

Four Tellings

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

December 1, 2010

Calendar of Events

Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.
-Chinese Proverb

Thursday December 2

Scrip Orders Due.....10 AM
Holiday Sale Orders Due.....12:30 PM
Parent Council.....7 PM
Pick up Scrip.....at school

Friday December 3

Advent Garden, Grades.....in school

Sunday December 5

Advent Garden, Rainbow Garden...1:30 PM
Advent Garden, Oak Tree Garden.....3 PM
Advent Garden, Alumni.....5 PM

Monday December 6

St. Nicholas Celebration.....in school

Thursday December 9

Scrip Orders Due.....10 AM
Pick up Scrip.....at school

Friday December 10

Four Winds Fundraiser Open House....7 PM
At the home of Jocelyne Roy

Monday December 13

Santa Lucia Celebration.....in school

Thursday December 16

Scrip Orders Due.....10 AM
Board Meeting.....7 PM
Pick up Scrip.....at school

Tuesday December 21

Star In The East Pageant.....in school

Weds, Dec. 22— Tues, January 4

Holiday Break

Wednesday January 5

School Resumes



Welcome New Families!

The faculty and staff are delighted to welcome two new students and their families to the Four Winds community. **Anthony "Adi" Salcedo** has joined the Rainbow Garden Mixed Age Kindergarten Class. He lives with his mother, **"Isa" Villafior** and his extended family in Naperville. **Nicky Jones** has joined the 4th Grade class; she lives with her mother and father. **Jane and Daniel**, in Naperville and has 2 older siblings, Daniel and Madi. Please say "hello" to them at drop off and pick up.

Festivals of Light and Advent

Advent (from the Latin *adventus*: the arrival or the coming in of the spirit of joy and peace) is the period including the four Sundays just before Christmas, while the days are still growing shorter. Advent began this year on Sunday, November 28th. In the tradition of the Christian churches, one candle is lit each Sunday until the light of four candles heralds the birth of the Christ child. Yet Advent, and the feast day we now celebrate as Christmas, has a far wider traditional context. Throughout almost every culture of the northern hemisphere—the Roman celebration of Saturnalia, the Hebrew feast of Chanukah (begins December 11 at sundown), the Druid celebration of the Winter Solstice (December 21), the feast day of Mithraism—this midwinter holiday has had festival connotations of light and the sun, of the time when winter's dark draws to a close and the renewed promise that spring's light will soon begin.

If we bring an awareness of Advent to the home, it still brings light and warmth to winter days. A wreath—an attractive arrangement of four candles on the table a symbolic centerpiece. The mystery of candlelight always brings wonder to a small child's eyes. As a family you may want to celebrate this time with an Advent calendar, or by saying the verse below each night at dinner-time. Verses for lighting the Advent wreath candles (done in succession as each week is added):

*The first light of Advent is the light of stones,
Stones that live in crystals, seashells and bones.*

*The second light of Advent is the light of plants.
Roots, stem, leaf, flower and fruit, by whom we live & grow.*

*The third light of Advent is the light of beasts,
Animals of the farm, field, forest, air & sea; all await the birth, in greatest and in least.*

*The fourth light of Advent is the light of humankind,
The light of love, the light of thought, to give and understand.*

The Advent Garden

At many Waldorf schools the season of Advent is marked by the ceremony of the Advent garden, an experience of moving from darkness into the light. The garden is a beautiful spiral pathway of pine boughs, pinecones, golden stars, and crystals leading to the candle in the center. In a darkened room, while lyre music sets a mood of quiet reverence, each child in turn holds an apple with a small unlit candle inserted into it, walks the spiral path to the large candle, lights the small candle, and solemnly returns, placing the apple with lit candle atop one of the golden stars along the way. When all the children have had a turn, the path to the great light is aglow, a shining spiral of light. This year, the grades classes will visit the garden on Friday, Dec. 3rd during the school day. Rainbow Garden will have their ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 5th at 1:30 p.m. and Oak Tree Garden is at 3:00 p.m. On Sunday, please arrive 15 minutes early and gather quietly in your child's classroom. Safety and attire for young children: please follow the guidelines emailed to you by the Early Childhood teachers. Alumni are welcome to visit the garden at 5 p.m.



