

# Four Tellings

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

## Calendar of Events

### 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

Coffee Talk/Parent Ed.....8:15 AM

Scrip Orders Due.....10 AM

Parent Council.....7 PM

### Sunday November 7

Artworks 2010 Orchestra Performance...11 AM  
6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will be performing at the  
IBEW building in Warrenville.

### Tuesday November 9

Annual Fund Pledge Day  
Get your pledge/donation in by the end of the day!

### Wednesday November 10

School Tour.....8:45 AM

### Thursday November 11

Scrip Orders Due.....10 AM

### Friday November 12

Lantern Walk, Grades 1-3.....5 PM  
At Four Winds

### Saturday November 13

Lantern Walk, EC Classes.....4:15 PM  
At Four Winds

Lantern Walk, all ages.....3-5 PM  
A public event in downtown Warrenville

## Sign-up for Parent-Teacher Conferences

in the school office.  
Childcare will be provided by the 7<sup>th</sup> grade for a donation . Be sure to sign up for child-care also, if needed.

## Cold Weather Gear

## 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.

When witches go riding and black cats are seen,  
the moon laughs and whispers, 'tis near Halloween.

October 27, 2010

## No School Monday & Tues Nov. 1-2 Parent-Teacher Conferences

## 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](http://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](mailto: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 29<sup>th</sup> for Orange and Black Day!

## Welcome New Student!

Please join me in welcoming **George Murray** to Mrs. Cooper's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade class. George lives in Glen Ellyn with his older sister Rachel and parents, **George & Angela Murray**. Yes, father and son share the same first name! Please look for George and his parents at drop off or pick up and offer them a warm welcome. We are thrilled to have them as a new members of our community.  
-Robyn Abend, Enrollment Coordinator

## Parent Education / Coffee Talk

Please join us Thursday, November 4, from 8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. in the Sunrise Garden classroom. We are resuming last year's "Coffee Talk", a chance to speak with parents and learn more about all aspects of life at a Waldorf School. Next week's topic will be early childhood development literature and time for a spirited conversation. So, grab a cup of coffee from the Groman Café and come on in! Young children are welcome.

-Kelly Kasper & Parvaneh Shidnia-Smith

## FROM THE DESK OF *Marianne Fieber*

We are kicking off our **Annual Fund Campaign** for the year and we have a modest goal of \$35,000. Together we can succeed in raising the additional monies needed to keep our school humming. Tuition dollars alone do not cover the necessary expenses to educate our children in the artistic and healing way we strive to day in and day out at Four Winds Waldorf School. Annual Fund contributions can be made at any level fitting the budget of each individual family and it is tax-deductible. Please look out for the Annual Fund information in your mail packet and send a pledge or make a donation to help us reach our goal.

By now I hope everyone has had a chance to experience the magic of our playground and the addition of the wattle fence complete with arbor gently hugging the space. Jim Long was a wonderfully patient and experienced guide to our small group of intrepid weavers. Once the rain cleared, our task was much more comfortable and joyful. Ezra Hill (Second Grade) was an amazing worker and an inspiration along with his parents Rich and Lynn. We had one new friend join us – Pat Clancy from Lisle who was pleased she came despite the rain. Bruce Cooper remarked to me as he returned from harvesting more saplings that he sensed the trees were very happy to be able to come out and join the children at their play as they would be woven into the fence. Trees are not only our “breathing buddies” but have a consciousness that strives to connect with us human beings. I want to thank Two Mother’s foods for providing a nutritious lunch and snack for the crew and of course the Mid-States Shared Gifting Group of the Rudolf Steiner Foundation without which this project would never have come to pass in answer to a need long-expressed by our Early Childhood faculty.

See the fuller article and photos in this edition.

## Front Office Makeover!

Our front office has experienced a complete transformation due to the vision and hard work of a small group of parents. **BIG Thanks to Kelly Kasper, Alyssa Maurer and Vicki Blair.** Additional thanks to **Liz Westberry** for supplying the lovely oak table and to **Lisa Drost** for the wood chairs.

## 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

## Lantern Walk

Lantern Walk is a wonderful fall festival celebrating the legend of St. Martin, (or Martinmas, November 11<sup>th</sup>) who was known for his ability to bring warmth and light to those previously in darkness. He is remembered in many cultures with a festival of lanterns, carrying light into the coming winter, storytelling and singing songs. Our school celebrates Lantern Walk in Preschool-Kindergarten through Grade 3, and new this year, a community walk in downtown Warrenville.

•**Grades 1-3 Lantern Walk, Friday, November 12th, 5 p.m., at FW** we will gather in the Community Room for singing and storytelling, then an outside walk. Parents, please be sure your child eats something substantial before coming to this event.

•**P-K Lantern Walk, Saturday, November 13th, 4:15 p.m., at FW** we will gather for singing and storytelling around the fire outside, then we will go walking with lanterns. Parents, please be sure your child eats something substantial before coming to this event.

•**Public Lantern Walk, Saturday, November 13th, 3-5 p.m., downtown Warrenville.** 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.

