



# Four Tellings

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



November 2, 2011

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## Change is in the air

Where do we want to be in 5 years? What do we want our community to look like? Organizations grow in the direction they focus on so that their vision becomes reality. This Thursday, Ralph Weickel from the Corporation for Positive Change is visiting our school to meet with the Faculty, Board, and Parent Council. Using a process called *Appreciative Inquiry*, Ralph will guide us in identifying who we are at our best, and in how to unearth the needed resources already within our thriving community to achieve our goals.

*Appreciative Inquiry* is a process for whole system transformation based on the premise that human systems move toward what they ask questions about. How do we invigorate and support our community, fill our classrooms, add more programs, build a gym and a high school? These are the questions we will be focusing on. We will be conducting interviews with all families seeking input in maintaining the schools vitality and helping Four Winds grow so that we and our children can continue to realize the unique and life-giving aspects of a Waldorf education. A fully engaged community, full classrooms, more programs, a gym, a high school; these goals are within our reach. We can make it happen.

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## 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.



## From the Desk of Marianne Fieber

The weather is turning again and we may now be really heading into some truly autumnal weather. I hope everyone enjoyed the extra time for the Halloween weekend and Parent/Teacher conferences were successful. Last week's Eurythmy demonstration was a delightful opportunity to explore this modern yet holistic movement form which has not only an artistic quality but also a pedagogical and therapeutic aspect. Johanna Rohde led us through a number of exercises in Speech Eurythmy, Tone Eurythmy and Therapeutic Eurythmy. Upon engaging our will in this activity, we could see for ourselves the effect this had on our breathing, our social relationships and sense of self. I am grateful that Johanna is here to work with our students.

I want to thank the volunteers who have been supporting the work of the front office by answering phones, attending to sick and injured children, folding and stuffing mail packets. There have already been a number of projects which would not have been possible without the conscientious help of these volunteers. Please thank them next time you see them.

Our volunteers are:

	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon</u>
Monday	Melissa Rutkowski	Lynn Hill
Tuesday	Glibel Gomez	Jane Jones
Wednesday	Jody Bilstrom	Melissa Rutkowski
Thursday	Shellie Kruchko	Angela Murray
Friday	Karen Friede	Melissa Rutkowski

Hal Hancock also has stepped in as "pinch-hitter" and has done a great job!

## 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,



## This Week's Calendar

November 2, 2011 (Wednesday)  
 8:10–8:25<sup>AM</sup> All Souls Celebration  
 1:30–3<sup>PM</sup> Leadership Council  
 3–4<sup>PM</sup> Executive Steering Committee

November 3, 2011 (Thursday)  
*SCRIP Orders Due / Pick-up*  
 8:00<sup>AM</sup> Groman Cafe  
 8:15<sup>AM</sup> Elves' Market Handwork Group  
 10:30–11:30<sup>AM</sup> Social Inclusion Coordinating Group (SICG)  
 3:15–5:30<sup>PM</sup> Faculty Meeting  
 7:00<sup>PM</sup> Parent Council Meeting with Ralph Weikel

November 4, 2011 (Friday)  
*Newsletter Submission Deadline*  
 3 – 4<sup>PM</sup> Student Service Committee Meeting

November 7, 2011 (Monday)

November 8, 2011 (Tuesday)  
*Annual Fund Pledge Drive*

November 9, 2011 (Wednesday)  
 8:45<sup>AM</sup> School Tour  
 1:30–3<sup>PM</sup> Leadership Council  
 3–4<sup>PM</sup> Executive Steering Committee

## Four Tellings



## 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.
- 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.

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—New Details!

The *Elves' Market* Team met this past week to start planning all of the lovely events for our popular Winter Fair. Over the coming weeks, we will be printing in the *Four Tellings* new details as they are confirmed, sure to get everyone excited and ready to attend!

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. In preparation for the *Elves' Market*, here are ways you can help out in the coming weeks:

- You will see sign-up sheets in the hallway. Events will only run if we have enough parent support, so please consider signing up for at least one (or more) shifts, helping to make our *Elves' Market* a worthy event for current and prospective families!
- 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 (see details below.)
- 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.
- Volunteer to help clean the school and prepare our classrooms for the event. This can be done in several ways, we have an *All School Clean-Up* scheduled for November 12th (details below), contact Robyn Abend to help with a more general and weekly clean-up schedule (details below), contact your teachers to see if they need any room-specific help, or contact Marianne Fieber to see if you can help with the event decorations.
- Do you have a service or something of value to add to our silent auction?