FROM THE DESK OF *Marianne Fieber*

Welcome back after a much needed and deeply appreciated break. I do hope everyone took time to appreciate the gifts we are all given in big and small ways. I sure did appreciate the sunshine amidst the increasingly cold weather. I appreciated spending time with family and friends. I appreciated being a member of this Four Winds Waldorf Community.

The Hearts, Hands and Voices concert seems so long ago already but it was a terrific celebration of the gifts we give and receive through the work all our teachers undertake with our students. The variety offered during the evening was impressive as well as the way the students presented the work they are engaged in on a daily basis. We all should be proud of the children and their talents. I left the evening both joyously and with a series of questions which I take more as a challenge for the future. We were welcome into another organization's home; Immanuel Presbyterian, a place of worship for our neighbors in Warrenville. I wondered if we were as careful with this home as we could have been. Were we the type of guests we would want to make use of our house when we aren't home? I wondered how could we work together as adults to gently build, in our students, a sense that a way to respect a place is through how we live into it? These were some of the questions I've carried over the past several days and wanted to share them with you. I believe we have an opportunity to be ambassadors of our remarkable school whether people are watching or not. There is a poster in one of the workout rooms at the Park District which states something like: "Excellence is doing your best even when someone isn't watching." I think about that quote quite a lot and it is without a doubt a challenge to live up to every single moment but I do believe it is a worthy challenge.

There are many special heartwarming days to celebrate during this winter season. We will be celebrating the Four Lights of Advent with weekly festivals, the Advent Garden will be walked in celebration of our light in the darkness, St. Nicholas will be stopping by for a visit, Santa Lucia will process in her beautiful candlelit crown among many other wonderful traditions. I hope we can hold this season with warmth and light despite the increasing darkness.

Did you know that we were able to use scrip cards at Home Depot to purchase the garlands for the Advent Garden spiral? Pretty great! There are so many ways to give a little back to our school by using these cards.



Buy Scrip Today!!

Only two more Scrip orders before our holiday break! Let's get ready to celebrate & share some cheer with our school. There are lots of specials this month, including Bed and Breakfast.com 15%, Land's End 18%, LL Bean 17%, and Starbucks 10%...Check out ALL the great December deals at www.shopwithscrip.com, click on "Specials"

Two Ways to order:

- ♦ Paper order and payment due Wednesday 12/1 at 10am.
Print it today & bring it in the morning! See your email.
- ♦ Online order and payment due Thursday 12/2 at 10am

These orders will be available for pick-up Thursday 12/9

Ahead— Our last order of 2010!

Paper order and payment due Tuesday 12/7 at 10am. Look for this form in your family packet tomorrow.

Online order and payment due Thursday 12/9 at 10am
These orders will be available for pick-up Thursday 12/16

Payment may be made by cash, check made out to Four Winds with Scrip in the Memo line, by credit card with a 3% fee or by using the online PrestoPay option.

ShopWithScrip Enrollment Code: **L99B27DD227L2**

Questions? Cate Dyer at cate_the_great@comcast.net
630-853-5063

Giving Tree

The 6th and 7th grades are sponsoring a 'Giving Tree' through Humanitarian Service Project as one of their service projects for the school year beginning tomorrow, December 2nd. The tree will be hung with names of children whose financial situation does not allow for presents. FW 6th & 7th graders each hand painted an ornament which will accompany a recipient's name and information on the tree. The ornaments are beautiful, each a work of art. The best part is that you receive one of these ornaments when you sponsor a needy child by purchasing new items of between \$25-\$50 on the recipient's list. There are only seventeen names, and seventeen ornaments, so hurry and make your choice! Please have all gifts wrapped, with a gift receipt for clothing only (in case clothing does not fit), and in the office by Thursday, December 9th. Thank you!

