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February 2016 Newsletter

Update from the School Director

This week, the students have been outside looking for “signs of Spring” as the days grow brighter and the campus awakens with new life. During this time of renewal, our current families go through the re-enrollment process, and new families are invited to join our community. I encourage you to join us on Saturday, February 27th, from 10 am until noon as we showcase the work of our talented students. Highlights of the day will include open door classrooms with teachers present and student work on display, a performance by our strings music program, and an alumni panel. In this issue of the newsletter, you will find two snapshots taken from the All School Meeting at the end of January. Wendy Willard, Early Childhood chair at CWS, has offered an insight into how the Waldorf curriculum meets the developing child, and Tim Love, our Facilities Director, invites you to imagine the future of our campus. With the passing of each season, CWS continues to grow and strengthen. We hope you enjoy reading about the inspirational events taking place on campus. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Sincerely, Peter Zarembo

“You will not be good teachers if you focus only on what you do and not upon who you are.”

— Rudolf Steiner



Fourth graders Corbin and Jackson developing courage, balance, and coordination on their unicycles.

Open House and Alumni Panel February 27th @ CWS, 10 am – 12 pm

Please plan on attending the 2016 Open House event. See how the Waldorf curriculum supports the healthy development of children throughout their educational journey, then ask questions of our alumni panel about their experiences at CWS and beyond.

Touring CWS

If you would like to schedule a tour of our beautiful school, please call us and ask for Maggie or reply to this e-mail.

Facilities Update

by Tim Love, CWS Facilities Director



The rainbow ends at our beautiful 12-acre campus! What does the future hold for CWS?

A sense of the changing seasons is once again evident around us. Slowly the flora and fauna begin to show their transformation back to a former way of life. This change brings us more in touch with the outer world and according to a well-intentioned groundhog, it will continue unimpeded by the colder elements of nature. We'll see about that... But at least the longer days and brighter light are stirring a renewed planning effort for projects around the campus.

A newly gathered team of parents is taking the baton and helping map out some exciting long-term development of areas on campus while simultaneously leading work groups to complete smaller short-term projects. The Building and Grounds Planning Team is meeting monthly and reviewing current and previous planning initiatives in an effort to weave the threads of past, present and future together into a meaningful strategy of complete facility development. What is most exciting about this effort is not just the measure of success with each completed project but the realization of the potential this campus has

to offer in tandem with the outstanding Waldorf curriculum.

Looking at the inherent qualities that are present here provides a refreshing way to see the future, as opposed to just seeing problems and limitations which become obstacles and always need repair. How can we make modest improvements to a space and offer the greatest expanded use or function for the students and teachers? What does a project look like alone and how does it change when integrated with other projects or ideas nearby? How can our students be involved in as much of the process as possible, giving them a real working experience and an investment in or connection to the final product? Some of the best features of the Waldorf curriculum are how nature and the outdoor environment are integrated parts of everyday learning. Our campus is an amazing resource of learning opportunity in the outdoor classroom and we see a variety of ways that small improvements there can lead to limitless collaborations within the wider regional community.



Fifth grade students examine the myths, religion, and social achievement of the Ancient Egyptians.

Now that we as a community own the site, greater possibilities exist that did not before. Greater responsibilities are presented as well. We are constantly balancing this dynamic as we take steps toward a much brighter future for our students. If you wish to get involved in this exciting work, please contact me by phone, e-mail facilities@corvalliswaldorfschool.org, or find me on campus. I look forward to working with you to continue improving our students' experience.



A sense of wonder, imagination, and creativity are nourished by the Early Childhood curriculum.

Meeting the Needs of Our Children

- An excerpt of the insight offered by Ms. Wendy Willard, Early Childhood chair at CWS, at the All School Meeting on 1/27/16

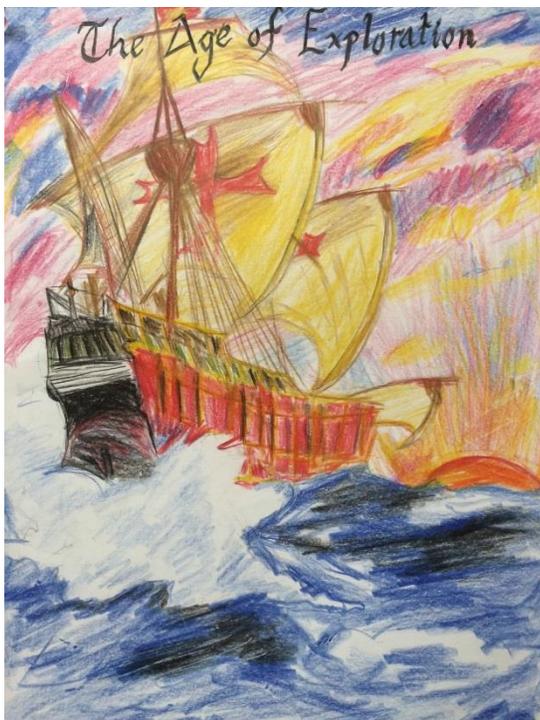
“Central to our work at the Corvallis Waldorf School is our understanding of human development. We are committed to the fact that each child is so much more than a vessel waiting to be filled with information. Every human being is comprised of a head, heart, and hands ~ reflecting our thinking, feeling, and willing capacities. When we nurture these qualities together, we can truly serve the whole human being. Each age and developmental stage that our children pass through asks for something different.

