



# Four Tellings

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



December 7, 2011

Office (630) 836-9400  
[www.fourwindswaldorf.org](http://www.fourwindswaldorf.org)  
30W160 Calumet Avenue W  
Warrenville, IL 60555



## 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 27th. 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 20 at sundown), the Druid celebration of the Winter Solstice (December 22), 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 is 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, sea-shells 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.*

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## From the Desk of Marianne Fieber

It already feels that these weeks are going to fly doesn't it? There is so much going on and it is a time to celebrate the gifts we receive every day. I still delight in greeting the children each day. I am so pleased at the sweet display Vicki Blair and Lynn Hill put up in the lobby for the *Elves' Market*, and the ornament tree is coming to life as well. The sweet smell of the greens in the Sunrise Garden last Friday and Saturday for the Advent Spiral was refreshing and the event itself was magical. Thank you to our musicians of staff, parents and alumni who filled the air so lovingly to create a perfectly peaceful mood.

We had a small but hearty group for the public Lantern Walk as part of Warrenville's *Holly Days Festival* last Friday. The Murrays, the Kruchkos and I were 7 strong with lanterns a-blazing walking to the remarkable sound of bagpipes. George III carried one of our street signs to let folks know who we were and there were some nods of recognition and admiration of the lanterns. We were a hit in a gentle, unassuming way. We stuck around for a little of the entertainment. Nate Kruchko was incredibly brave and volunteered without hesitation to help the choir from Wheaton-Warrenville South sing the Twelve Days of Christmas. Nate flapped away to represent "Two Turtle Doves" on the big stage set up on the street between the Park District and police station. It was incredibly sweet. I am really pleased we were a presence at this city festival.

So many wonderful treasures are being dropped off in preparation for the *Elves' Market*. I want to encourage everyone to invite your friends and families to come celebrate with us on Saturday.

By now many of you know that I visited Liz Gantner in Hawaii for Thanksgiving. I thought I would share a few photos by way of a warm greeting from Liz.

*Clockwise from top left, Liz on her lanai front room; Liz with her grandson Kainoa at the Christmas tree farm on the mountain; and finally, Liz and Marianne's Thanksgiving walk down the block after dinner.*



## This Week's Calendar

December 7, 2011 (Wednesday)

1:30–3PM Leadership Council

3–4PM Executive Steering Committee

7th & 8th Grade Community Service Field trip with Snug Hugs for Kids Program with Merlin 2000 Mile Shops

December 8, 2011 (Thursday)

*SCRIP Orders Due / Pick-up*

8:00AM Groman Cafe

10:30–11:30AM Social Inclusion Coordinating Group (SICG)

1–6PM Elves Market Set-Up

3:15–5:30PM Faculty Meeting

December 9, 2011 (Friday)

*Newsletter Submission Deadline*

3–4PM Student Service

Committee Meeting

December 10, 2011 (Saturday)

10AM–5PM Elves' Market

December 12, 2011, (Monday)

*Third Light of Advent Grades Assembly*

December 13, 2011 (Tuesday)

*Santa Lucia Celebration In School*



## Annual Fund Update

Donations to our Annual Fund continue to come in and our numbers continue to rise.

Our goals are 100% Participation and \$40,000.

As of Monday we have raised \$24,080 and have reached 41% participation for families. We have quite a way to go to reach our participation goal of 100%.

## Save the Date

**The Shepherd's Play**  
December 21st at 1:00PM  
Blanchard Alliance Church  
30W251 Butterfield Rd  
Warrenville, IL 60555

The schedule for the day will be adjusted in the following way:

8:00–12:15	Morning Lesson and classes as usual
12:15PM	Lunch
1:00PM	Performance begins
2:00PM	Dismissal from Church

Please note, there will be no aftercare on Wednesday, December 21st.



## Leadership Council Update

Over the last few weeks, Leadership Council has been working on the following items:

- Planning community lantern walk at *Warrenville Holly Days*
- Monitoring Annual Fund progress
- Following-up on the new cleaning company and schedule
- Looking at Curative Eurythmy proposal
- Looking at eighth grade class trip proposal
- Planning our school offering for *Artworks*
- Reviewing fourth grade class fund-raiser proposal
- Reviewing Adult Conflict Resolution Process
- Creating a presentation on Internal Marketing

— Mari Cooper

## Parent Council Sponsors Ski Night!

Parent Council is excited to sponsor our annual Four Winds Waldorf School Ski Night at Wilmot Mountain in Wilmot, Wisconsin from 5PM-11PM on Friday, December 16th.

