

# Four Tellings

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

March 9, 2011

Love extends beyond the bounds of family to all human beings  
and is changed into vivifying, creative, transmuting power.  
-Rudolf Steiner

## Calendar of Events

### Thursday March 10

Scrip Orders Due.....10 am

Parent-Teacher Conferences....3:15-7:30 pm

School in session today; conferences begin after school

### Friday March 11

**No School-**

Parent-Teacher Conferences....9:30am-4pm

### 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

Free HANDLE Lecture.....7 pm

Presented by Janet Oliver

### 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



## Naomi Studebaker's support work at Four Winds

Naomi will be in the Handwork Room for conversation with parents during the parent - teacher conference days. You can sign up for an appointment in the front office, or if I am available while you are school for conferences, you can just stop by.

## Scrip Orders!

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

[www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)

## 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, 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Community Conversation #3

Saturday, March 12, 2011

1:00-2:30 p.m. Potluck beginning at 11:45 a.m.

How do we view education; as a process or a product? What can we commit to? Volunteerism, financial support, participation, positivity? What leadership opportunities are available for me? Please join the conversation. Childcare is available for \$5 per child. Please sign up for the potluck in the front foyer, and child care in the front office. See you there!

## Jump-A-Thon!

Gather your pledges for the children's Jump-A-Thon, a fundraiser for Four Winds Waldorf School. Students will be jumping rope on Friday, March 11th during school hours. You have the pledge forms (from our sled-a-thon). Look for more information to be sent to you via e-mail soon.



## FROM THE DESK OF *Marianne Fieber*

Our community is a precious gift to our children and our families. We are a diverse group of individuals with particular perspectives about the world and how we would like to see things unfold. I have to believe that, along-side the diversity within our community we can agree that our children and their future is of utmost importance. The education our children receive here, at Four Winds Waldorf School, has the power to pave the way for an incredible generation of caring, confident and collaborative human beings. From time-to-time I think it is necessary to re-engage community in conversations to ensure that values are shared and goals sparkle like guiding stars for our activity. Conversations can lead to transformation. Conversations can lead to collective imagination which fires up individuals to deeds which are far greater than any individual thoughts and desires however magnificent. Conversations require speaking and listening. Conversations may need to take place over several meeting times in order for the right picture to form. Conversations require participation.

A series of conversations have been scheduled throughout the spring to provide a forum for this remarkable community to come together to discover, re-discover, polish up and build a future we feel inspired by. I want to hear from everyone. I want to work with new ways of looking at what we need to do to strengthen our school community. Just like any relationship, whether personal or public, there needs to be attention paid to the care of it. I look forward to care for our community with all our families.

Please come on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. The potluck will begin at 11:45 and the conversation will begin at 1:00 pm.

## Reflections on Community

By Naomi Studebaker, FW Teacher

How do we build a community of compassion and hold each other responsible for our deeds and words? Very bluntly, how can we be the compassionate community we have been trying to be?

How can I use understanding and inner discrimination without “judging”, dismissing as “crazy”, or ostracizing another?

Pain is usually associated with the school of life/ the school of hard knocks. How can we learn and grow together so that the growing pains are supported enough to be productive?

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How can we accept each of our differences and expressions of diversity – all the way from the most flamboyant to the most seriously serious- while we are each *growing in our uniqueness* beside all of the *others* on the *community path*.

We must constantly be on a path of exploration. We must learn to care enough to ask about each other, to engage in the conversation, to grow in understanding of the other's point of view. We must know there are no finished answers and no “perfect” people except for the perfection of each *now* moment – just because it “*is as it is*” - and knowing the next *now* moment, the next *now* day will hold it's own perfection as the work and growth goes onwards.

Being in a caring community is one of the hardest tasks – and one of the most essential for the survival of humanity - to engage in during these times of ultimate individualism and freedom to choose greed over sharing/caring. The old codes of social behavior, and the limited choices, our grandparents followed have fallen away. We have to establish our own standards out of freedom and out of awareness that, though I have *my own center in my sunshine self* – **so do each of you** – and somehow we have to find (and build on) our shared ground.

Can we be caring enough and willing enough to explore the hurt behind the anger? Can I use such an all - inclusive word like “always”? Always, behind the adult or child's words and/or behaviors that cause anguish to them and others, there are things that need to be explored.

We have a community full of talented, skilled and deeply caring and thoughtful individuals. We can form a catch net for the needs of all of our community companions. We have the beginnings in our Social Inclusion program for the students. The whole community of adults is also in need of help to heal the many rifts in our wider circle of social inclusion. Rudolf Steiner spoke of the child (birth – 12-14 years) living within the essence of the adults around them – their parents first, and then the wider circles of family and school. Our school children will be most able to achieve the high goals of social inclusion if we adults are able to model this challenging aspect of (social) development and offer it as an example before them.

I feel an up-rising of hope for finding more ways to grow within our community; -to really become a conscious community. There is another community meeting this Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Let's continue in these meetings together. Let us bring the willow branches as we speak and share our “I” truthfulness out of places of deep, caring community.

## Free HANDLE lecture in FW Community Room

Friday, March 18, 2011, from 7:00 - 8:30 PM

### “Why Do They Do That - Behavior as Communication”

Learn from Janet Oliver's years of experience how to better understand the more mysterious aspects of your child's habits. Understanding goes a long ways towards creating the possibilities for positive change. Janet's talks are excellent. You will want to be here! If you can clear your schedule, attend Janet's **INTRO to HANDLE** class on the weekend, March 19 - 20. You will be glad you came. Every minute is packed with helpful information and activities.



## 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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!

## 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](http://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

## 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.