



# Four Tellings

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



November 16, 2011

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Warrenville, IL 60555



## Hearts, Hands & Voices Concert

Friday, November 16th, 7:00PM.  
Immanuel Presbyterian Church  
29W260 Batavia Road in Warrenville

This is a wonderful chance to see some of the beautiful activities and work the grade school children are doing at school. All Four Winds School families are welcome; Grades students are required to attend.

Students in grades 5-8 should wear black pants or skirts (no jeans) and a white shirt with dress shoes. Other grades students should dress in nice clothing (no jeans.) Parents, please note these arrival times for orchestra students:

Grades 7-8: Tuning at 6:00PM  
Grade 5: Tuning at 6:20PM

Any parents that would be available to help chaperone from 6-6:45 on the evening of the concert would be greatly appreciated; see the front office.

We must be respectful both of the children who are presenting music or verse and also of the space that we are using. Please be sure that your children are sitting with you and are supervised by you before, during and after the concert. During the concert, children may not sit in groups together either in the front or the back of the church without direct parental supervision. We need your help to maintain the respect due the space in which we have been allowed to be. It is a house of worship and we expect that it will be treated as such in the behavior we exhibit and expect of our children. Thank you for helping us put our best foot forward.

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## From the Desk of Marianne Fieber

We are soon off for a week of rest and thankfulness. I wish for everyone a time filled with just what you need. It will be different for each one of us. When we return, the days will be filled with so many different activities and festive celebrations as we move into the season of Advent; the season of Light. The festival life at Four Winds Waldorf School is rich with tradition and wondrous experiences in celebration of the power of light, in various manifestations, as it spreads through the darkness. There may be times we find ourselves moving faster than we appreciate and it is thus most important to find times to choose stillness and quiet as a way to stay grounded amidst the hustle and bustle.

When I look around this school I cannot help but smile at the wonderful relationships I see being cultivated between and among the students and adults. I've witnessed the eighth graders reading to the first graders, myriad Groman Café exchanges and sweet practice lantern walks in the hallway. I personally found them to be welcome breaks from various meetings this past week. I experience truth, beauty and goodness. These are fundamental qualities we strive to embody and model for our students and it is always a comfort to see them expressed in unexpected ways.

Congratulations to Honna Austin and the seventh and eighth graders—your performance at ARTWORKS was superb!

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and Aloha! I will be off to visit Liz Gantner in Hawaii for the week and will bring with me greetings from this Four Winds Waldorf Community.

## Four Winds Mission Statement

Four Winds Waldorf School is committed to awakening the intellect, imagination and determination of every child, leading to a life-long love of learning. Within a protective and nurturing environment, teachers and parents work together to build a community where each student's confidence, sense of responsibility and self-reliance unfolds.

## Annual Fund Update

We are well on our way to making our goal and this is good news! If you haven't done so already, please turn in your annual fund contribution and have your name added to our tree.

Our goals are 100% participation and \$40,000.00.

As of Monday we have raised \$21,330 and have reached 70% participation of the board, 53% of the faculty and 37% of the parents.

## Important Early Childhood Announcement

The date for Advent Garden for Early Childhood has *changed from Sunday, December 4th to Saturday December 3rd.*



## This Week's Calendar

November 16, 2011 (Wednesday)

1:30–3PM Leadership Council  
3–4PM Executive Steering Committee

November 17, 2011 (Thursday)

*SCRIP Orders Due / Pick-up*  
8:00AM Groman Cafe  
8:15AM Parent Handwork Group—*all are welcome*  
10:30–11:30AM Social Inclusion Coordinating Group (SICG)  
3:15–5:30PM Faculty Meeting  
7PM Board Meeting

November 18, 2011 (Friday)

*Newsletter Submission Deadline for 11/30 Four Tellings*  
3–4PM Student Service Committee Meeting

November 19, 2011 (Saturday)

9AM–1PM Waldorf School Journey

November 21-25, 2011

*No School—Happy Thanksgiving!*

November 28, 2011, (Monday)

*Advent Assembly*



## Four Tellings



*Procession of Lanterns*

## Elves' Market Donations Needed

We are in need of the following items for *Jack Frost's Children's Craft Workshop* at the upcoming *Elves' Market*. If you are able to donate, please bring these items to the front office for Kassia Shaw as soon as possible. Thank you!!