## ART WORKS 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. **Four Wind's 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra will be performing at 11 am.**

## School Equipment Needs

We are in great need of one or two **good working vacuum cleaners.** If you have one to donate, please bring it to the front office as soon as possible.

# Weaving Magic with Saplings

by Marianne Fieber, Administrator

This past Saturday (October 23<sup>rd</sup>), as the clouds rolled in bringing with them the first drops of rain, it didn't appear to be the best day to be working outside. We'd been planning this woven wattle fence project for over a year and the weather appeared not to cooperate. The Early Childhood staff had been requesting a fence of some sort to enclose the playground in a loving embrace to provide a safe place for the children to play freely. This wish became a research project to find natural-type fence options. A wattle fence, woven from saplings off our own land seemed the perfect choice. A grant proposal was presented to the Mid-States Shared Gifting Group of the Rudolf Steiner Foundation last November and we received the funding necessary to make a wish come true. Magic!

**Jim Long**, of Long Creek Herbs was found through the online research efforts of **Liz Westberry**, mother of **Carolyn Goldsmith** (Grade 2). Our relationship with Jim Long sprouted into a springtime visit. He was a bit skeptical we would have enough raw materials to work with in order to complete our project. He was pleasantly surprised when he stopped by in March and we eventually settled on October 23<sup>rd</sup> for our workshop.



We were a small group of weavers with Jim Long, professional gardener, as our leader. We headed into the dark damp woods with loppers, pruners and small hand saws to harvest saplings in the rain. The larger ones were destined for the upright posts which were cut to size; about 3 feet tall with one

end sharpened with a small ax. Holes were started in the tough soil along the orange spray-painted line providing an outline for our work. The pointed posts were hammered into the ground to stand erect and wait for their horizontal counter-parts. The rain soaked into us and we kept on working. We took a break inside to dry off a bit, have a cup of coffee and tea and then headed back out to chop, clip and weave.



The first section of wattle fence completed was the little open gateway between the two shelters. It was a brilliant decision Jim had to create a more European-type style rather than an actual gate which would have been nearly impossible. It was a perfect beginning to our project as the small section was fairly quickly completed giving us a sense of pride and excitement at the beautiful

thing that was forming before our eyes. Magic!

More and more saplings kept coming from the woods and **Ezra Hill** (Grade 2) became an expert with the loppers as he clipped them in preparation for their being woven into the growing fence. Jim was determined to create an arbor as an entryway and began to find just the right elm and dogwood for the job. **Pat Clancy**, a new friend, and I pulled out some grape vines to wrap around the archway for support and added beauty. A stunning maple sapling with colored leaves was added by **Bruce Cooper**. Just as Jim had wanted, Magic!



We had a wonderful lunch delivered by **Nicky Poloski**, one of the Two Mothers, who catered this event. The sun finally came out with blue skies above. The day turned out to be terrific. There is still work to be done to complete the project which Mr. Cooper will lead the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students in and in a couple weeks when the wood has shrunk as it will, there will need to be some additional interweaving of branches into the fence to keep it strong. The woven wattle fence is a thing of beauty and it was a delightful way to spend a Saturday. We

owe a great deal of thanks to Jim Long who came up from Blue Eye, Missouri to share this lovely artistic activity with us. I want to thank our weavers: **Lynn, Rich and Ezra Hill, Patricia Clancy and Bruce Cooper**. I want to thank Corona Tools for providing a set of loppers and pruners for our participant raffle and Rudolf Steiner Social Finance and the Mid-States Shared Gifting Group for funding this project.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade News

The second grade has joyfully returned to the Kingdom of Numbers this month as Grandmother Spider taught us how to weave the circle of 12. All of the times tables can come out of a 12-circle. We like to introduce the circle of twelve because twelve represents a cosmic reality. The children are still very

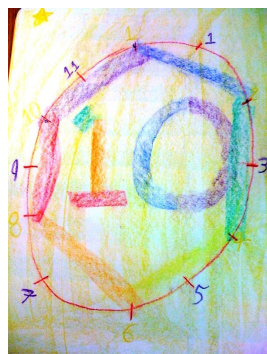
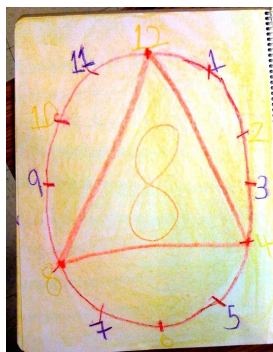


connected to the cosmos, the world they come from. The students will recognize the twelve in the clock and in the twelve months in their next math block. In addition, we will finish up this month learning about place value. Through story images, the students grapple with solving the issue of counting and keeping track of gems.

As we move forward, we

practice these newly discovered larger numbers with number dictations.

