

# Four Tellings

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

December 15, 2010

## Calendar of Events

### Thursday December 16

Board Meeting.....7 PM  
Pick up Scrip.....at school

### Friday December 17

Jan/Feb Food Form Due.....3 PM

### Tuesday December 21

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

### Weds, Dec. 22— Tues, January 4

Holiday Break

### Wednesday January 5

School Resumes

## Tomorrow! December 16th

4th Grade Orchestra Debut Concert  
2pm in the Community Room

**Jan/Feb Food Form** due on Friday,  
December 17 in the front office.

## FW Artwork Displayed

Four Winds Waldorf School has some of the children's watercolors on display at the Wheaton Public Library in the children's section. The display runs through Jan. 2.

## New Student ID's

FW grade students and all employees are getting their pictures taken in the next few days for school ID's. Many thanks to Rick Chavez for design and execution! ID's will be given free to middle school students (grades 6-7) and employees. All other grades students may purchase them for \$5 each. **Please let Barbara know by December 20th if you would like to purchase an ID for your child in grade 1-5.** ID's should be available by mid January.

## Kitchen Renovation Begins

FW is getting a kitchen makeover starting this week. Work will be completed over break. More details to come!

## FREE!

Cooktop and Dishwasher from our school kitchen. Must take by Friday, December 17th, or it will go on Freecycle!

*How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.*

*-Anne Frank*



## Giving Tree and Community Service from our 6th & 7th Grade students

Did you notice the wonderful gifts adorning our Giving Tree, including a bicycle? We had so many gifts that we had to push them as close to the wall as possible so that they did not get in the way of walking feet. If you look now, you will see that the Giving Tree looks different. All of the presents have been delivered to the Humanitarian Service Project. Shiho Kajiwara, her son, Lintaro, my daughter, Madeline, and I transported the gifts in **two cars**. Delivering them filled my heart with joy, and I felt tremendous gratitude for the generosity of our community and the commitment of our students! I have copied the following from the Humanitarian Service Project's blog:

### Friday, December 10, 2010

We had a bountiful delivery this afternoon. Four of Santa's helpers from Four Winds Waldorf School of Warrenville dropped off beautifully wrapped gifts for 17 children averaging three gifts per child. Thank you Four Winds for making the wishes of so many children come true this Christmas!

If you have not had a chance to see our tree, you may imagine it to be empty, but this is not so. It is true that the beautiful ornaments created by the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students were chosen. However, the tree has been decorated with Shiho's beautiful origami creations! Also, there still are gifts, but now those gifts are boxes of cookies. Sometime this week, the cookies will be brought to Advocate Hospice in Naperville, to be enjoyed by families who are losing a loved one during this blessed season. Again, these cookies have been baked and donated by the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families, and their generosity is obvious!

Finally, last Saturday some of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders braved sleet and rain as they cheerfully decorated a home for children who cannot be with their families for the holidays because their conditions are compromised. While the students decorated (in the creative manner only a Waldorf child would), a patient watched their work with great interest. Some of the students talked about this patient, and how nice it was to know that she appreciated their work. Also, their time was not spent solely on decorating. Despite the cold and wet, there was a jovial atmosphere as the students played in the wet snow in between decorating. We ended our time with hot chocolate, popcorn and peppermint meringues.



## FROM THE DESK OF *Marianne Fieber*

I was delighted to see so many **Parent Feedback Surveys** showing up in my mail folder in the front office and on my desk. Thank you to those who took the time to submit them. It is an important part of our renewed efforts to strengthen the relationship between our families and the school. I, along with Liz Gantner, will be reviewing the surveys and create communication plans with individuals where needed in an effort to develop the talented faculty we have and support them further. Toward the end of the year you will be asked again to provide feedback more widely on the operations of the school. Again, your input will be very much appreciated.

The cold weather of late has alerted us to some issues in our **heating system** and with heartfelt thanks we have benefitted from Gene Walker's expertise and generosity. He came and assessed the situation and in addition to changing some well-used filters, he has replaced some other parts and with Larry McCarthy's assistance we should be a bit more comfortable in our classrooms.

I will be heading off to visit family in Colorado very early on Sunday morning therefore I will miss the last couple days before the holiday break. I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas in whatever manifestation that is celebrated in your home and a Happy New Year.

I am looking forward to 2011. Four Winds Waldorf School is ripe for some incredible, collaborative and transformative work as we create a bright future for ourselves in the form of a strong school year beginning in September. It begins now – believe it or not – as we march forward with our re-enrollment process. Already we've seen some pretty exciting activity around new enrollments and are grateful for the remarkable work Robyn has been doing in that regard.

