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# Community Newsletter

December 2004

## Art with Christopher Guilfoil

Is your Tuesday morning in need of creative artistic endeavor? Ask anyone who has attended art with Christopher Guilfoil about their experience and I'm sure you will be tempted (Woody Fitzgerald, Dennis Marker, Kristi Hager, Monica Schuerkamp, Doug Botkin, and Valerie Bergman...to name a few). The next class is called *Snow White and Rose Red: Watercolor Painting from Fairy Tales* and will work with the technique of veil painting. It runs from January 4 – March 15 and the cost is \$90. Don't miss this opportunity to discover your creative self!

For more information about our adult art classes with Christopher Guilfoil, contact the school office at 541-758-4674 or via e-mail at [cwsadmin@peak.org](mailto:cwsadmin@peak.org).

## WinterFest

The magic of Winterfest is fast approaching. This Saturday, December 11, from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm we will celebrate the season with music, feasting, the crystal cookie cave, and many crafts activities for young and old. The best way to enjoy Winterfest is to get involved and bring your friends! This festival is for all of Corvallis and the surrounding area. Please sign up for a volunteer activity as you enter the school, or call the school on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Letter from the Board Chair

By Julie Courtney

Dear Friends,

This is such a busy and joyful time of year as we near the holidays. Last Friday night's Advent Spiral was beautiful to behold as each child reverently added an individual candle light to the glowing garden, which slowly brightened the room.

### Saint Nicholas

Noble Saint Nicholas paid a visit to the children at school on Monday in his rich red robe and long white beard, accompanied by the mischievous Ruprecht. These two archetypes represent the higher and the lower self in each of us, and Saint Nicholas helps the children "polish their golden hearts" by consulting his book and individually acknowledging the children's social strengths as well as indicating areas in which they can improve.

### Change in Leadership: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Please join me in wishing the seventh grade teacher, Jo Mitchell, her husband, Rob, and their three lovely children, Lizzy, Birdie, and Ginger a warm farewell. We, as a community, and particularly the seventh grade students, have been so fortunate to have Ms. Mitchell's radiant and kind presence in the school. I will cherish fond memories of the family's time with us. May they journey safely and settle snugly into their new lives in Aspen, Colorado.

Speaking of Winterfest, the Winter Festival Choir has been rehearsing regularly. At least eight adults and two students have joined since we began rehearsing. The good news is that even if you were unable to attend rehearsals, you are still welcome to sing with us because most of the songs are traditional Christmas carols familiar to many people. Of course, the choir will also have to show off the rarer tunes with the tricky timing to which we've devoted a significant amount of time.

### *Food for Thought*

“When one lives in a community, one senses more and more what it means to live on the threshold of the spiritual world. What does this mean, to live on the threshold? It means to experience more consciously that we are being “seen.” We are being seen by the spiritual world, by our colleagues, and more and more, thereby, we see ourselves in a new light. We come to know ourselves as like the others, wrestling with our shortcomings and with our insufficiencies, trying to live up to ideals that are just beyond our grasp. This is the self-knowledge we need to be able to work effectively with students, parents and our colleagues.

With the challenges we face at this critical time in our school movement, it is time to share, as parents, teachers and board members, how the inner life can support the healthy development of our communities.”

- Robert Schiappacasse, *Building a Waldorf Community* (from *Waldorf Education: A Family Guide*)

If you would like to order this wonderfully informative book, visit:

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

Along with the seventh grade students and their families, I await with great anticipation the arrival of the new teacher, who I trust is walking towards his or her destiny at this very moment.

### **School Development**

Tuesday night, representatives from the board, and the annual giving, fundraising, and development committees joined Phil Smith, a consultant with the LBCC Development Center to learn how we can better develop our school. He shared many priceless nuggets of wisdom about fundraising, board development, major donations, and reaching out into the community that can help us to evolve and grow. We will be sharing ideas of how we can practically apply this knowledge at the January community meeting.

### **Annual Giving**

If you haven't made your Annual Giving pledge, please do so by Monday, December 13th. Also, if you are in close contact with any local business owners, grandparents or financially able friends, we have a letter that you can personally deliver with a handwritten note. Please ask Ann Craig for more information.

I look forward to singing and spending time with everyone at WinterFest on Saturday!

Warmly,  
Julie Courtney

### *Mission Statement*

**Our intention is to educate independent-thinking people who meet life with courage and respond with initiative and creativity to the needs of the world and their fellow human beings.**