- Ribbon (3/4" to 1" wide)
- Colorful yarn
- Copper picture hanging-gauge wire
- Glue sticks, mini hot glue sticks, Tacky Glue
- Small natural items that can be glued on wood (berries, seed pods, fuzzy grass tips, acorn caps, tiny pinecones, small shells, etc.)
- Pinecones of all sizes
- Cracker and cereal boxes (leave in the front office for Angela Murray)

We are also looking for the following food items for the *Cookie Cottage*:

- Dried fruit
- Shaved coconut
- Other allergy-free cookie and candy toppings

Contact Marianne Fieber or Angela Murray if you are able to help donate natural seasonal items for decoration.

New Times:

- Oak Tree Kindergarten 1<sup>PM</sup>
- Rainbow Garden Preschool Program 6<sup>PM</sup>

Parent-Child, alumni, and all community members are invited to participate at the Rainbow Garden Preschool Program's event. Space is limited, so please contact the front office to reserve your spot.

## The First Light of Advent in Parent-Child Classes

Advent is a time of awaiting and preparing for what is to come. In our materialistic culture where advertisements are constantly alerting us to the many things we don't need, but "need to need"!, it is a time so filled with family and social demands, that we truly have to "work at" creating the gesture and mood that we want around our young children. In this light, the calm, solitary light of a single candle, we can contemplate what it is that our inner selves deeply desire at this darkest time of our outer year. It is a time we can build feelings of gratitude and acknowledgement for the kingdoms of nature that support our lives all year long. Advent is a time for more silence, more moments of calm in the midst of chaotic outer demands and the rising excitement in the children. If you have not yet done so, it is a great time to create a very deep and calm bedtime routine and mood that, with the single candle, can light your way through the coming whole year.

This year Advent starts on the Sunday following Thanksgiving, November 27th, and because Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, we have the longest possible Advent period of preparation—the full 4 weeks—28 days!—which makes the traditional "average" Advent Calendar 4 windows short!

The Four Winds Parent Child classes offered this year will be the first three weeks of Advent, beginning on Tuesday, November 29th and Wednesday, November 30th. Both classes will include a Advent Circle time, a simple snack eaten by candle light, and a closing story.

The Tuesday morning class will focus on adult education and will explore the many possible family/life habits that one might want to establish during the Advent season.

The Wednesday morning class will offer a simple watercolor painting experience for the parents and children. After the children have gone off to play, I will guide the parents, who are interested in doing so, in bringing more form into their Advent paintings. On the third class meeting, we will help the children turn their paintings into card/gifts by decorating them with golden stars.

—Naomi Studebaker

## Elves' Market Update—Many More New Details!

We will be printing new details about the *Elves' Market* in each week's *Four Tellings*. The purpose of the *Elves' Market* is threefold. First and foremost, it is an important community building event, where families can come together over the holiday season, and enjoy the warmth of each other's friendship. Secondly, it is an

outreach event. We will be promoting the Market to the outside public and prospective families, who are still learning about our school and the rich childhood experiences we have to offer. And thirdly, it is an important fundraiser. *As such, we hope that you come prepared to give and consider bringing friends and family to share in the merriment.*

This week, we are excited to announce some of the exciting childrens activities that we have planned for the day. While you are shopping with our various artisan vendors, or enjoying a cup of coffee or cider with a friend, your children are sure to be busy in the following rooms!

Space will be limited!! Starting on Monday, December 5th, we will be accepting nonrefundable, prepaid registrations for the following events so that you can plan your day.