So now for the exciting part....what have we planned? We are excited to offer the following attractions. More are coming, but we're waiting to confirm the details so keep posted!

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- **Artisan Crafts**—Melissa Rutkowski is hard at work to find vendors specializing in unique and handmade gifts for all ages. If you know of anyone who you think might be a perfect fit, be sure to contact her soon!
- **Music**—Seasonal music by our community's wealth of talented musicians will grace the halls. Contact Angela Murray if you're interested in performing.
- **Food**—Two Mother's will offer local, organic, seasonal food. There will also be a "Sweet Shop" (community bake sale), and a selection of coffee, tea, and cider.
- **King Winter's Castle**—King Winter and his helper will entertain children with a story and a small gift. Since this experience is meant for only a small number of children at a time, we will be accepting prepaid, pre-registration for a limited number of spots starting the first week of December. While your children are hearing a story, take a moment to sneak away and shop, or grab a cup of coffee.
- **Early Childhood Winterland Journey**—More details are to follow. As with "King Winter's Castle," prepaid pre-registrations will be accepted for this slightly longer experience.
- **Winter Solstice Room**—Get away from the crowds and relax in this silent and warmly lit room.
- **Jack Frost Children's Craft Workshop**—Children can participate in traditional, natural Waldorf crafts fit for the season. Crafts will appeal to all ages of children.
- **Sparkle Star Market**—This is a "Children's Only" area where children are guided by older students in selecting small, handmade gifts for friends and family.
- **Silent Auction**—Be on the lookout near the cafe for a small silent auction.

The currency for the Elves' Market will be sparkling stars. The entrance fee for children will be \$5, and include 5 stars and a muslin bag. (Additional stars will be on sale for \$1 each, or 6 stars for \$5.) Other than the food and outside vendors, children may use the stars as their currency to buy gifts, crafts, and other experiences.

We hope you are as excited as we are! If you have any other ideas, feel free to let us know!

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

## All Souls Day Festival

The Faculty Festivals Committee, together with our new Spanish teacher, Cristobal Cavazos, would like to announce the first of three new festivals at Four Winds Waldorf School—the *All Souls Day Festival*.

The children in grades three through eight have been learning in their Spanish classes how other cultures celebrate Dia de los Muertos to honor and celebrate loved ones who have passed on. They have been preparing for the All Souls Festival by creating artwork for nature tables, and sharing stories of the joy our dearly departed have brought to our lives. This morning, we gathered to honor our loved ones with a verse and a joyous rendition of the song Eparadisi (In Paradise).

—Nanci Elf, Third Grade Teacher



## 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 to 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.

If you have any craft items; beads, stuffing, yarn, stamps, etc. which have not been transformed into works of art, we would love to make use of them if you are ready to purge your craft closet. Please bring them in and drop them off in the office. This would be a great way to "reduce, reuse or recycle!"

Can't make it, but still want to help? Contact Marianne Fieber or Kassia Shaw if you need any help coming up with an idea of what to make. Some easy starting places could be:

- Handmade treasure boxes, purses or wallets
- Window hangings or ornaments
- Jewellery
- One of a kind drawn or painted art cards
- Painted silk scarves



## Annual Fund

Annual Fund:	Financial Goal	\$40,000
	Participation Goal	100%

Every year Four Winds Waldorf School conducts an Annual Fund Campaign to help fill the gap between tuition revenue and operating expenses. Tuition dollars alone do not cover the costs of the remarkably rich education offered by a Waldorf School. Tuition is kept at a level which makes it possible for a greater diversity 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. To reach our goal of 100% participation each family can give what is possible for them – there is no top or bottom limit to participation. In addition to the knowledge that the school benefits from each contribution, the gift is fully tax-deductible.

The 2011-2012 Annual Fund Brochure and pledge card was sent to our families last week along with the Annual Report for 2010-2011 school year.