-Diane Power, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher



## Brain Research Supports Balanced Education

There was a very interesting interview on NPR this past weekend with Adele Diamond entitled "Learning, Doing, Being: A New Science of Education." By way of introduction, here is a summary of what the show presents: "What Adele Diamond is learning about the brain challenges basic assumptions in modern education. Her work is scientifically illustrating the educational power of things like play, sports, music, memorization and reflection. What nourishes the human spirit, the whole person, it turns out, also hones our minds. Diamond is a cognitive developmental neuroscientist who currently teaches at the University of British Columbia in Canada." You can download the show to an Ipod or listen to it in streaming. Enjoy!

<http://being.publicradio.org/programs/2010/learning-doing-being/>

## FW Position Open –

### Early Childhood Extended Care Provider

Four Winds Waldorf School is looking to hire a part-time 5-day Early Childhood Extended Care Provider to manage and deliver our Extended Care Program for the remainder of the school year. The full description of the position is included as an attachment to the Four Tellings. If you or someone you know, is interested in applying for this position we request the following documents be sent in to Marianne Fieber by November 1<sup>st</sup>; cover letter of interest, resume and 3 letters of reference. We are looking to fill this position as soon as possible. Qualified candidates will have an opportunity to speak with a member of our Early Childhood staff, the administrator and enrollment coordinator.

## Announcing the 2010-2011 Annual Fund Campaign!

Beginning today we are ready to receive your Annual Fund contributions!

Today all our families will be receiving a letter outlining our goals for this campaign in their mail packet. We plan to raise **\$35,000 with 100% participation** from all of our Four Winds Waldorf Families. Next week additional information explaining our Annual Fund, ways of giving and pledge cards will be distributed. However, if you are ready to pledge or give today – we'll be happy to help you. Please call Marianne Fieber with any questions.

### The Annual Fund needs your help!

We are hoping to reach out beyond our immediate Four Winds Waldorf Community to make our Annual Fund a success. If you feel comfortable speaking to your families; grandparents, aunts, uncles etc. who may be in a position to help us out we'd be very pleased for that effort. Alternatively, if you'd prefer us to contact them directly we will gladly send information about the Annual Fund directly from our offices if you provide us with their names, addresses or emails. If there are businesses or other organizations which you feel may be open to contributing, please send us their contact information and we will take it from there. Thank you!

## A Conversation for Us All

SICG, with the support of Parent Council, would like to invite all parents for a conversation in relation to:

- The types of difficulties they have encountered when in conflict
- Whether they feel a need for a formal conflict resolution model
- Their ideas of the best ways to resolve conflict
- The values that they would like included in a special Code of Conduct to be used during disagreements.

We anticipate that there will be three meetings. In the first, meeting, SICG will take into account everyone's ideas as we create a draft of an adult conflict resolution model and Code of Conduct, which can then be used by all members of our community, be they faculty, board or parents, or any combination thereof. This will be held on Thursday, November 4, at 7:00 p.m., and we anticipate that it will take 45 minutes to an hour.

For the second meeting, SICG will present the draft at the next Parent Council meeting, to be held on Thursday, December 2, at 7:00 p.m. The purpose will be editing. The final version will be presented at our third meeting, during the Town Hall meeting, dated Saturday, January 29, at 10:00 a.m.

We want to hear from everyone, and if you wish to contribute your own experiences, but will not be able to attend, please relay your points to your Parent Council representative, who will then be able to read your words at the meeting. If you have questions, you can contact me at school.

-Parvaneh Shidnia-Smith, Collaborative Counselor

## 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.

## Four Winds Fundraising - Ultra Foods 5% Donation

Ultra Foods, which has grocery stores in Wheaton, Lombard, and Downers Grove, is running an **Ultra Foods Smart Shopper Program** promotion. This program donates 5% of total purchase made by school families back to the school. The program runs from Sept. 1, 2010 to Dec. 30, 2010. Turning in receipts is all you need to do! So if you shop at Ultra Foods, include your receipts in your school folder when you return it to school or place the receipts in the envelope that is located inside the front door.

Save the date for...

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

March 4-6, 2011, Conference at 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.

## Keep Saving Your Box Tops!

We'd like to encourage everyone to save "Box Tops." It's an easy way to support our school. Though some of our community families may not buy products with "Box Tops," many of our extended families and friends might— please ask them! For every top turned in, the school earns \$.10 to spend on anything it wants. Look for the box in the front foyer to deposit your Box Tops. To find a complete list of participating products, visit <http://www.boxtops4education.com/>.



## Classifieds

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

**Child Care Available:** My name is Emily Barry and I'm 14 (15 in March). I am now a freshman at Wheaton North HS; I graduated from Four Winds last year. I didn't want to attend Four Winds when my mom enrolled me and my 12 year old brother, but ended up loving it, along with the people. So I have to thank her. After getting into the swing of high school, I've been looking for some extra things to do, and I would love to babysit your children, as I love kids! I live in Wheaton on Geneva road near Main St. Most kids grades 2-7 already know me, and we had a lot of fun last year. It would be great if you would contact me at 630-512-1330 or by email: [ebarry.bendit24@hotmail.com](mailto:ebarry.bendit24@hotmail.com). Thanks so much!