**King Winter's Castle:** Come see the Handwork room transformed into a winter wonderland. You will find **King Winter** on his throne, telling stories of winter and merriment to the children. At the end of his stories, King Winter will give each child an icy souvenir to remember him by. *(Estimated length is 15 minutes, and cost will be 2 stars. Participants will be limited to 10 children per session.)*

When King Winter is taking a break, your children will be allowed to enter the room in small groups to share in our **Wishing Stars** activity. Children will be given a small star candle that will be lit and set afloat in a bowl of water. Second Grade teacher, Brenna McLachlan, will recite a poem, the children will make a wish, blow out their candles, and then take the candles home to light again another day. *(Estimated length is 15 minutes, and cost will be 2 stars. Participants will be limited to 6 children per session.)*

**Winterland Journey Room:** There is no greater journey than that of a good story! In the Oak Tree Kindergarten room, we will feature two different puppet shows at the beginning and end of the day told by our Early Childhood Faculty. Karen Hayes will tell the first show, "**Good Friends,**" followed by a related children's craft. *(Estimated length is 15 minutes, and cost will be 2 stars. Participants will be limited to 6 children per session.)* Then Carlene Mogavero will tell the "**Elves and the Shoemaker,**" also followed by a related children's craft. *(Estimated length is 20 minutes, and cost will be 2 stars. Participants will be limited to 15 children per session.)*

Midday, enjoy being read a winter themed story in our "**Grandparents' Storybook Nook.**" Four Winds Waldorf School Grandparents will be bringing their favorite holiday books to share with the community! *(This will be a free event!)*

Between our scheduled children's activities, don't forget to have your children stop by these rooms:

- In the First Grade room, find our **Cookie Cottage** where children can decorate sugar and gingerbread cookies with dried fruits and shaved coconut. Does your child have a food allergy? No problem! We will also be offering allergy-free cookies, or if you'd be more comfortable, bring your own to decorate. *(Estimated length is 15 minutes, and cost will range between 1-4 stars. Participants will be limited to 12 children at a time.)*
- In the Seventh Grade room, stop by **Jack Frost's Craft Workshop**. You will find a variety of crafts for all age levels. Crafts will be available while supplies last, so



## Sparkle Star Market Crafts

The *Elves' Market* on December 10th will feature a children's *Sparkle Star Market* where gifts can be purchased for friends and family. Please consider donating handmade items valued between \$0.50 and \$5.00.

Be sure to check out the *Idea List* attached to last week's *Four Tellings* for gift ideas.

Are you interested in joining our *Elves' Market Handwork Group*? Stop by the Sunrise Garden room on Thursdays after drop off for an hour. We will be crafting wonderful treasures for the shop. Younger siblings are welcome.

## Thursday Lunch Server Needed

We need someone able to scoop rice and beans into bowls from *Two Mothers* on Thursdays from 12:30-1:00PM.

Please contact the Front Office if you are able to offer this service.

## Four Tellings



## Classified & Newsletter Submissions

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).

## Pictures This Week

The *Four Tellings* needs pictures!!! Please send your pictures to Kassia Shaw ([kassia.shaw@me.com](mailto:kassia.shaw@me.com)) by Friday, for a Wednesday publication date.



expect them to change as the day progresses. Crafts will include orange pomanders, wooden candle holders decorated with greens, pinecone wreaths, transparency rose windows, and yarn-wrapped gods eyes. (*Estimated length is 15-30 minutes per craft, and cost will range between 2-3 stars. Participants will be limited to 4 children per craft.*)

- And of course, your children won't want to miss the **Sparkle Star Market** in the Fourth Grade room! With the help of an Elf, they will be able to purchase small, handmade gifts for siblings, parents, cousins, friends, or anyone else on their holiday list. Best of all, this is a "Children Only" area so all gifts can be kept a secret! (Gifts will cost only one star! Purchases will be limited based on gift supply.) When they are done buying their gifts, they can head across the hall to the **Elves' Wrapping Workshop**.

