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April 2016 Newsletter

Update from the School Director

After a restful Spring Break, we are back on campus, enjoying the sunshine, and basking in the goodness that is all around us. The trees are in full bloom, and the jackets and rain boots have been set aside for the moment. New students continue to enroll, filling our Early Childhood programs and expanding Grades classes. We have enjoyed meeting strong candidates for our faculty openings, and look forward to introducing the community to the new faces of the CWS team. At this point, we know for certain that Anais Alexander, who recently lead a class through all eight grades at CWS, will be returning to our faculty to lead next year's second grade forward. Anais is an experienced teacher with a wealth of knowledge to share with our faculty, staff, and parent... not to mention our students! Please welcome Anais back to CWS when you see her. Please take a moment to review the upcoming events taking place on campus, our featured alumna, and the flyers attached on the last pages of the newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about the good news from CWS. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Sincerely, Peter Zaremba

"Play is the highest form of research."

— Albert Einstein



Parent Council Game Night

Friday, 4/8, 6-8pm @ CWS

Come join us for family, fun, and food! The Parent Council is sponsoring a family game night in the CWS gym from 6-8pm. You bring the games and we'll supply the popcorn. See you there!

Biodynamic Agriculture Workshops

Sunday, 4/10, 10am-4pm @ CWS

The Oregon Biodynamic Group is offering a series of workshops to our community (see attached flyer). Bring your whole family to learn more about biodynamic preparations, compost, field and foliar sprays, converting land, animal husbandry, beekeeping and more! We hope you will join us.

Parents Enjoy a Eurythmy Class

A Note from the Parent Council's Parent Education Committee

On a beautiful crisp sunny spring-like day in February, five parents and friends joined Mr. Edward Boyd, the visiting eurythmy teacher, for an hour of experiential eurythmy. With a piano accompanist, we experienced the space within ourselves and how it extended into the room, eventually relating to all of the people there. Though often hard to describe and fully put into words, the experience for many of us was one of grounding and being present in our world. A sort of moving meditation. Don't get me wrong, there was also lots of laughter and freedom to play with copper rods and moving around each other in a circle. Trying to keep the rhythm intact and not bump into those in front or behind was entertaining and kept the levity alive throughout it all.

We have a lot to be thankful for with Mr. Boyd gracing us and our children with his presence. His deep love and respect for the art of movement carries far beyond his presence in the classroom. As many of our children know and love what eurythmy brings to them, now more parents as well have that inner experience to carry with them. Continue to keep a close watch for future events in experiential parental education. We hope to see more of you as time dances on!

Upcoming Events:

Saturdays in April: Building and Grounds Work Parties @ CWS, 10-3 pm

4/8 – PC Game Night @ CWS, 6-8 pm

4/10 – Biodynamic Workshops @ CWS, 10-4pm

4/21 – Grandparents/Special Friends Day

5/6 – May Faire Celebration @ CWS, 2-5:30 pm



Fifth grade students study Ancient Civilizations.

In the News...

A Letter to the Editor, written by CWS grandparent, Meredith Hatfield, was published Tuesday, March 29, 2016.

Joy of learning is clear at Waldorf

The recent commentary in the Gazette-Times on the excellence of public education in Finland helped explain why we are so happy with the Corvallis Waldorf School. There are many similarities. The joy of learning there is obvious!

As a former teacher, I would love to see more of Finland's (and Waldorf's) model adopted here for all children.

Meredith Hatfield
Corvallis (March 25)



Fourth Graders expressing their joy for learning!

An Introduction to Biodynamics

By Tim Love, CWS Facilities Director

Following numerous visits by veterinarians, farmers and doctors who were concerned about the rapidly declining health of plants and animals in the agricultural world, Rudolf Steiner addressed the issue of human and ecological health by developing the methods and materials known today as Biodynamic Agriculture. Presented as a series of lectures (available in book form called, "Agriculture") given at a farm in Koberwitz, Poland in June of 1924, Steiner outlined the spiritual and scientific workings behind the veil of our physical world. He attempted to show how farmers and others could improve the condition of their soils, health of their animals and increase the nutrition of their foods by embracing an Anthroposophic view of the cosmos, earth, farm and inhabitants in a holistic way. The macro- and micro-cosmic image, the dynamic tension of polarities which bring balance and various individual constituents (mineral, plant, animal, human) as organs within a larger organism matched with the best science and prevailing farming wisdom were combined to provide ground breaking insights. These ideas form the basis of a growing worldwide movement in Biodynamic Agriculture so that "...the Earth may be healed."

