

# Four Tellings

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

February 9, 2011

## Calendar of Events

**Thursday February 10**  
Scrip Orders Due.....10 am

**Friday February 11**  
Faculty/Board Retreat.....7 pm

**Tuesday February 15**  
4th Grade Parent Meeting.....7 pm

**Wednesday February 16**  
School Tour .....8:45 am  
Early Childhood Combined Parent Mtg.....7 pm

**Thursday February 17**  
Scrip Orders Due.....10 am  
Board Meeting.....7 pm  
Food Forms for March/April due.....3 pm

**Mon-Fri February 21-25**  
Winter Break, No School

**Wednesday March 2**  
Parent Tea.....8:15 am

**Thursday March 3**  
Scrip Orders Due.....10 am  
Parent Council.....7 pm

**Saturday March 5**  
Story and Craft.....2 pm

**Tuesday March 8**  
"Enjoying Your Child's Adolescence" ...7 pm  
Lecture by Carol Triggiano



## Food Forms due Thursday, February 17th, 3 p.m.

Food Form for March/April attached in today's email.

## Two Mothers Dinner Fundraiser

Friday, February 11, 2011  
6:00-9:00 pm  
Inglenook Pantry 11 N. 5th St., Geneva, IL  
RSVP: [info@twomothersfoods.com](mailto:info@twomothersfoods.com)

## Scrip Orders!

Have you forgotten we have the easiest way for the school to make money? Please participate by placing your order TODAY! [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)

Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face.  
-Victor Hugo

## First Grade Readiness Project – Hand-Crafted Jump Ropes

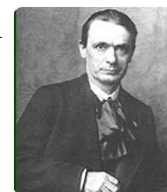
Students who turn five years of age by June 1st are considered “true Kindergarten” in the fall and play an integral role in the day-to-day life of our Mixed Age Kindergarten classroom. They bring much creativity to the indoor and outdoor play time, and their artistic work becomes more focused and goal-oriented.

Hand-crafting a jump rope is in many ways a “rite of passage” for the Kindergarten children at our school, and it is taken up with great enthusiasm after the winter holidays. The preparation for this project begins in January with students learning first how to do a slip knot. Then they practice finger-knitting with wool yarn until they became proficient. Next, each child chooses a colored yarn and learns how to wind it into a ball, which is a great way of supporting right, left hand-coordination. The children then begin finger-knitting what will become their First Grade Ready project. Each child finger-knits three long strands of string (about 9 feet) and later braids these finger-knitted strands into a jump rope. When they are finished, wooden handles are added, and the children eagerly go outside to practice jumping with their newly made jump ropes.



## Rudolf Steiner: The Man, The Age, The Path

Whether they know it or not, Waldorf teachers and parents are continually interacting with Rudolf Steiner's ideas and discoveries. But until now, there has been little opportunity for those new to Steiner's philosophy to encounter it in a non-intimidating, self-paced manner. With this in mind, **Eugene Schwartz**, master Waldorf teacher and teacher educator, has created a unique multi-media online course to introduce (or re-introduce) Rudolf Steiner to a 21<sup>st</sup> century audience. During this year, commemorating the 150th anniversary of Steiner's birth, **the course will explore Steiner's biography, the times in which he lived, and, above all, the significance of his path of inner development for the individual, for humanity, and for the future of the Earth.** There will be a special segment for Waldorf parents and for teachers new to Steiner's philosophy. This presentation will be online from March 1 through April 1. Participants can watch and listen as often as they wish during the month. The course fee is \$35.00 per person. [Click here for more information.](#)



