

Four Tellings

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

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

March 2, 2011

Springtime is the land awakening.
The March winds are the morning yawn.
~Lewis Grizzard

Calendar of Events

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

Thursday March 10
Scrip Orders Due.....10 am

Parent-Teacher Conferences....3:15-7:30 pm
School in session today; conferences begin after school
Sign-up for your conference in the front office now.

Friday March 11
No School-
Parent-Teacher Conferences....9:30am-4pm
Sign-up for your conference in the front office now.

Saturday March 12
Community Potluck.....12 noon
Community Conversation.....1-2 pm

Wednesday March 16
School Tour.....8:45 am

Thursday March 17
Scrip Orders Due.....10 am
Board of Trustees Meeting.....7 pm

Friday March 18
Re-Enrollment Deadline.....3 pm
Jump-A-Thon.....In School
Janet Oliver Free Lecture.....7 pm

Saturday March 19
Handle Workshop.....8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Sunday March 20
Handle Workshop.....12 noon to 5 pm
FW Skate Party.....12:30 to 4 pm
At Funway in Batavia



Scrip Orders!

The easiest way for the school to make money: Scrip! Please participate by placing your order TODAY!

www.shopwithscrip.com

Parent Education Series:

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-Teacher Conferences, March 10-11

It’s Parent-Teacher conference time and the grades teachers have been working diligently over the past several months to develop a stream-lined format for student assessments. We began the work during two of our *Special Thursday* meetings and now have a complete plan which will be published in next year’s handbook. Here is what you may expect for the upcoming conferences:

Through conversations with the parents, the teacher shares observations on each child and reviews the child’s work: Main Lesson Books, paintings, drawings, and emerging skills. Grades 5 through 8 will include a review of homework, project work, and performance on quizzes and tests.

In preparation for Mid-Winter conferences and the end of the school year, 2nd-8th grade teachers will complete an “Assessment Rubric” for each student in the following areas.

- Sensory-Motor Skills
- Language Arts Skills
- Mathematics Skills
- Science Skills

Mid-Winter rubrics can be reviewed by parents. End-of Year rubrics will be mailed to parents by the end of June.

Sign up for Parent-Teacher Conferences in the front office. You may also sign-up for a conference with our administrative staff to speak about any concerns around re-enrollment. Childcare is available from our 7th graders for a donation. Sign-up for childcare in the office as well.

Sled-A-Thon Update: Now it’s a Jump-A-Thon

Well, it looks like the Ground Hog was correct in predicting an early end to winter. The snow that was covering the ground as we planned the initial Sled-a-Thon fund-raiser has melted and headed to the local creeks and rivers. But we will not be deterred and the children will have their end...only without snow. We will be modifying the activities and center them around **jump roping**, another Waldorf favorite of the children. And the date has been moved from this Friday the 4th to Friday the 18th of March. Look for more information to be sent to you via e-mail early next week.



FROM THE DESK OF *Marianne Fieber*

Welcome Back! I hope everyone had a wonderful mid-winter break. I happened to find myself in New Orleans, Louisiana for much of the break. I had meetings to attend for the Central Regional Council of the Anthroposophical Society as I am a member of that group. One of our colleagues happens to live in New Orleans and when we were determining where we wanted to meet this February...the choice was fairly easy to make. Four of the council members are northerners (Minneapolis, Ann Arbor, Fargo and Warrenville) so to leave the cold snowy weather behind was fantastic. The temperatures were in the mid-70s every day. The live oak trees are shedding their previous year's leaves to make space for the new growth. This creates an autumnal mood but... lots of green and fresh breezes smelled of spring. While we were down in the balmy gulf we celebrated Rudolf Steiner's 150th birthday. It was a terrific opportunity to meet with teachers, parents and board members from the Waldorf School of New Orleans. I had a lovely conversation with their administrator as she took us on a tour of their school which is now housed in a building which originally was a bakery. Their first school building was not habitable after Hurricane Katrina. They are transforming their space with lazure painted walls, silks on the ceiling and natural toys in the kindergarten. Also at the party were members of different anthroposophical study groups and initiatives. They have a number of folks dedicated to increasing the presence of bio-dynamic agriculture and curative education within their community. It was such a pleasure to meet these interesting people and connect to another Waldorf School which strengthens my sense of connection to the wider world of Waldorf. Check out their website: Waldorf School of New Orleans.

As we take hold of the next coming weeks there are a few exciting events coming up. Carol Triggiano from Chicago Waldorf School is giving a talk on adolescence (see the blurb in this issue). It is not to be missed! Next week Thursday and Friday are the Parent Teacher conferences as well as an opportunity to schedule a conversation with myself, a board member or Robyn to discuss any questions you may have about re-enrollment for next year. Please sign up in the front office.

