

Four Tellings

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

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Courage is the discovery that you may not win,
and trying when you know you can lose.
-Tom Krause

September 29, 2010

Michaelmas is Today!

To celebrate Michaelmas, today students engaged in an all-grades presentation of St. George and the Dragon. Following the play, the students engaged in deeds of courage and strength in the bowl. Michaelmas is an ancient festival celebrated in Waldorf schools because it epitomizes an important aspect of Waldorf education. The celebration commemorates the archangel Michael, and the archetype he represents: one who overcomes or transforms the evil being faced through intelligence, courage, and strength. Michael displays the activity that is the essence of the human being: self-development. We, as human beings, have the possibility of personal transformation. We all have our own dragons, our own lower, less noble aspects. Our egotism, greed and selfishness can be overcome as we evolve as individuals. Michaelmas is a reminder of this process as we strive toward our full human potential.

Race To Nowhere Monday, October 4th

Four Winds Waldorf School is honored to be part of the grassroots sensation of the groundbreaking documentary *Race to Nowhere*, already feeding a groundswell for change, as hundreds of theaters, schools and organizations nationwide will host community screenings in the next month. Tens of thousands of people will come together, using the film as the centerpiece for a growing national dialogue on how we can end this 'race to nowhere' in our education system.

School reform has become an urgent national issue and 2010 is the year of the education film. Unlike other documentaries focused on education, *Race to Nowhere* is the only film that shows what is happening to our kids as a result of current policies and practices obsessed with testing, performance and competition rather than meaningful teaching and learning. *Race to Nowhere* finally gives voice to those on the front lines who are most affected by education policies – the students and teachers themselves. *Race to Nowhere* also is the only film to spotlight the intersection of health and education. The film empowers everyone to get involved and take ownership of what's happening in our schools and communities.

Here's what you can do to be involved:

- Join us at the College of DuPage, 7 p.m., to view the documentary . **Buy your ticket today!** Look on our home page for a link: www.fourwindswaldorf.org.
- Forward the e-blast that you get this week to friends and educators.
- Plan on joining us in November for a follow-up conversation at Four Winds

So Long, Mobile Unit

The mobile unit will soon be a memory at our school as it is being removed from our grounds. Many people have put in extra effort and resources to make sure this deed was completed. We are doubly grateful to our skilled professional parents and friends who donated their expertise to ensure all was done correctly and up to snuff.

- The plumbing work was managed by new parent Jeremy Sauer: 630-267-5706
- The electrical work was managed by Denis Dobbyn of Dobbz Electric: dobbzelectric@yahoo.com / 815-530-9218.

Please consider contacting them for any plumbing or electrical work

Calendar of Events

Wednesday Sept 29

Michaelmas Festival.....In School
7th Grade Parent Meeting.....7 PM

Thursday Sept 30

4th Grade Block Preview.....5-5:30 PM
3rd Grade Parent Meeting.....7 PM

Monday October 4

Race to Nowhere Screening7 PM
College of DuPage, McAninch Arts Center

Thursday October 7

Parent Council Meeting.....7 PM

Friday October 8

No School- Faculty In-Service



Special Offer!

Klean Kanteens Available

In the office, we have six 27 oz stainless steel bottles w/ loop cap, made from high quality, 18/8, food-grade stainless steel – a metal superior in both strength and safety that contains no harmful chemicals or toxins. BPA-free. \$13 (reg retail \$18).

FROM THE DESK OF *Marianne Fieber*

It is Michaelmas Time! Today is the actual festival day of Michaelmas. We can take great courage today and the days surrounding this feast day as we celebrate the overcoming of the dragon. We each have dragons, big or small, that we are challenged to overcome. I have felt, with the crisping of the air and crunching of leaves beneath my feet that the sleepy days of summer are over and my senses are awakened with the smells, sounds and textures of autumn. I love this time. I like to imagine the meteoric iron which gives this season its character flowing through my being bringing clarity to my thinking and strength my deeds.

This is a great time for a new school year to be taking shape. It is a great time for our community to re-forge itself through courage and hope to overcome the forces which have challenged our existence. Each one of us, committing to this beautiful school for the children, has found a connection to the courageousness of the time. It isn't easy being different from the mainstream in our humble Waldorf School. There are many questions that need to be faced and in the facing of them we are strengthened inwardly and I would say even outwardly.

I came upon the following poem/verse by Rabindranath Tagore which I'd like to share with you as I feel it resonates with this time. I encourage further research into the life of this amazing Bengali poet, educationist and spiritualist.