Borrowed Outerwear

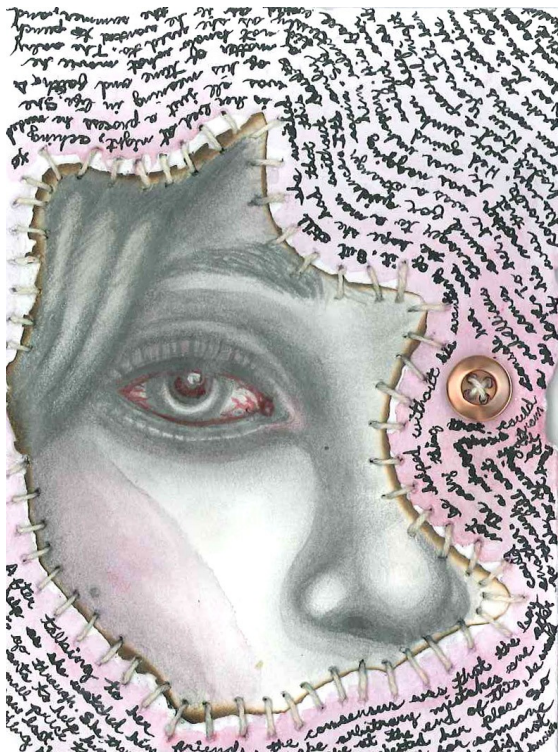
Parents, please be on the lookout for any clothing items that you don't recognize that come home with your child. Students have a tendency to lend others coats, hats, gloves, etc., and then not get them back. Please send back to school any borrowed items.

Mid-Year Parent Surveys

Next week you will receive a parent survey to complete. It is a first effort toward receiving feedback mid-year on how parents are experiencing the work going on in the classrooms. We have received some wonderful and helpful comments already from the first session of the Parent Child programs using this form. These surveys will be kept confidential and the feedback will be delivered through the Professional Development Committee as needed in an effort to strengthen the wonderful teachers we have at Four Winds Waldorf School. I am looking to receive these surveys back by **Monday December 13th**. A more complete survey is being developed by the Parent Council and is scheduled to be presented to the community in the late spring. I strongly encourage you, in the meantime, to utilize the comment or grievance forms (copies in the office) if you feel the need to communicate something to either myself, the Board or staff regarding the school, your observations or concerns. Thank you.

FW Alumnus wins Art Exhibition

The Art Academy of Cincinnati announced the winners of their High School Art Card Exhibition. First place went to Eve Caldwell (FW class of 2007), now a junior at St. Charles North High School. The exhibition is made up of over 700 art card entries created by high school art students across the country. Students were instructed to paint, draw, print onto, doodle, collage, transfer, or try virtually any approach to art on a 4 x 5 1/2 blank card. Congratulations Eve!



2010-2011 Annual Fund Campaign

We plan to raise **\$35,000 with 100% participation** from all of our Four Winds Waldorf Families. This is an important aspect of our yearly operating budget, and helps us not to increase tuition. Giving to the school through our Annual Campaign not only helps our bottom line, it is also fully tax deductible. Pledge forms are available at school.

Open Position – First Grade Teacher for 2011-2012

In anticipation of School Year 2011-2012 we will begin to search for a First Grade teacher for next year's first grade class. The Future First Grade Committee has been formed to guide our current Kindergarten parents along this journey towards becoming Grades parents. The first meeting was held last night. This is a special transition not only for the young children, but for their parents as well. We are hoping that through the efforts of this committee, the questions living within the parents will find answers and next year's first grade will be made up of a strong vibrant group. The notice for the open position will be posted on our website, sent to the Teacher Training Programs and online where possible in the hopes of attracting an enthusiastic, qualified future colleague. The Hiring Committee is forming and will be announced shortly. Earlier in the year we shared the list of criteria developed to include a parent on the Hiring Committee. The list is attached again to this edition of the *Four Tellings*. If you meet the criteria, and are interested in serving on the Hiring Committee, please submit a letter of interest to Marianne by then end of the week so we can meet with those interested and select a parent partner. Thank you.

Race to Nowhere Screening

Another screening of the compelling documentary *Race to Nowhere* will be taking place locally, this time sponsored by Water's Edge Waldorf School. The screening is at 7 pm on Tuesday, December 7 at the Countryside Unitarian Universalist Church in Palatine.