Cost: \$33 (includes lift ticket, lesson, and \*equipment rental)  
\$23 (includes lift ticket, lesson)

We need at least 15 people to take advantage of these amazing group prices. Please bring your payment to the office by Thursday (December 15th). Make your check out to "Wilmot Mountain." You will not be able to show up and pay. We will leave the school's parking lot at 3:15PM. Students need to be under the supervision of parents.

\*If you need equipment, you must register in advance online ([www.wilmotmountain.com](http://www.wilmotmountain.com)) to ensure equipment availability.

— Bruce Cooper

## 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 students walked the Advent Garden on Friday, December 2nd, and the Early Childhood classes and general community walked it on the weekend. Enjoy the pictures taken at the event by Carlene Mogavero, the Oak Tree Kindergarten teacher, throughout this week's newsletter.

## Holiday Humanitarian Service Project

Have you had a chance to enjoy the beautiful display in our entryway? It is an Advent Calendar, on loan from Vicki Blair, and put together with help from Lynn Hill. There are snow covered trees and playful elves circling the calendar. The cubby holes list the days until Hanukkah and Christmas. The display is simple and rustic, and now, if you peer into a cubby hole, you will find that it contains a gift! These gifts are paper stars decorated with glitter. Each was individually done by a 7th or 8th grader during a Social Exploration class. Accompanying the ornament is the name of a needy girl or boy who wishes for presents. The children names were given to Four Winds by the Humanitarian Service Project.

I hope you will be able to “adopt” one of these children, and make their wishes come true. If you are able to make purchases, please pick out one of the ornaments. The name and information is attached to the ornament. A sign-up sheet is located to the right of Vicki’s display. Please list the child’s name and ID number, as well as your family’s name. Also, after purchasing the presents, please make sure to wrap each one, and clearly list the ID number and child’s name upon each package.

Last year, it was a lot of fun receiving the wrapped gifts. It was wonderful to feel the ample generosity that exists in our community. I am looking forward to delivering another mound of festive presents to Humanitarian Service Project.

Blessings to all,  
Parvaneh Shidnia-Smith  
SICG Coordinator

## New Cleaning Contract

Welcome to our Cleaning Crew! Corvus Janatorial is the name of the company that has been hired to begin cleaning our school Tuesdays and Fridays (or Saturday). Several bids were sought and conversations were had with the various companies and we have settled on Corvus Janatorial who also has a commitment to green cleaning. The faculty and staff will continue to support the overall cleaning effort but the floors will be mopped, all the bathrooms will be cleaned and the common areas will receive a thorough treatment twice a week. I walked with Margarite and Lonny on Friday to give them a tour of the place and clarify the spaces they will be responsible to clean. They both were delighted with the mood of our school and noticed the Organic chocolate, honey, eggs and remarked that this was a very special place. If you see them around when you are here on a Tuesday or Friday evening, be sure to say hello. We will be reviewing the arrangement after a 90-day trial prior to entering into a longer-term contract.

A HUGE THANK YOU to our volunteer cleaning crew. You have done a really terrific job up to this point and it is time to hang up your mops. We are sincerely appreciative; Robyn, Lynn, Rachel, Kristie, Jocelyne, Victor and more.

## After School Program

From time to time we hear requests for an after school program. We have attempted to offer this to our families and have struggled with enrollment that was consistent and covered the cost of staffing. It is time to put the request out to our families again to find out who may be interested in an after-school program from 3:00–6:00PM Monday through Friday.



## Twinkle Lights?

Does your family have any extra holiday lights that you might be willing to loan the school over the weekend for *Elves’ Market*?

If you do, please bring your working lights, labeled with your family’s name, to the front office. We will use them over the weekend, and they will be ready for pick-up the following Monday. We need both white and colored lights—though please, no blinking lights.

Thank you!

## Elves’ Market Music Schedule

While you’re sipping on hot coffee or cider with your Sweet Shoppe treat, enjoy a taste of our community’s varied (and wonderful!) musical talents.