- And finally, don't forget about our **Talent Show** that we announced last week. It will be during the last hour of the Elves' Market in the Sweet Shoppe. All members of our community are invited to participate. We will be hosting sign-ups for five minute time slots starting November 14th through December 5th.

## Elves' Market—How Can I Help?

The fairs and festivals take a tremendous amount of work on the behalf of our *entire community* to organize and make memorable. The more help we have, the more we can do! Be on the lookout this week for volunteer sign-up sheets in the hallway. If any events don't fill up, we will consider dropping them in the coming weeks.

Here are some additional ways you can help support our *Elves' Market*:

- Consider contributing handmade items to the children's "Sparkle Star Market," where they can purchase inexpensive gifts for family and friends. Not sure what to make? Come to one of our November Handwork Meetings.
- We will be hosting an Ornament Fundraiser during the Market. Please think about donating a handmade ornament for the bookstore to sell at the event. Ornaments will sell for \$15 each.
- Bring a bake sale item the day of the fair.
- Volunteer to help!!! Sign up sheets are available near the front office.
- Do you have a service or something of value to add to our silent auction?
- Do you have any craft materials to donate? Find the list in the *Four Tellings* and send them to the front office labeled, "For Kassia Shaw."

From the *Elves' Market* Team: Marianne Fieber, Angela Murray, Melissa Rutkowski and Kassia Shaw.

## Warrenville Lantern Walk

Please join the Four Winds Waldorf community to lead the parade for Warrenville's annual Holly Days festival. We have been asked by the Warrenville Park District to walk with our lanterns and light the way for the parade to celebrate the upcoming holiday season. Please call the office and sign-up if you are interested in joining us and if you have a lantern. We'll meet at the Warrenville Community Building at 5:30PM for a 6PM start.

*See my candle glowing with a golden light....*

## Continuing Education: New Waldorf Coursework

Great Lakes Waldorf Institute in Milwaukee, WI, is offering a new course—“Contemplative Practice: Beginning a Path of Transformation” that will start with a weekend retreat January 6–7, 2012, and continue online after that. If you are interested in developing your own meditative practice or in exploring the Anthroposophical approach to mindfulness, this course may be for you. For more information, please contact Lori Barian, Director of Administration, [lori.barian@greatlakeswaldorf.org](mailto:lori.barian@greatlakeswaldorf.org), or 414-616-1832.

## Scrip First Quarter Wrap Up: The Numbers are In!

As many of you know, The Board began the year with a request that every family participate in Scrip this school year, further requesting a participation rate of an average of \$250 per month per family and an all-school goal of raising \$5000 through the Scrip program this year. The first quarter of the year is complete. As we marvel at how the weather has transformed and the school community has embraced the rhythm of a new school year, it seemed appropriate to review how the Scrip program has fared in this first quarter.

**Happily, we have achieved 29% of our annual fundraising goal through Scrip in this quarter, at just over \$1450 raised.** We have eighteen families who have met the request of the Board and have purchased at least \$250 average per month through Scrip orders and/or inventory purchases, and an additional three faculty members who have met this request. In all, forty-five families, faculty, and Friends of Four Winds have participated in the Scrip program at some level, and for that we are very thankful. With three quarters remaining in the year, the program has potential to far exceed the Board’s budgeted goal if as a community we all work together to make Scrip purchasing an integral part of our shopping routine. It really does become second nature once a personal decision is made that it is important to do. It makes such a significant difference for our school and as the first quarter has shown, every little bit really does help add up to thousands of dollars for our school over time.

Now that the holiday season is upon us, it is the perfect time to think about how Scrip cards might fit in to your holiday buying plans, be it for holiday travel, gifts for family and friends either in the form of gift cards or to use in your own holiday gift shopping, grocery needs, or gifts of gratitude to service providers. There will be no regular Scrip order this week as we prepare for the Thanksgiving Break, but cards are available for purchase through the office inventory to meet your needs in the week ahead.

