*Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird
I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns.*
-George Eliot

October 20, 2010

Woven Wattle Fence Workshop

With special guest master gardener: Jim Long of Long Creek Herbs
October 23, 2010, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at Four Winds Waldorf School
Free for Four Winds Community Members.

Learn to weave a woven wattle fence from professional gardener Jim Long. This workshop will weave construction instruction and hands-on experience in identifying and harvesting the natural materials from our own lush woods and transforming them into a functional work of art. Workshop participants will work together in smaller groups to construct sections of wattle fencing which will be used on our grounds to provide a beautiful natural enclosure to our play area. Time permitting, Mr. Long will also instruct attendees in the creation of other objects which may be planted in your own garden. Be prepared to work. Please dress for the weather as we will be working outdoors. Work gloves and loppers, pruners and a pruning saw will be useful tools for participants to bring. Snacks and lunch provided by Two Mothers Foods.

Please register in the school office by Friday so we know how much food to order.

Jim Long writes extensively and travels the world looking for interesting new plants. He's a regular columnist for herb and gardening magazines and is the author of several books. You'll see Jim occasionally on HGTV garden shows. Jim also teaches Master Gardener classes regularly.

Scrip Returns!

If you are unfamiliar, Scrip is a term that means "substitute money." When you purchase Scrip, you're purchasing negotiable gift certificates and prepaid cards that are used just like cash. You can use Scrip to purchase everyday expenses like food, clothing, gas and other essentials, and with every purchase, **you earn revenue for our school.** Scrip is a popular fundraiser because families don't have to sell anything. Four Winds families & supporters produce revenue by making regular household purchases they would make anyway. Groceries, clothing, toys, gifts, even gasoline can be purchased with Scrip.

Find out more and see the list of participating retailers at www.shopwithscrip.com. There is also a copy in the office! When you are ready to participate, please sign up online using our enrollment code: **L99B27DD227L2**. Our first order will be submitted next **Thursday, October 28th**. You must **place your order online & payment to the school office by 10 am**. Pick up your order after 2 pm on Thursday November 4th. Any questions? Contact Cate Dyer at 630-853-5063 or via e-mail at cate_the_great@comcast.net.

Orange and Black Spirit Day, Friday Oct 29

Our first "Spirit Day" of the school year is Friday, October 29th. Students may dress in any orange and black clothing with Halloween or other images. Please no violent or bloody images. Students in grades 4 and up may also use temporary hair dye. Please note that all other dress code rules still apply. (Children will be asked to turn garments inside-out if they are deemed violent or inappropriate by a teacher.) Join us on the 29th for Orange and Black Day!

FROM THE DESK OF *Marianne Fieber*

I had a wonderful time at Harvest Fest this year! The weather was great and the atmosphere was relaxed and welcoming. It was wonderful to see so many friends no longer enrolled as families celebrating this season with us. The music under the tree was terrific along with the crafts for our children. **Thank you, Parent Council and all the volunteers for making Harvest Fest such a success.**

We are well into the year now and life within our community continues to hum along. There are quite a number of activities on the horizon to bring folks together through work, celebration and a further understanding of why we are committed to Waldorf Education. Please look through this issue of the Four Tellings to put events into your calendar.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are coming up November 1-2. It is extremely important that time be carved out from busy schedules to sit down with your child's teacher/s and discuss how things are going in the classroom.

Tomorrow during the Groman Café, there will be a Board Member, Jocelyne Roy, ready to speak with you about any thoughts you have regarding the school of which the Board of Trustees need to be aware. It is the initiative of the Board of Trustees to foster clearer lines of communication as we work together to carry our school forward into the future.

This past weekend the Annual General Meeting of the Anthroposophical Society was held at the Chicago Waldorf School. Prior to the actual meeting on Sunday there was a conference with the theme *Transforming Social Capacities through Spiritual Experiences of Nature*. Though I was unable to attend all of the conference because of our Harvest Fest, I was able to be present on Friday evening where there was an amazing sharing of eurythmy, music and speech formation. It was a blessing to sit in the auditorium and experience such a bounty of artistic expressions which were indeed examples of the highest aspects of being human. These are the gifts that Waldorf Teachers strive to offer their students each day, in some form or other. Actively participating in the creation of artistic expression or even actively receiving it, allows us to experience what it means to be human.

Weekly Regular Meetings

Grades Faculty - Tuesday 12:45 pm

Early Childhood Faculty - Tuesday 1:20 pm

Student Services Committee - Tuesday 2 pm

Leadership Council - Wednesday 1:15 pm

Executive Steering Committee-Wednesday 3 pm

SICG- Thursdays at 11:15

Full Faculty - Thursday 3:20 pm

Harvest Fest Thanks

Dear Four Winds Community,
Thank you all for making our Harvest Fest such a nice event. All the activities were great and the children had a blast. It felt really nice being part of the Four Winds school and community. Thanks again!

-Eduardo Nigro, Harvest Fest Chair

Working with our Neighbors

**Fall Family Fun Fest, Warrenville Park District-
Friday October 22, 2010 6-8:30 pm**

Our friends at the Park District are looking for some volunteers for their Fall Fest on Oct. 22nd. If anyone is interested in helping out with the running of games, please contact Ruth Brackman at the Warrenville Park District Phone: 630-393-7279 ext. 307. Dinner of brats/hot dogs for volunteers will begin at 5:30 pm. Join Marianne and let's help out!