10-10:45AM	TBA
11-11:45AM	Flamenco Guitar with Spanish teacher, Cristobal Cavazos
12-12:45PM	Ten Penny Annie, Four Winds Waldorf School teachers & parents
1-1:45PM	Hammered Dulcimer, Alison Coyer
2-3:45PM	Violin, with Orchestra teacher, Honna Austin and possibly others



## Classified & Newsletter Submissions

Please submit classifieds and newsletter content by Friday afternoon before school ends to be published the following Wednesday.

Classifieds should 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.

Many thanks this week to Marianne Fieber, Brenna McLachlan, and Carlene Mogavero for submitting pictures this week!

## Elves' Market Is Here!

Over the last few weeks, we have been highlighting all of the attractions for both children and adults at this weekend's *Elves' Market*.

Thank you so much to everyone who has already signed up for a shift and helped post fliers around the community. If you haven't done so yet, it's not too late! We are hoping that every family is able to contribute to the *Elves' Market* in the following ways.

- Sign up for a shift.
- By Friday, bring a minimum of 10 items valued between \$0.50 and \$5.00 to the front office to be sold at the *Sparkle Star Market*—an exclusive children's shopping area where children can buy gifts for friends and family. See the end of last week's newsletter for ideas of things you can make or purchase.
- Bring your bake sale items to school as early as Friday, or on Saturday, to be sold in our *Sweet Shoppe*. Please remember to label your ingredients. Due to food allergy concerns, we cannot accept items with nuts. We will take care of the pricing for you.
- Bring in your handmade *ornaments* to hang on our fundraiser tree by the front office. Ornaments will sell for \$15 at the *Elves' Market* at our bookstore's booth in the vendor room. Funds will directly benefit the school.
- If you're interested, don't forget to sign up for the *talent show*.
- Invite someone else to come! That's right, this event is open to the public, and a wonderful opportunity to both show off our school and do a bit of fundraising at the same time. Extra flyers are available in the office.

We have opened up a limited number of prepaid, nonrefundable, registrations to the following attractions:

- Two showings of "Good Friends" puppet show and craft presented by early childhood teacher, Karen Hayes, in the Winterland Journey Room (2 stars)
- Two showings of "Elves' and the Shoemaker" puppet show and craft presented by early childhood teacher, Carlene Mogavero, in the Winterland Journey Room (2 stars)
- Visits with King Winter in his castle to hear stories of winter and receive a special souvenir (2 stars)
- Limited spaces at the "Wishing Stars" activity where children will select a handmade beeswax star candle to float in pool of water. They will hear a poem, and have a chance to reflect on their stars for a few minutes, before making a wish, and blowing them out. The stars will be sent home for more wishing! (2 stars)

**Renter Elves** will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis through sign-ups as of Monday. They will likely be booked by Saturday, so don't wait to sign up! Elves will watch children, ages 3 and up, for 1 and 1.5 hour increments for \$5 per child, per hour. They will chaperone a maximum of 3 children at any time. Elf fees will go towards to the eighth grade class trip fund. For a successful Elf experience, please consider the following tips:

- We recommend that you pre-register your children for activities during your Elf's time, and that you make sure your children have ample stars to keep them entertained.
- Tipping is encouraged.
- Meet your Elf in the "Elf Hut."

This is an excellent opportunity to share the warmth of our community with

friends and family. Remember, it is a fundraiser as well, so please come prepared to purchase local gifts for friends and family, and activities for your children.

## Only 2 SCRIP Orders Left Before Winter Break!!!!

We are so grateful to all of the families who have made it a priority to include Scrip when doing their regular shopping and holiday shopping this year. Over \$1500 have been raised for Four Winds since the start of the school year, and the holiday season offers an especially good opportunity to generate big dollars for our school just by planning ahead and making purchases through Scrip. There are so many ways to use Scrip this holiday season be it as a gift card given directly to a friend or family member, using Scrip cards to purchase holiday gifts for others, food for a holiday meal, for your holiday greeting cards, special occasion clothing, gas for a journey, and so much more. An increasing number of retailers are offering "bonus" percentages back to school through Scrip as the holidays near. This week, AMC Theaters (12%), Bass Pro Shops (14%), iTunes (7%), Motherhood Maternity (11%), and Starbucks (9%) join the list of 20+ vendors offering increased funds back through Scrip for a limited time. Please see [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com) and click on "Specials" for the complete list of promotional offers. We also strongly encourage you to consider registering for PrestoPay to allow you to make the last-minute purchases through Scrip that seem to pop up when you least expect them. You are not ever required to pay with Presto Pay, but many families who have set up PrestoPay accounts find it to be a very helpful option for ScripNow! and card reload purchases as well as one-step ordering and payment.