Inner Strength

*Let me not pray to be sheltered from dangers
but to be fearless in facing them.
Let me not beg for the stilling of my pain
but for the heart to conquer it.
Let me not crave in anxious fear to be saved
but hope for the patience to win my freedom.
Grant me that I may not be a coward,
feeling your mercy in my success alone;
but let me find the grasp of your hand in my failure.*

~ Rabindranath Tagore

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 Committee- Wednesday 3 pm
SICG- Thursdays at 11:15
Full Faculty - Thursday 3:20 pm

Volunteers Needed

There are so many ways to volunteer for the school from our scrip program, to school fundraisers, to marketing, just to name a few. It is easy to volunteer, a great way to support the school, and so appreciated! *Thank you to **Debra Joslin** for volunteering for the newsletter and **Frances Moritz** for volunteering to work on the scrip program. We so appreciate it!*

RED HOT...we need volunteers in these areas:

- Soup Servers on Mondays at Lunchtime
- Front Office Friday Mornings
- Building and Grounds Committee
- Development/Fundraising
- Scrip Program- still more folks needed
- Marketing

Email kellyokasper@gmail.com and let me know how we can make it work.

-Kelly Kasper, Volunteer Coordinator

Four Winds Fundraising - Ultra Foods 5% Donation

Ultra Foods, which has grocery stores in Wheaton, Lombard, and Downers Grove, is running an **Ultra Foods Smart Shopper Program** promotion. This program donates 5% of total purchase made by school families back to the school. The program runs from Sept. 1, 2010 to Dec. 30, 2010. Turning in receipts is all you need to do! So if you shop at Ultra Foods, include your receipts in your school folder when you return it to school or place the receipts in the envelope that is located inside the front door.

Waldorf Research at the Turn of the 21st Century

Four Lectures by John Alexandra

October 1-3, 2010

The Rudolf Steiner Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America, 4249 N. Lincoln, Chicago.

We've been living from the research Rudolf Steiner conducted at the turn of the 20th Century. At the turn of the 21st, are we conducting and investing in the research we need to 'stay in business'? What are the nature and requirements of such research? **John Alexandra** was a co-founder of New Century Bank, where he served as Vice Chairman and CFO. Now retired, he spent 11 years at J.P. Morgan, where he was a VP and Controller of an investment banking subsidiary. He was also a teacher for seventeen years (of students from first grade through college). John is a CPA and holds an MBA in finance from the Stern School of Business at NYU along with an MA in mathematics and physics from the University of Edinburgh. The author of *Mephistopheles' Anvil: Forging a More Human Future*, he has lectured and conducted seminars across the U.S., in Canada, and in Europe on issues of social transformation, economics, and finance.

Friday, Oct 1, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, Eurythmy and lecture: *Rudolf Steiner's Research at the Turn of the 20th Century. Ours at the Turn of the 21st?*

Saturday, Oct 2, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm, Eurythmy and lecture: *From Countenance to 'Creative-Withinness' – from Blossom to Seed*; **7:00 – 9:00 pm** Eurythmy and lecture: *Capital-Creation and Capital-Administration – Research/Education*

Sunday, October 3, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm, Eurythmy and lecture: *From Adolescent Independence to Ecological Individualism*
For more info, contact Andrei Onegin, 773-764-2313, rudolf-steinerbranch@yahoo.com. Suggested donation at the door: \$10-\$15 per lecture or \$30-\$5 for the full series.

Keep saving your box tops!

We'd like to encourage everyone to save "Box Tops." It's an easy way to support our school. Though some of our community families may not buy products with "Box Tops," many of our extended families and friends might. Asking them to save box tops for you is an easy way to help our school with very little effort (you can even place a collection box at work or other places you frequently visit). For every top turned in, the school earns \$.10 to spend on anything it wants. Look for the box in the front foyer to deposit your Box Tops. To find a complete list of participating products, visit <http://www.boxtops4education.com/>.



Needed: picnic table

We are looking for one more picnic table for our front meadow area (to use in our outdoor parent-child program.) Please contact Barbara in the office if you have one to donate. Thanks!

Classifieds

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

Excellent Air Purifier available at Wholesale. What do **viruses** like Swine flu, Bird Flu, SARS, Norwalk, or **bacteria** like E.Coli, Listeria, MRSA or **gases** like formaldehyde or VOC or **mold** have in common? Most of them are found in the environment more often than you think, and ALL of them are killed by a simple device that can be user installed in your furnace in 10 minutes. This is not a commonly used UV lamp, but technically advanced system endorsed by governments of U.S. Canada, Japan, China, leading hospitals, upscale hotels. Popular Science Magazine, Fox, ABC, CBS News have all featured this technology. I've been working as a Naturopath for 20 years and my daughter was attending Waldorf school until just recently. Waldorf is dear to my heart and knowing that many parents here are more conscious about their health, I have decided to offer this system at the factory WHOLESAL price. This is my gift to Waldorf. RGF's most advanced system, Guardian Air REME Cell retails for \$1,100, and is sold to contractors for \$450. Their Guardian Air PHI Cell is normally \$950 and wholesale \$350. Basically you have a chance to obtain their system for a very limited time for about 1/3 of the cost. Call Ray Bisevac, 630-456-4943 or email treemed76@yahoo.com.