## FROM THE DESK OF *Marianne Fieber*

When I was working out Saturday morning at the Warrenville Park District, there was a television show running on the television above the treadmill on which I was running. The sound wasn't on but I was reading the subtitles. The show was a back-stage look at the HGTV show Holmes on Homes. Mike Holmes is a master contractor and host. I know, I'm writing about TV in a Waldorf School newsletter but bear with me. During the episode he spoke about how his father taught him to "do it right the first time" which has become one of his guiding principles. He explained how his father didn't give him the steps to do something the "right" way but rather had a young Mike watch him, (modeling the skill) then had him do it himself (engaging his will) and then asked him, "why did we do it this way?" (calling upon his thinking capacity). The use of questions as a method for educating rather than a "data-dump" was a way of life for this amazing craftsman. Mr. Holmes recognized that the questions posed by his father required him to think for himself, thereby understanding more fully why he was doing what he was doing. He stated that if "a teacher" gives the answers rather than letting the other discover them on their own; they can become more like a machine than a thinking human being. Wow! I was impressed. This guy is worth looking into more fully. He's created a foundation to help unfortunate folks who have made bad decisions regarding home purchases or remodeling projects. One of his goals is to educate for the future. He comes into contact with shoddy work all over the place and he has taken up the challenge of educating the new generation in how to build quality, how to build right and how to build respect. He is educating for a better future, just like we are striving to do as a Waldorf School.

Our second community conversation last night was a wonderful gathering. I will be putting together a report in the next days with some of the highlights and exciting thoughts that were juggled. So far I must say I have been pleased with the quality of conversation and look forward to the next one scheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:30 pm following a pot-luck. Please look for further details and sign-up sheets for food and childcare.

Many thanks to our volunteers who made Candlemas happen this year. Kelly Kasper graciously took up the beeswax and gathered her team to pull off this wonderful festival in celebration of the coming spring.

Just a quick reminder that the USAgain bin is ready to receive your textiles: old clothes, carpets, shoes etc. The goods are picked-up from the bin regularly, weighed and we will receive \$.02 per pound toward our fundraising goal. IF you have stuff to get rid of, rather than toss it into the garbage, bring it here!

SCRIP SCRIP SCRIP SCRIP SCRIP!

## Candlemas Thanks

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with Candlemas today! The children really enjoyed making their candles. Be sure to wait a few months before you burn them, so they can season (they'll burn longer.) Many thanks to **Parvaneh Shidnia-Smith, FW Alum Olivia Savino, Angela Murray, Diedre Levin, Marilyn Maurer, Thea Olsen, Jane Jones, Stephen Tonks, Alyssa Maurer, Margaret Sauer, Melissa Rutkowski, Eileen Campe, Vicki Blair, Cate Dyer, and Jocelyne Roy.**

*-Kelly Kasper, Candlemas Coordinator*

*Save the Date!*

## Enjoying Your Child's Adolescent Years

Tuesday, March 8, 7 p.m., in the Community Room

*Presented by Carol Triggiano, Master Teacher, CWS*

Adolescence is a time of tremendous growth, challenging emotions, social learning and dawning potential. Come and explore ways to not only handle the stormy teenage years, but also to actually enjoy them. With Steiner's view of the developing human being and the wisdom of a Waldorf curriculum, YES, it can be possible. Come and hear how we can frame adolescence in an holistic picture of child development. Bring lots of questions.



## Parent Tea Update

Our next Parent Tea is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2nd from 8:15-9:15 a.m. in the Sunrise Garden Room. Joining us will be Naomi Studebaker to speak about how the body midlines affect learning. All are welcome to attend. Young children welcome as well.

*-Kelly Kasper and Parvaneh Smith*

## Valentine Open House

**Our Children Our Earth: Toys, Silks & Eco-Goods**

707 Morton St., Batavia, (630) 406-8267

Thursday, February 10, 5-8 pm

Friday, February 11, 10 am- 3 pm

14% of your purchase will be donated to Four Winds Waldorf School upon request! BRAND NEW, Just in time for Valentine's Day: Raw, Organic Chocolate & Handmade Soaps (both made locally!!)

[info@OurChildrenOurEarth.com](mailto:info@OurChildrenOurEarth.com); [www.facebook.com/OurChildrenOurEarth](http://www.facebook.com/OurChildrenOurEarth)

## Classifieds

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

**Gently Used Hiking Boots**, women's size 8, best offer. View in school front office. Offered by Naomi Studebaker