As always, to register to order through 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, just go to [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com) and place your order online. Please remember that your order must be placed and paid for by cash or check in the office by 8:30AM on Thursday to be included in the school order (orders paid with PrestoPay can be received as late as 10AM). 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 or PrestoPay, please contact Corrie Goldberg at [corrie23@sbcglobal.net](mailto:corrie23@sbcglobal.net). She is very nice and helpful, so don't be shy.

**Scrip Tip of the Week:** Did you forget to place your order this week? Stop by the office to purchase inventory cards from select vendors before you shop. There will also be Scrip cards available for purchase during the *Elves' Market* this Saturday. We hope to see you there!

## Four Winds Waldorf School Wish Lists

Speaking of ways to use your SCRIP cards, it's that time of year again when many in the community like to give their teachers and/or classrooms a small gift. Throughout the year, faculty have been compiling a list of things they "wish" they had for their classrooms. Why not take a moment to see if you can deliver an early holiday gift to a teacher at the school. Check with the front office to see if you have any of the items on the list are at your disposal.



*Sparkle Star Market treasures have begun to trickle in this week!*





*Our students have been hard at work during their First Thursday afternoons over the last two months, making items to contribute to our Sparkle Star Market. Be on the lookout for all of their wonderful contributions!*



## 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.

## Classifieds

☺ Seeking Occasional Nanny/family care for 7 year old four winds student. As needed help for when primary nanny is unavailable. Must be Waldorf minded, and have conscious eating habits. Location: Your home, & ours (Oswego) Pay preferred, also open to barter on occasion. Contact Aurora Giattino: [aurorainchicago@yahoo.com](mailto:aurorainchicago@yahoo.com)

☺ Seeking housemates at our growing farm house in Oswego! Currently 2 Waldorf families here. Open to single parents, an average size family, or single male/female. You are health conscious, organic eating, have kitchen skill, community minded, family oriented, enjoy kids, financially stable, interested in farming, co-op's & animals. Rent negotiable: \$500+, open to partial barterers. Contact Aurora Giattino: [aurorainchicago@yahoo.com](mailto:aurorainchicago@yahoo.com)

☺ Nanny available for fellow waldorf families. Currently provides care for one Four Winds student, and is enrolled in Waldorf early childhood training. Services: Childcare, home-care, meal prep, mothers helper, healthy lifestyle consulting. Contact Sareen: (831) 818-8410

☺ Exchange Students Arriving in West Suburbs: Host Families are needed for a 2 week stay. The Toulouse/Marseille-Chicago student exchange program enables high school-age students the opportunity to live with an American host family. During the weeks of April 15–April 28 or April 21–May 5, French students ages 15-18 will be placed with local families. Students originate from high schools in France. All students arrive with insurance via the French international exchange organization. Hosting an exchange student allows your family to share American hospitality, creating life long friendships and reciprocal travel opportunities. For more information, contact Dottie Lipinski or Amy Hansberger at: [dottie.lipinski@gmail.com](mailto:dottie.lipinski@gmail.com), or (630) 251-4270 or (630) 779-3340.

☺ Experienced professional roofer looking for off season odd jobs. Gutter cleaning, snow removal, last minute leaf removal, heavy lifting, garage clean up, repairs, interior painting etc. Very reasonable pricing on all. Contact Jonathan Goodwin (630) 809-8174.

☺ After-School Childcare needed. A potential new family interested in our school needs childcare for her two children from 3:00-6:00PM Monday–Friday during school weeks. We are looking to see if there is an adult interested in providing this childcare at the school. They are willing to pay \$15 per hour for two boys in grades 4 and 2. Please contact the front office if you are interested.