The **Bookstore** has gotten such a lovely lift; have you noticed? If you still have some holiday shopping to do, take a look at what is now on the shelf. There is something for everyone; if you don't see it there...how about a scrip card? They make fabulous gifts as well.



## Happy Holidays!

### **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

## Accessible to All (ATA) Tuition Adjustment Program

The ATA committee met for the first time yesterday and will make some recommendations to the board. We are really excited about engaging our whole community in a deeper understanding of this tuition adjustment model. More information and meetings for conversations will be scheduled in the new year.

## Report from the SICG Committee

Last November, SICG met with Parent Council to discuss whether we as a community felt the need for a conflict resolution model. In our school's history, we have had several situations which led to some highly charged interactions, and our goal was to create a model for our future. We brought our ideas to Parent Council, which led to an engrossing conversation, many ideas and suggestions. During the next couple of meetings, SICG continued to process our understandings, and we decided to consult Lesley Diaz. Lesley is a graduate of Kim John Payne's Waldorf Collaborative Counselor Program; she chose to specialize in building communities with adults. In our discussions with her, it became clear that without a solid sense of community living within as many adults as possible, one might want assistance, but may not feel safe asking for it. Also, our discussion supported our belief that true community can only come through collaboration of all adults involved.

The question then becomes who are we as the Four Winds community? What are our values? What kind of social atmosphere do we want to create at our school? How do we want to be treated, and by that measure, what agreements can we make in how to treat others? From our discussion with Parent Council, we came to realize that the idea of community is multi-faceted and complex. There may be eternal truths, but without examining our own belief-systems and biases, we cannot advance. Currently, we are considering inviting Lesley to come to Clarus Center for a one day discussion. We imagine this discussion to be a beginning, but also a place where much can be imagined and aspired toward.

SICG will again meet with Parent Council on January 6<sup>th</sup>, the first Thursday after break. We will resume our discussion, share our musings, and inquire about other realizations. Although our last meeting was small, the discussion was spirited and thoughtful. We are hopeful that more adults will join us. Building community is a skill we can use among ourselves, but is also incredibly useful in our lives beyond Four Winds. We recognize that Thursday is difficult for many of us to meet. Therefore we hope with this advance notice you can make necessary arrangements to allow you to attend.

*-Parvaneh Shidnia-Smith*

## Essential Oil Sprays by Lucia LiCavoli

This year, Lucia formulated five essential oil sprays to celebrate the holiday season - Joyful Spirit, Peaceful Spirit, Purifying Spirit, Sacred Spirit and Christmas Spirit. All are packaged in beautiful 4 ounce cobalt blue spray bottles. Christmas Spirit is \$11 per bottle. All of the others are \$13 per bottle. For more information, call Sheryl at 630-393-9800, x220 or stop by Clarus Center and ask for Lucia, Julie or Sheryl.

## Mid-Year Parent Surveys

### Parent Surveys

As promised, the parent surveys were emailed yesterday to parents. There is a survey for the Mixed-Age Kindergarten and Grades Teachers as well as for the Special Subject teachers. Feel free to print a second or third one and indicate on it which class/teacher you are commenting on if you have multiple children. I am looking forward to receiving this feedback as an important step toward strengthening our programs and developing our teachers. Please return completed surveys to my mail box in the front office by **Monday December 13<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you very much for taking the time let us know your thoughts.

## 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.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://FloweringChild.com).

## Chess Wizards

The last session of the chess club before the holidays will be this coming Monday, December 20. It will be a fun class with prizes for everyone. Chess lessons will resume in January. There will be 17 classes until the end of the school year (Jan: 10, 24, 31; Feb: 7, 14, 28; Mar 7, 14, 21, 28; Apr: 4, 11; May: 2, 9, 16, 23; June: 6). Applications were given during the last class, they are also available at the front office. The fee is \$170 (payable to Chess Wizards). There is an option to pay in two installments: \$85 by Jan 10 and \$85 by Mar 28. New children with a strong interest in learning chess are very welcome to enroll. For returning children, please check with your child if he/she really wants to be in this class and learn, because while most of the children loved the class, a few children seemed not really interested and required quite a lot of disciplinary interventions. Overall, the classes went well and all the children learned a lot. If you have any questions, please call Natalia Lukina 617-407-6438.

## Classifieds

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

**Wanted:** Waldorf family for my child Gabriel to spend overnight 1-2 times per month. Rate negotiable, needed immediately. Please call Aurora Giattino at 843-683-8750.