



Corvallis
Waldorf School

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*"Tell me and I will forget.
Show me and I will remember.
Involve me and I will understand."
-Chinese Proverb*

November 2016 Newsletter

Exciting News at CWS

The 2016 Annual Giving Campaign is underway, and with your help this can be the most successful campaign in CWS history. Imagine our students, past, present, and future, held in a circle of caring, compassionate adults who are dedicated to their healthy development. Giving what you can to the annual campaign is one way to step into that circle and support our students and faculty. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 by December 16th with 100% participation by our current families. **We have an exciting matching gift offer totaling \$40,000 as an additional incentive to give:** Two dedicated CWS Grandparents will match your extended family's contribution up to \$1000 per family! When you give to the annual campaign, your gesture of support nourishes our entire community. Click [here](#) to donate online. Thank you!



Artwork by Waldorf master teacher Leo Klein, who recently visited our school.



Seventh Grade Charcoal drawing of
Eleanor of Aquitaine

Update from the School Director

The campus is alive with the sights and sounds of student activity. Our recent Harvest Assembly and Halloween Celebration were vibrant reminders of the very special community that we create together. At no point in the school's 23-year history have our programs served so many students: 194 in all. Our parent participation classes, pre-school, and Kindergarten are full, and our grades classes average 16 students per class. The Parent Council meetings have enjoyed outstanding attendance with enthusiastic participation in planned events, such as last Saturday's drawing workshop with artist and master teacher Leo Klein. Our Annual Giving Campaign is underway (details above), and we are looking forward to our upcoming Winter Light Faire. Many thanks to each of you for reading our newsletter and seeking opportunities to support our school's mission: to educate independent thinkers who meet life with courage and respond with initiative and creativity to the needs of the world and their fellow human beings.

Sincerely, Peter Zaremba

The Great American Total Solar Eclipse

On August 21st, 2017, a total eclipse of the Sun will be visible from the contiguous United States for the first time since 1979. The track of the Moon's shadow cuts diagonally across the nation from Oregon to South Carolina. Inside the 68-mile-wide path of totality, the moon will completely obscure the Sun as the landscape is plunged into an eerie twilight, and the Sun's glorious corona is revealed for over 2 minutes.

Fred Espanak, a retired NASA astrophysicist from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, will come to CWS to present a detailed preview of this exciting event with maps, photos and weather prospects along the eclipse path. Fred is known as "Mr. Eclipse" because of his work on predicting and observing solar eclipses. He has written over a dozen books on eclipses including his most recent "Eclipse Bulletin: Total Solar Eclipse of 2017 August 21". He will also share some of his eclipse experiences with us through photos and video. Find out what it's like to stand in the Moon's shadow and get ready for Solar Eclipse 2017.

Monday November 21st from 6:30-7:30 pm at CWS gym

Tickets \$10 for adults, free for Corvallis Waldorf middle school and high school student graduates.

A discounted rate for outside school groups at \$5 per student.

RSVP through the office at 541-758-4674

Limited seating, so don't delay to get your tickets soon.

Carpooling is encouraged due to limited parking

Hosted by the Parent Enrichment Committee of the Parent Council

A Perfect Day for a Fieldtrip

by Jenna Collins, volunteer field trip chaperone

A beautiful mid-October fall day with crisp air and blue skies greeted Ms. Anais Alexander and her 2nd grade class on their 1st field trip to Finley Wildlife Refuge. Learning about local flora and fauna, they set off to find cotton tail rabbit habitats, argiope spiders, grey squirrels' nests, red poison oak leaves, and oak tree wasp galls, amongst other things. They wrote about what they saw, heard, and felt after doing a silent walk on the upper part of Woodpecker Loop Trail, ending at a wooden lookout platform skirting a large oak.



Ms. Alexander and her second-grade class

The five parent chaperones were honored to be a part of the discovery process that the students experienced on their walk. What a special way for all 16 students to be together in exploring the unique nature of our region!

Mark Your Calendars

November 21st

6:30-7:30pm @ CWS

Fred Espanak Speaks

(Scientist Emeritus, NASA's GSFC)

November 23rd-25th

Thanksgiving Break

December 6th

6-7:30pm

Advent Spiral

December 10th

10am-4pm

Winter Light Faire

December 16th

11:15am

Winter Assembly

December 19th- January 2nd

No School

Winter Break

Winter Light Faire

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016

10AM - 4PM

CANDLE DIPPING ~ SILK DYEING
HOLIDAY CRAFTING ~ LIVE MUSIC ~ PUPPET SHOWS
LOCAL FOOD ~ ARTISAN'S MARKET ~ & MORE

Tickets for special activities can be bought onsite



Free Admission

Fourth Grade Explores the Willamette River

By Melissa Montague, Grade 4 Class Parent

There's no better way to teach a group of students about the ways of the river than to get them on it! Mr. Highfield did just that, with his fourth-grade class, one magical and somewhat dry September day.