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 Comm.-Weds 3 pm
SICG- Thursdays at 11:15
Full Faculty - Thursday 3:20 pm

See Michael on Video

7th grader Michael Fitzgerald was awarded top prize in the junior division of the Youth America Grand Prix dance competition in November. Michael has been invited to perform in the New York City Finals to be held in March. Michael performed two pieces...a classical variation from the ballet La Fille mal Garde and a contemporary piece entitled "Blues in Motion".



See both performances at these links:

Classical:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WstZeWbVmo>

Contemporary:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRx36wIRxg>

If you would like to see Michael perform live, will be featured in State Street Dance Studio's production of the Nutcracker at the Norris Cultural Arts Center, St. Charles IL. Sat. Dec. 18 @ 7pm and Sun. Dec. 19 @ 2pm. For tickets: 630/584-7200 x 10. \$25 adult/ \$20 children. Tickets for this performance do sell out. If you are able to attend...please let the Fitzgerald's know and they will greet you there!

Amahl and the Night Visitors

Presented by Chamber Opera Chicago

Sat, Dec. 4 at 7:30 pm and Sun, Dec 5 at 3 pm

Harold Washington Library, Pritzker Auditorium, Chicago
A magical and musical holiday tradition for all ages featuring FW parent **Marilyn Maurer** in the chorus. One of the most popular operas of all time, this tells the story of how a crippled young shepherd boy's life changes when he sees an amazing star. Show runs about 1 hour. **Discounted tickets are available through Marilyn as part of the cast: Adults \$15, children \$8.** Go to www.chamberoperachicago.org, and click on the "Order Tickets" link. Once you have selected the type of tickets you would like to purchase, please enter the code "CAST" in the promotional code box. Or, call Marilyn, 630-784-0814. This event sells out, so order soon.

Jyoti Christmas Candle Show

Gifts of style and relevance, eco-friendly, socially responsible artisan gifts for your home. Pure beeswax candles, ornaments, felted birds, other gifts, refreshments. Come & visit and bring a friend! Friday thru Sunday, December 3-5, at the home of **Deidre Levin**, 0No84 Stanley St., Winfield, hours vary each day. For more info, contact Deidre at 630-665-6801.

Share Healthy Holidays with the Art of Massage!

Give the priceless gift of good health with relaxing and rejuvenating massage sessions! Enjoy holiday discounts for yourself, your friends, and your family, available through December 24 only. Visit us at www.healingartshome.com.

- \$500 for 10 sessions - \$50 per massage!
 - \$440 for 8 sessions - \$55 per massage!
 - \$350 for 6 sessions - \$58 per massage!
 - INDIVIDUAL gift certificates \$60 or COUPLES for \$120!
- Don't be KNOTTY - visit us soon! Victor & Dawna Page, LMTs, 630-293-0239.

Children's Wool & Silk Undergarments

To celebrate the Holiday Season, FloweringChild.com is sponsoring a fundraiser for Four Winds. From Nov. 15 to Jan. 1, they will donate 10% of all revenue generated by friends of Four Winds to the school. FloweringChild is an online store for very soft wool and silk undergarments for children. The products assist with the maintenance of body temperature and minimization of skin irritation. The undergarments are organic, fair-trade produced, and washable. To generate a 10% donation to Four Winds Waldorf School, just enter "Four Winds" in the comments field during checkout. Order today at FloweringChild.com.

Holiday Fair at Chicago Waldorf School

Saturday, December 4

9am-5pm; \$5 admission/adults ; children free

Chicago Waldorf School, 1300 W. Loyola Avenue

Plenty of fun and activities for the entire family including candle dipping, jump rope making, puppet plays, a magical market for the children and even learning how to knit in 15 minutes. Grown-ups can browse a fabulous array of unique organic, natural and handcrafted gift items. The Holiday Fair also includes free musical performances along with feel-good holiday food, live seasonal greenery and a raffle ticket included in the \$5 adult admission price. And don't forget—students and children get in free! For info contact Cathey Stamps at cstamps@chicagowaldorf.org or 773-828-8461.

Classifieds

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

Wanted: Matching Winter Coat and Snow Pants- Size 6 girls, and snow boots, size 12. Happy to pay you! Call Michelle Rosen, 630-776-8594.