If you haven’t ordered through Scrip before and you want to be ready to get your order in once we return from the break, go to [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com) and register with the enrollment code **L99B27DD227L2** to place your order from over 600 vendors. Please remember to turn in payment for your order by 8:30 am on Thursday (10<sup>AM</sup> for PrestoPay payments). Unpaid orders remaining in the system will be cancelled after 2 weeks of nonpayment. If you forget to place or pay for 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. If you have any questions about the Scrip program, please contact Corrie Goldberg at [corrie23@sbcglobal.net](mailto:corrie23@sbcglobal.net).



## SCRIP Tip of the Week

There will be no school order placed on Thursday November 17th or Thursday November 24th due to the Thanksgiving Break. To make sure that you can get the Scrip cards that you need without delay, enroll in PrestoPay today!

PrestoPay orders will allow you to purchase ScripNow! e-giftcards from 35 popular vendors even when we are away on break and they will be emailed right to you or to your designated gift recipient within an hour. You can also use PrestoPay! to reload your current Scrip cards from dozens of vendors.

In addition, a school-wide order will be placed on Friday November 25th for all orders that have been entered into the system and paid with PrestoPay by that date so that the cards can be available for pickup the first Thursday after the Thanksgiving Break. Only PrestoPay orders can be included in this Bonus order as the office will not be open to receive check or cash payments.

It is simple to enroll in PrestoPay. All you need is a your checkbook so that you can reference your bank and routing number and the rest is easy. Corrie Goldberg is happy to help walk you through the steps, so don’t be shy about contacting her at [corrie23@sbcglobal.net](mailto:corrie23@sbcglobal.net) Have a happy and healthy holiday!



## We Are Thankful

*We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures. —Thornton Wilder*

It takes so many people to give our school the warm and inviting feeling that makes it a special place for our children. It is easy to get caught up in our busy lives, and many in our school go on unthanked for their hard work and thoughtfulness. Over the past week, the following items of gratitude were submitted by our community.

- The team of people including Robyn Abend, Rachel Vander Ploeg, and Jocelyne Roy who clean my classroom each week.
- The 5th graders who cleaned the muddy hallway this week.
- The tireless efforts of Marianne Fieber to make our school the best it can be.
- The beautifully crafted new version of *Four Tellings* this fall. It is so great to see all the pictures of the school and the informative articles.
- The beautiful piece of pottery made by grandparent Jerry Abend to hold the paper towels at the sink in the hallway.
- Shiho Kajiwara
- Maya Amago for Wednesday piano accompaniment for eurythmy
- Rachel Vander Ploeg for her cheerful greetings
- Robyn Abend for tirelessly doing so, so much for our school!
- Jocelyne Roy - need we count the ways?
- The Front Office Volunteers
- The tireless patience of Mrs. Olsen who taught my first grader how to knit.
- The Website Team: Brian Shaw, Stephanie Callaway, Carlene Mogavero
- All Parents for bringing your children to Four Winds Waldorf School
- The excellent faculty who care so much for our children
- How much my children are cared for
- All of the warm and kindhearted people I've met
- I love art and woodwork classes!
- The yummy and nutritious snacks my kindergartner gets in her Early Childhood class
- The parents in the community who are supportive of each other, each other's children, and the efforts of the school.
- That my children sing Spanish and German songs at the dinner table each night—it is so nice to know that they are getting exposure to other languages and cultures at school.
- The festivals that the school does—that they're not mainstream, and they bring attention to different aspects of life and the world that aren't always appreciated or celebrated otherwise
- Corrie Goldberg who has tirelessly worked each week to raise money for the school by coordinating the SCRIP Program.
- Lou Celenza who fixed the Handwork room door—it's been broken for so long I can't remember the last time it was able to close!
- Our Games program for all of our students this year.
- Mrs. Palmquist for preparing our students for the Pentathlon
- Our wonderful music program—from the Lyre lessons in kindergarten with Mrs. Hayes to Orchestral work with Mrs. Austin in the later grades - I'm so happy that music is an important part of our school's curriculum!
- David Heater who singularly mowed the school's grass this fall when needed!