**November 8th is our PLEDGE DAY.** Coffee and treats will be available at drop-off time for anyone bringing in a contribution or pledge.

Our fundraising goals for 2011-2012 are:

Annual Fund	\$40,000.00
Scrip	\$5,000.00
Bookstore	\$4,000.00
Festivals	\$2,500.00

## Mysterious Suitcase

Since last year, a dark-green hard-sided suitcase has been camped in the upstairs costume closet. It has a combination lock so the contents cannot be discerned. If not claimed, it will move on to its new home at the dump.

## 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).

## Save the Date

### Lantern Walk

Grades 1-3

Friday, November 11th, from 5-7<sup>PM</sup>

### Early Childhood

Saturday, November 12th, from 4:15-6:15<sup>PM</sup>

Lantern Walk is a wonderful fall festival celebrating the legend of St. Martin, (or Martinmas, November 11th) 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.

### 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.

### All School Clean-Up

Saturday, November 12th 10<sup>AM</sup>–12<sup>PM</sup>

Please help us make the school shine for the benefit of our community and visitors attending the *Waldorf Journey* November 19th and the *Elves' Market* December 10th. We'd like to give the school a thorough cleaning inside and out leading into the holiday season.

### ARTWORKS 2011

Sunday, November 13th

Hubble Middle School, 3S600 Herrick Rd, Warrenville

The Four Winds Waldorf School 7th/8th grade Orchestra will be participating in Warrenville Arts Council's annual Art Works Festival celebrating both performing and visual arts in and around Warrenville.

In addition to our orchestra, we will have a display of visual art throughout the grades. This is a fabulous event and we hope all our families will carve out some time to attend. Our Orchestra, directed by Honna Austin, will be performing between 1:00-1:30<sup>PM</sup>. Our 8th grades students, under the direction of Altin Naska, will share their Waltz, Tango and Salsa to start us off—come see what our students can do!

### DuPage Symphony Orchestra Brownies with Barbara Series

Friday, November 18, 7:30<sup>PM</sup>

Wentz Concert Hall, 171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville

Admission Free—Recommended Minimum Donation Per Adult—\$5 at the door.

Witness the “behind-the-scenes” workings of an orchestra by attending the first half of a DSO's dress rehearsal. Then join Music Director Barbara Schubert and the DSO musicians for refreshments at break and ask them questions about the music, the orchestra, their instruments, their musical training - or anything you'd like. The brownies, courtesy of My Chef Catering, are scrumptious! Preregistration is requested.

## 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 8:00–10:00<sup>AM</sup> 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!

### 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.



## Strategic Planning Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee fully engaged in their effort to deliver a Strategic Plan for Four Winds Waldorf School. We will be actively engaging every parent within our community through interviews and conversations toward identifying goals, developing steps toward their fulfillment and impassioned partners. Please see the attached communication form outlining the topics from our recent conference call meeting.

## Pictures This Week

The *Four Tellings* needs pictures!!! I'd like to publish photos of all the field trips taken at Four Winds Waldorf School, and any other special event or project. Please send your pictures to Kassia Shaw ([kassia.shaw@me.com](mailto:kassia.shaw@me.com)) by Friday, for a Wednesday publication date. Thank you!!!

## 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.



## Scrip for All!

Have you ever wondered what would happen if every family took up the Scrip challenge and purchased Scrip cards to use for their standard buying needs?

*If every Four Winds family and faculty member purchased just \$200 in gas and grocery cards per week it would add up to an average \$1680 for our school every month!*

Don't spend \$200 in gas and groceries per week? That's not a problem because if families purchased \$100 per week in gas and grocery cards combined and \$100 per week in Scrip cards for purchases such as coffee, fast casual dining or dining out, clothing, home improvement or household needs, etc. the numbers would add up even faster since the latter type of purchases generally have an even higher donation percentage to the school when compared to the ever-important gas and grocery cards. Don't believe that these various purchases amount to much?