In the **early childhood**, a child is working on coming into their bodies. Sometimes it may seem as though they are in constant motion. They are a part of all that they see and hear, and they take all of these experiences in deeply. Through play, movement, imagination, and rhythm, we can provide a strong foundation for a child to integrate into him or herself.

In the early grades, new impulses are arising. In the **first grade**, much time is devoted to creating a sense of wholeness of the class together. This unity is seen in the study of fairy tales and the archetypes that they bring. Already in **second grade** a bit more feeling comes into play. The duality of the saint and the trickster mirrors the duality that is arising in the feeling of the second graders as they vacillate between self-indulgence and selflessness. Following this is the eternal quest to bring this duality into balance. By **third grade** students are often beginning to feel themselves as separate from the world. This experience can be surprisingly lonely at times, as well as empowering. It is just the right time to learn about building, cooking, and taking care of one's needs. Continuing on this path of self-discovery, the **fourth grader** studies Norse mythology, where they must confront the epic battles between the natural forces of good and evil.

Fifth grade is sometimes referred to as the “golden year” a balanced moment between the early and the middle years. The students have a new consciousness and are ready to participate in the Greek Pentathlon, accuracy. In the **sixth grade** students step even further into the outer world. They're

maturing, more aware of their physical bodies, and their bones are hardening. A reflection of this is found in the study of geology and Roman law. This year is sometimes thought of as an ending and a beginning as the 6th grader hears stories of the Grail and stands poised to ponder their quest in life. Through the biographical study of Renaissance masters like Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Filippo Brunelleschi, **seventh grade** students really begin to see that an individual can make a difference. Much like the time following the Middle Ages, students may have doubts about what they see and hear, and may not be ready to instantly believe. They have a growing need to discover things for themselves. This is a big step towards individual thinking. In the revolutionary spirit of liberty, equality, and fraternity, the **eighth grade** student will be empowered to take an active interest in humanity and the world that is all around. This will provide a firm foundation for all future curiosity and study.”



CWS Raffle is Underway!



Bill Brock with the handmade chair he has generously donated to CWS.

Bill Brock, father of CWS 3rd grader Maggie Brock, has led a community effort to build a beautiful rocking chair to raffle off in support of the school. The idea for the chair came from a visit to the Woodworkers Guild Show last year. Bill followed-up with the designer and a mentoring relationship began. Initially, Bill was extremely intimidated! However, he took on the task and with community help was able to finish in just a few months.

At CWS each 8th grade student identifies and mentor in the community to complete a project of interest. Che Anderson, class of 2016, was interested in woodworking, so he sought Bill's expertise. By agreeing to mentor Che, Bill was able to pass along some of what he learned through the process to an aspiring woodworker. The relationship that was formed allowed Che to contribute to the finished product while building a chair of his own!

Ed Kreusser, Bill's mentor, and his wife Donna shared templates, tools, advice and even the wood for the chair from their Missouri family farm. Bill visited Ed five or six times during the process. Bill also received help with sanding from CWS parent Dennis King, Che, and his daughter Maggie, finishing from community member Travis Wagar. CWS parent Tim D'Antonio took beautiful photos of the chair to aid in the promotion of the raffle.

This chair, valued at \$5,000, will be raffled at the Grandparents & Special Friends Day on April 21st. Tickets are available from any Waldorf parent or the school office. Tickets will also be sold at the following Corvallis retail outlets, where you can also view the chair: Sibling Revelry (February), Grass Roots Bookstore (March), and the Toy Factory (April).

Welcome to CWS!

Please welcome our newest family! Bjorn Ellenburg and his daughter Paikea have joined the CWS community. Paikea is now in the Morning Glory Kindergarten.

Upcoming Events:

2/27 – Open House @ CWS, 10am-12pm
3/16 – Spring Assembly @ CWS, 11:15 am
4/10 – Oregon Biodynamic Conference @ CWS
4/21 – Grandparents/Special Friends Day

Where are they now?



Isabella Storniolo (left), Class of 2014

“I graduated in Mr. Parker's class of 2014. I am so grateful for the enriching and unique education I received at CWS. From the amazing art and music classes to the wonderful outdoor opportunities, the Waldorf School gave me such an incredible environment to grow and learn in. CWS also gave me a loving community full of passionate and dedicated teachers and caring friends. My journey at the school was an invaluable experience that provided a wonderful sense of community and instilled in me a love of learning.

I have been in Indonesia since the end of August on a year-long exchange program funded by the U.S. State Department. I am living with a wonderful host family in the outskirts of Jakarta and attending the local school with my host sister. All of my classes at school are taught in Indonesian, which has proved to be a very difficult but fun challenge! At school I am involved in a Saman Traditional Dance Club, a cooking club and a hiking club, which all allow me to learn more about Indonesian culture and meet new people. It has been a wonderful adventure so far, full of cultural learning and amazing new friendships.” Good luck Isabella!

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