- The large heart of our community
- My child's creative and intelligent teacher
- Our building and beautiful property
- My child's friends
- A Eurythmy program...finally!
- Whoever tended the bonfires during Lantern Night(s)
- Our delicious and nutritious hot lunch program
- I am grateful that our children are greeted by first name at the front doors of their school each morning with a warm smile, a handshake and a cheerful 'good morning'. Thank you Marianne Fieber and helpers for always being there!
- I'm grateful that I get to draw all the time.
- I am grateful for our school's open green spaces and woods.
- Kindergarten Assistants who work so hard
- Quality childcare teacher and program
- New office staff for jumping into action this year
- The world-wide Waldorf movement and work of those who have passed
- Parents who share their culture and religious holidays with our class

There are so many more people and things that we are grateful for within our community. Please take some time this week and be sure to thank those who might have not made it on this list—but who surely make a difference at this school!



## Focus on a Grade: Fifth Grade

*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* features some student writing completed in Mrs. Cooper's fifth grade class by Tierney Bilstrom.

"Hi. I am Tierney Bilstrom. I am a fifth grader in Mrs. Cooper's class at Four Winds School. I have much enjoyed fifth grade as we have been studying my favorite things, History and Botany, so far.

We just recently ended our third block this year, Botany. Mrs. Cooper really wanted us to understand truth and beauty in our drawings. We went outside a lot and talked mainly about the metamorphosis of plants. We recently wrapped that up and started to learn about the Ancient cultures of Egypt and Mesopotamia. We have heard stories, made maps, and many other hands-on activities.



We are also preparing for the Pentathlon in May. Where 4 other fifth grades of different Waldorf Schools participate. We have been training weekly with Mrs. Palmquist on Discus, Javelin, Roman Wrestling, and many other ancient Greek Games.

We have also painted, sang, and drawn. We have also been working very hard in Orchestra to prepare for the *Hearts, Hands, and Voices Concert* this weeks. This year in painting, we have started to veil paint, in which we put on layers and layers of paint to make the painting beautiful. That sure takes a while!! In singing, we have recently learned a song in which we read from sheet music. It is called *Something Told the Wild Geese*.

We drew a lot in Botany, we are starting to draw Egyptian and Mesopotamian Geography, and we have started Free Hand Geometry. In conclusion, fifth grade is very busy, but also very fun."

*Thank you Tierney Bilstrom and Mrs. Cooper for sharing your work with us!*

# Jyoti Candles

Wishes you all Happy Holidays and  
a New Year filled with Love, Light & Peace.



## Pure Beeswax Candles, Ornaments and Gifts

### Green Man Images

Archival nature  
photography, floral and  
botanical digital carving

BY JANE

### Handmade Beaded Jewellery and Ornaments

BY MARTINA

### Elegant Knitware

Handknitted shawls, scarves  
using 19th Century lace  
patterns. Also exquisite lace  
fingerless mitts to warm  
and grace the hands.



**Saturday, December 3rd 9:00 am ~ 5:00 pm**

**Sunday, December 4th 9:00 am ~ 5:00 pm**

*Holiday Refreshments to Welcome you & your Friends. Come, visit, take  
time for yourself to enjoy the Historical House and peruse our wares!*

## Warren Tavernia Historical House

3 South 540 Second St. • Warrenville, Illinois

*Behind Walgreens at the Northwest corner of Warrenville and Winfield Roads.*

*For further information please call Deidre Levin, (630) 665-6801.*



*Is there any sight as beautiful as a Beeswax Candle alight...  
it's mood lifting magic of golden light we caress. Here's to their  
perennial cheer, for winter and all the year through.*