The methods of Biodynamic Agriculture (BD) comprise some of the highest certifiable standards in organic agriculture. Studies have shown that food grown and harvested from BD farms is nutritionally superior and has longer natural storing qualities (shelf life) than food grown by other methods. These are attributes we want for our families where their diet and food is concerned.

You can learn more about how to include these methods and ideas in your own farm or garden during the Spring 2016 Oregon Biodynamic Group Workshops and

Open House on Sunday, April 10th, at the Corvallis Waldorf School. The event is free and open from 10 – 4 with numerous workshops offered to explain and demonstrate the basic ideas and methods, compost building, BD sprays and preps, animal husbandry, relationship to permaculture, understanding lunar planting, how to convert new land and a Q&A session. Come learn more about the worldwide

Where are they now?



Nina Storniolo (3rd from the left), Class of 2006

I graduated from CWS in 2006, in Jeff Parker's first class! There are so many things that I appreciate about my Waldorf Education, most of all the lifelong friendships I gained and that the Waldorf school taught me to love learning, instead of simply memorizing facts. Definitely one of my favorite Waldorf memories was participating in the Greek Games in 5th grade.

I graduated from Macalester College in 2014, with a BA in Hispanic Studies and Community and Global Health. Since October 2014 I have been living in a predominantly indigenous area in the Western Highlands of Guatemala, serving as a Healthy Schools Volunteer with the Peace Corps. I work with teachers, school principals, students and other members of the community on projects that improve the health of the students in rural elementary schools in our district. ... Well done Nina!

agriculture movement that goes hand-in-hand with Waldorf education!

Update from the Board of Trustees

By Shawnde Bausch, CWS Board Secretary

Do you wonder what the board does each month? Do you have questions about what the new Policy Governance model is or what the Policies are? In my new role as Secretary I'd like to help other parents get a better understanding of how the board represents you and what decisions we are making. As a board, we welcome your feedback and encourage you to get involved. Here are a few ways for you to learn more:

1) Review the new Board Binder: This binder includes information relevant to you about the actions of the board. This includes board meeting minutes and a copy of the current Policies. Have questions? Let me, or any

other board member know. I'm happy to add more to the binder as we see a need. You can find the binder on the bookshelf in the office with Melissa.

2) Receive board minutes by email: You can read the latest minutes at your convenience. Let me know your name and email address and I'll add you to the list. Board minutes aren't final until approved as written (usually a month later), but you'll get them as soon as they are approved.

3) Attend a meeting: Board meetings are usually held on the third Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to attend, and welcome to leave at anytime. We have set aside time at the beginning of each meeting for parent input if you have a specific topic to discuss, but you are also welcome to give input relevant to an agenda item throughout the meeting. If you'd like the agenda in advance - let me know!



CWS Students Shine at OBOB

A team of CWS middle school students recently placed 5th in the first round of competition at the Oregon Battle of the Books event. Mads Kent, Allie Willard, Ella Gordon, and Leela Ayres read selected literature and successfully answered a series of comprehension questions to show what they know!

Rocking Chair Raffle



\$10 FOR EACH TICKET
ONLY 999 TICKETS ARE BEING SOLD



The chair is a Sam Maloof style rocking chair handmade by Bill Brock with an estimated value of \$5,000

Drawing on April 21, 2016 at Corvallis Waldorf School

You need not be present to win—Raffle proceeds benefit CWS tuition adjustment program

SEE THE CHAIR DISPLAYED AND PURCHASE TICKETS AT THESE CORVALLIS LOCATIONS:

Sibling Revelry
(February)

Grass Roots Bookstore
(March)

The Toy Factory
(April)

Tickets can also be purchased at Corvallis Waldorf School or from any Waldorf parent or staff member.

- Chair is made of walnut with wenge accents
- Wood and generous assistance donated by Ed and Donna Kreusser
- Additional assistance provided by Dennis King, Travis Wagar, Che Anderson, and Maggie Brock

www.corvalliswaldorfschool.org | 541-758-4674 for more information

The Oregon Biodynamic Group's Spring Workshop!



April 10th, 10am-4pm ~ Corvallis Waldorf School

~ Come learn more during this day of hands-on presentations
and informative talks!

~ We'll cover some of the core components and fundamentals of
Biodynamic farming and gardening. Topics to include:

- Intro to BD and Converting New Land
- Composting, the BD Preps and Spray Preps 500 and 501
 - Planting by the Moon Calendar
 - Animal Husbandry
 - Beekeeping 101
- Permaculture, Q and A and more!

~ Bring your lunch and all weather gear ~ Sugg. Donation of \$10

~ For more info: oregonbd.org / facebook, Oregon Biodynamic or
call Andhi Reyna, 541-942-5424, email branchroadfarm@gmail.com

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