Here's an example: Typical shopping week for the "Steiner" Family:

	Dollars spent	Contribution to School
<i>Speedway</i> (gas for two cars)	\$84	\$1.68
<i>Land's End</i> (2 sets of silk longjohns with coupon)	\$72	\$11.52
<i>Trader Joe's</i> (paid with AmEx Scrip card)	\$57	\$1.28
<i>Target</i> (misc. grocery/household needs)	\$52	\$1.04
<i>Home Depot</i> (lightbulbs, garden gloves, yard waste bags)	\$37	\$1.85
<i>Amazon</i> (3-hole punch, brown rice flour, hemp milk)	\$40	\$1.60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$342</b>	<b>\$18.97</b>

So if every family used Scrip the way that the Steiner family does, as a school we would generate almost \$50,000 in Scrip earnings for Four Winds this year. That would make an amazing contribution to our school!

If you've been an active Scrip user like the Steiner Family already, thank you so much! If you're new to the Scrip program or haven't used it in a while please consider how you can start integrating Scrip buying into your shopping habits.

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.

Your cash or check payment must be turned in to the office by 8:30AM Thursday for your cards to be included in 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. If you have any questions or concerns about the Scrip program or need help getting involved, please contact Corrie at [corrie23@sbcglobal.net](mailto:corrie23@sbcglobal.net).

## SCRIP Tip of the Week

It's Home Depot Bonus time through Scrip, with a 5% contribution to the school for all Home Depot cards purchased until November 11th.

Please give some thought to your fall clean-up, winterizing, and other home improvement needs and buy accordingly.

As a reminder, it is still American Express Bonus time through Scrip. Amex cards can be used at stores like *Trader Joes* and *Costco* who do not currently offer Scrip cards but who do take American Express. Amex will offer 2.25% back to the school for all Scrip card orders placed between now and November 4th so please stock up now

For more information, or any questions, contact Corrie Goldberg at: [corrie23@sbcglobal.net](mailto:corrie23@sbcglobal.net)



## Focus on Fifth Grade

Led by Mari Cooper

*“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 fifth grade, led by Mari Cooper. I asked Mrs. Cooper to describe the grade’s overarching theme and block study. Here is what she had to say:

The fifth grade is often referred to in a Waldorf school as the Golden Age of Childhood. The child at the age of ten and eleven has grown in so many capacities, physically and intellectually since the early years of grade school. They have also not yet been challenged by the changes brought on by puberty and adolescence. The fifth grader of the twenty-first century, however, faces different challenges than the fifth grader of the first Waldorf School. Perhaps the modern fifth grader stands, not so much in a Golden Age but stands looking out like the God Janus—gazing back to the past while keeping an eye on the future.

A Waldorf fifth grader gets the wonderful opportunity to travel back in time and visit the ancient cultures that Alexander the Great conquered. Through myth and eventually through history the fifth grader is immersed in the ancient cultures of India, Persia, Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Greece. The past comes alive for them, connecting them with humanity through these epochs of the past. Like the Janus face, however, the fifth grader also can begin to see with more clarity the connections between what they are studying with what the older children are learning. Fifth grade is a great year to make regular connections between the earlier grades (e.g. “remember when we learned about

grains in third grade...” ) And what we are now studying (e.g. Botany.) We can go deeper and now that we are beginning to learn History, we can see the progression of Humanity.

Of course the highlight of the Fifth grade is the Pentathlon. The students will join with other fifth grade Waldorf students from the Midwest and participate as Greek city states in the ancient games of Greece. They will be judged on the three primary tenants of Waldorf education: Truth, beauty and Goodness. Now in Fifth grade they can begin to see the differences between these three qualities.

Truth is the objective character of something. In regards to the Pentathlon, a student’s performance is judged on how far they throw a javelin or how fast they run. With beauty, the form and soul gesture of an activity is judged. You could have beautiful correct form and still not throw the discus as far as another student. As for Goodness, the quality of the student’s actions is judged in regards to how they meet an activity. Do they meet the competition with friendliness, sportsmanship and caring?

The application of these qualities can be found in other studies in fifth grade. Last week, the students completed some beautiful drawings of plants. I asked them to comment on each other’s work in regards to truth (accuracy) and beauty (soul experience.) They are still young and they wanted to say that truth and beauty were the same. It is a demonstration of maturity when they can say to one another, “I think your drawing is beautiful, but it is not as accurate as it could be. This is an exciting moment in the growth of a group of students.

—Mari Cooper

# 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.*