**Public Lantern Walk , Warrenville Park District-
Saturday, November 13, 2010 , 3-5 pm**

Four Winds Waldorf School is partnering with the Warrenville Park District to share our Lantern Walk tradition with other children. If you can help out by spreading the word please invite your friends or neighbors to register as soon as possible. Space is limited. Call 630-393-7279. Marianne Fieber will tell the story of Martin the Roman Soldier who helped a beggar man on a chilly evening. We will sing songs and walk along the Prairie Path and return to the Park District for hot chocolate refreshments. Your help is requested in collecting short, wide glass jars for lantern making as well. Please deposit any jars (salsa jars are great) in the front office to support the lantern making activity at the park district.

**ARTWORKS 2010 , Warrenville Arts Council
Saturday, November 7, 2010 11 am - 5 pm**

Four Winds is again partnering with this Community Arts Festival held at the IBEW building on Ferry Road in Warrenville. 6th/7th grade orchestra will be performing at 11 am.

Faculty News

The faculty met on Friday, October 8th, as an in-service day. A representative from District 58 presented the Response to Intervention (RtI) protocols that have been implemented in their school district. RtI allows educators to quickly identify at-risk and struggling students; provide them with high-quality, research-based interventions matched on their needs; and monitor their progress. The district uses a team-based problem-solving framework to structure thinking and decision-making related to instruction and intervention with RtI. Our teachers were very interested in learning how this protocol was implemented and how successful it was. We agreed to discuss this further in a faculty meeting, choosing what is helpful for us in our individual classrooms.

Fourth Grade Local Geography Block

“...It is important particularly in geography that we should start with whatever the children already know about the face of the earth and about what takes place on the face of the earth...”

-Rudolf Steiner

In fourth grade in a Waldorf school, the students study local geography. This usually begins with the students exploring their neighborhoods and the neighborhood of their school. It can also include the environment even closer to home: their own bedroom as it relates to the rest of the house and property. This not only helps to develop the children’s spatial relationships, but also helps them to see where they exist within the greater whole. The children look at maps and begin making their own maps, using a bird’s eye view. This can be hard for some children and easy for others, but always with Waldorf education, we are asking the children to be flexible and attempt looking at things from many perspectives.

“...From this {map-making} the children gain some sort of an overall view of the economic foundations of the neighborhood...”

-Rudolf Steiner

Eventually, the students are not just looking at the courses of the rivers and the contour of the land, but also at how we human beings create a relationship with this land through economics and history. Right now in the fourth grade at Four Winds Waldorf School, the children are making maps of their own personal surroundings. They are also hearing how the native Americans, the pioneers, and the French explorers and voyageurs interacted with this land—how they changed it and how it shaped their cultures as well. It is very exciting. I recommend finding out the history of your town and seeking out some of the historic sites with your children. It’s a great activity for this time of year.

STORAGE NEEDED

Do you have a corner in your attic or basement to store some items for early childhood classes? Our hope is to use all these items again in the near future. Most are from the previous parent-child classroom. Please see Barbara in the front office if you can help us out.

Food Donations Still Accepted

We are working with the Humanitarian Service Project to collect non-perishable food items for their food pantry. We would like to add to what we collected at Harvest Fest. Donations may be dropped off at school until October 29th.

An Introduction to HANDLE Work

- **FREE** Evening Presentation, Friday, October 22nd, 7-8:30 p.m.
- Training Workshop, October 23 & 24, 9-4 p.m.
Community Room, Four Winds Waldorf School

HANDLE addresses a wide range of learning, behavior, and developmental issues. It is a gentle, natural, non-drug treatment modality, offering hope and help to those wishing to reach or regain their full potential. **HANDLE** is more holistic, including all body systems, when compared with the more specific reflex work. Using organized movement activities, it also builds new neuro pathways to, within, and from the brain, but it goes deeper, working with bringing strength and fortitude to the vestibular system, which is centered in the inner ear.

This introductory training is for Educators, Parents, and all others who want to understand the “whys?” of children’s behavior AND would like to help them without medication.

With a program of specific movements, (Reflex Programs) reflexes can be integrated (*new* neural pathways from the brainstem to the higher brain allow volitional control) and the vestibular system can be strengthened, (Handle Program) allowing students to have enough focus of attention to do school work with ease and releasing the “struggling” energy for *new activities of choice*. Emotional challenges resolve themselves (emotional re-regulation), tutoring, to catch-up, moves forward rapidly, and your student has impulse control because s/he now has the possibility of conscious choices. This is not a magic pill; it takes time investment to do the prescribed program. The life-long results are well worth it! Other aspects of life like adequate exercise, a great diet, enough sleep, and limited media will allow the child to make the most rapid progress and will strengthen their body systems for a *life full of choice and potential*.

Trainer Janet L. Oliver MA has been in private practice as a neurodevelopmental specialist for over 13 years, designing home programs for students with sensory, processing, motor and reflex concerns. Janet works in Chicago, Atlanta, Seattle, Minneapolis and abroad. She received her Master’s degree in Human Development from St. Mary’s University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. As a professional training consultant for The **HANDLE** Institute, one of the world’s leading education and research organizations of neurodevelopment, Janet designs and conducts trainings in the U.S. and Europe. www.planforlearning.com

For more information on **HANDLE**, contact **Naomi Harpest Studebaker**, nomignomiel@sbcglobal.net, 708.908.0083, or see the flyer attached to this week’s mail packet.