Before heading out on the Willamette river, the class prepared the rafts, checked their gear, and donned life preservers. They launched at nearby Peoria Park, and floated a 9-mile stretch of river. While afloat, they had the opportunity to observe the qualities of the river, view



Mr. Highfield and fourth graders confidently navigate the mighty Willamette.

blue herons and bald eagles, enjoy the changing landscape, and work on their paddling techniques while singing boisterously.

Learning through direct experience is a hallmark of Waldorf education. The trip down the Willamette allowed the children to develop important skills in the context of their natural environment while creating wonderful memories as a class.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Chrissy Dashiell has been a CWS parent and joyful volunteer for 3 years. She loves community building and dedicates her time in many ways to the school. From pulling weeds to sewing, being the Parent Council secretary and leading the Halloween Celebration, Chrissy is front and center working on projects and helping to “get things done.” She is currently co-leading the effort to organize our upcoming Winter Light Faire with 6th grade parent Mirjam Musafija-Girt. We asked Chrissy how she maintains her impressive volunteer stamina with such enthusiasm. She gleamed, “When people express gratitude, it keeps me going!” When Chrissy isn’t at school volunteering her time, you may catch sight of her on her bike, reading, knitting, or translating Japanese comic books to English- not all at the same time, though with Chrissy, anything is possible. “Volunteering makes the world go ‘round!” she says. Thank you, Chrissy, all that you do for CWS, and the greater community! You are a true gem!

Halloween Celebration

by Jenna Collins, Parent Council member

Clear skies and golden late afternoon sun shone down upon incoming streams of animals, fairies, princesses, mad hatters, marshmallows, ninjas, scuba divers, firemen, butterflies, wood nymphs, auto mechanics, and many others as they were welcomed into the gym at Corvallis Waldorf School's annual Halloween Festival. The Parent Council put on a fabulous event for the lower grades and early childhood students and families, and all there were entranced by the spectacle. In the darkened gym, families enjoyed muffins and drank apple cider from handmade bamboo cups, while others danced to fiddle and guitar music that wafted over the crowd. Face painting and portraiture were also offered to the visitors. Following guides down hallways lit by glowing jack-o-lanterns, groups were ushered outside into a land of fairy tales made real. Teachers, parents and older students from the school created seven vignettes of stories and song, many from Mother Goose tales, each ending with small treats for the children.



Ms. Wendy and Ms. Katrina brought Mother Goose to life!

In one skit, the Knave of Hearts tried to steal some tarts from the queen, and in another a maid cried "Oh where, oh where has my little dog gone!" Willy Wonka delighted young and old alike as he sang "Pure Imagination" to the children as they ogled his display of trinkets. Seventh graders

in period costumes presenting the final vignette, giving all the children gifts for their Halloween baskets. Spiders, roosters, kings, blackbirds and princesses spun tall tales into the early evening as the children were held captive by their imaginations. The children delighted in the dragon tears, pencils, stickers, seashells, oranges, crocus bulbs and

other desirables in their Halloween baskets. A wonderful time was had by all. If you missed it, be sure to put in on your calendar for next year, either to attend as a guest or to try out your acting skills in a skit. Thank you to Chrissy Dashiell and Michelle Thurber, and all who helped create this magical event. The Parent Council couldn't have done it without you!

Leo Klein Visits CWS

by Jenna Collins, Parent Enrichment Committee Chair

On a rainy Saturday morning in early November, 45 parents, teachers, and community members met in the Corvallis Waldorf School gym. A gracious, compassionate, and joyous Leo Klein, Waldorf master teacher and artist from the Netherlands, lead us on a journey of discovery. Clustered together like lily pads in a pond, tables were covered in drawing mats, paper and pencils of many colors. Leo gave instructions on how to create a representation of an object by using the side of the pencil lead, not drawing clear lines, but focusing on a loose idea of its essence. Strong colors were repeatedly reinforced to us from Leo, "You must push firmly!" We practiced and practiced creating a pastoral scene of a cabin in a meadow, with a nearby tree and white puffy clouds set in background of deep blue sky. There were many interpretations of this exercise, and we were all able to enjoy looking at them presented in a group on the floor at the end of the program. What a great fortune to partake in this offering by this experienced master of the arts!