Later in March we will have visits from representatives from WECAN (Waldorf Early Childhood Association in North American) and AWSNA (Association of Waldorf Schools in North America) as part of our ongoing effort to improve our school and plan for the future.

Don't forget that you can make money for the school while you do your regular shopping or fill your car up with gas... SCRIP is the key!

Food for Thought

A reminder about snacks and meals at school
Snack and lunchtime are times for the children to nurture their bodies and come together in community. Parents of children in the grade school and in the extended care afternoon program are asked to pack nutritious food and a water bottle for their children. **Please do not send junk food, especially high sugar foods, Lunchables, candy, caffeine-containing drinks, or gum to school.** We request that parents refrain from sending juice to school because of the concentrated amount of sugar.



Keep in mind that we do have children enrolled at Four Winds with life threatening allergies to nuts. At this time, the 2nd grade, Rainbow Garden, and Extended Care are completely nut free, and Sunrise Garden (Parent-Child) is peanut-free. If your child is in any of these classrooms/programs, we ask that you pack only nut-free items for your child. Thank you!



Lace up and Get Rollin'!

Parent council is hosting a Four Winds roller skating event at Funway Skate Center in Batavia. Join us on Sunday March 20th from 12:30 until 4pm for Funway's Sunday Matinee

Skate featuring family style fun at it's best, oldies to top 40, Hokey Pokey, races, couples, trios and yes- The Chicken Dance! Admission-\$5, skate rental- \$2.50 for retro quads \$3 for inline skates. Hope to see you there!

Parent Tea Musings

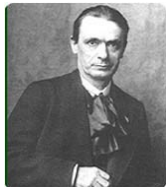
On March 2nd, Naomi Studebaker joined our Parent Tea. Naomi is our resident support practitioner that can be retained independently. She gave a talk on how reflexes and the body mid-lines affect academics, and the specific therapies that can integrate the human body. To continue our exploration, we have asked Thea Olson, our Handwork Teacher, to instruct us in knitting. This activity requires us to cross our midlines, one of the ways to harmonize our bodies. We are providing an article about the benefits of knitting entitled "Spinning Straw into Gold, the healing potential of handwork." You can obtain a copy from Parvaneh's desk. We hope that you will join us next Wednesday, from 8:15 until 9:30 a.m. Please come even if you were not able to attend the other meetings! There is no reason to feel shy or ill-prepared, as each meeting is designed to act independently. We hope to see you there!

-Kelly Kasper & Parvaneh Shidnia-Smith, Coordinators



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 21st 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-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.](#)

Simplicity Parenting

Kim John Payne, M.Ed.

Saturday, March 19th, 2011 7-9 pm

Location: University of Wisconsin Arboretum, 1207 Seminole Highway Madison, WI

Simplicity Parenting offers a clear and effective pathway to simplify four areas of home-life: environment, rhythms & rituals, schedules and filtering adult concerns. This reduces stress on children, allowing more time and energy for connection, creativity and relaxation. Hosted by the Madison Waldorf School. Buy tickets on-line at www.madisonwaldorf.org or Brown Paper Tickets 1-800-838-3006, \$15.00 on-line or \$22.00 at the door.

Weekly Regular Meetings

Grades Faculty - Tuesday 1:15 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

Special Subject Faculty- Thursday 12:45 pm

Full Faculty - Thursday 3:20 pm



Batavia Environmental Commission presents Green Night Out at the Movies

Bag It: is your life too plastic?

Saturday, March 5th, 7 pm, FREE
Batavia City Hall

Featuring Four Winds' "very own" **Two Mother's Foods** speaking about their cutting edge efforts, leading the way as a restaurant without waste! *Bag It* is an educational, inspirational and fun film that addresses the environmental and health aspects of plastics in our lives & our world. Come join your friends, share a laugh, & some free popcorn while learning more about our "plastic footprint" how and why we should reduce it. Bring your own reusable bowl and bottle for free popcorn and drinks. Come dressed "all in plastic" as the "bag It" person for possible prizes. (Note: We encourage our potentially plastic adorned participants to find a source of clean PREVIOUSLY used bags for costuming, thanks.) See you at the movies!

Classifieds

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

LOST; black, Columbia snowpants. Size 8/10. Did anyone grab an extra pair at the Poloski's house? Julie Pin 847-372-3586.

Needed: Someone to do light mending/sewing for clothing repair. Would like to drop things off to you at school. Will negotiate fee. Please call Aurora Giattino, 843-683-8750.