

TWS Newsletter



April, 2010 Volume 37

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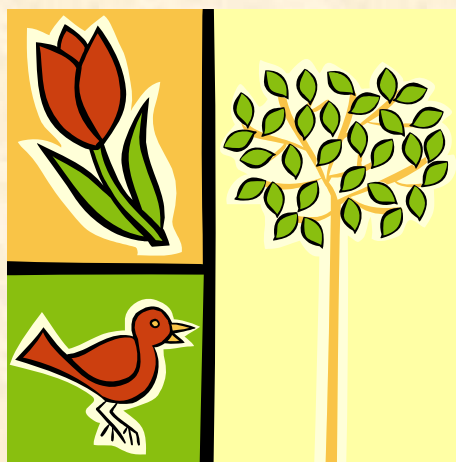
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TWS Calendar of Events

April, 2010

Monday, April 19th	Return to School		
Monday, April 19th	Lecture: Growing a Healthy Garden of Childhood: The Seeds for a Meaningful Life	7—9 pm	School
Tuesdays April 20th, 27th and May 4th	Scrip Orders Due	3:15	School Office
Thursdays, April 22nd, 29th	Handwork Circle	8:45—?	Mandolin Cafe
Saturday, May 1st	May Day Festival	TBA	TBA
Tuesday, May 4th	Walk Through The Grades	9—10:30 am	RSVP Necessary

**A big THANK YOU to RJ's Hair Design!
Who donated all of the personal care and grooming products in the Men's and Women's bathrooms during our Auction!**



In the Classroom...

First Grade Update

A big question of the first grade has been, "When will we go on a field trip?". Thus, a highlight of this past month was our first field trip to see a Eurythmy performance of the fairy tale "The Devil and the Three Golden Hairs," in Olympia. This was a captivating experience highlighted by the beauty and grace of expression through movement.

The Grade One classroom has been transformed into the Town of 10. In this busy town there are many tasks and activities that require the students to count, add, subtract, multiple and divide. Working together they have actively counted numbers -up, down, and by rhythms of 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 and 11. Our math travelers have been reunited with the Wise Woman who has many stories of busy gnomes working in the Kings treasury. (Well, actually the gnomes were distracted from their work and the kings treasury was quite a disaster until the gnomes returned and set things right.)

When we return to school after Spring Break we will return to language arts where we will meet the lower case letters, be introduced to more word families, and explore the world of speech, expression and performance through drama. These next weeks will be an exciting adventure as we learn the magic and mystery of language.

Ms. Golingo

Second Grade Update

In second Grade we are busy learning about the stories of The Saints. We have heard how Saint Brigid healed with God's love and was said to have a trail of Angels that followed her wherever she went. We heard how Saint Christopher searched to find the most powerful and faithful ruler in all the land. He finally found him in a small child who carried the weight of all human suffering upon his shoulders. Just in time for Saint Patrick's day, we learned how Saint Patrick never forgot his purpose. He searched to find the most beautiful and sacred place in all the land, and even though he encountered great danger he never gave up. Soon we will hear more stories of Irish Saints to finish our block.

That's not all we have been doing in second grade however. We have been reading up a storm as well! We have silent reading, group reading, and partnered reading. It is truly exciting to see the world of the written word unfold for the children in second grade! We are also creating our class reader from a story we heard in class, about an extraordinary young Irish girl. The children are illustrating and writing the stories themselves, as we learn how to communicate the story in written form to someone who has not heard it yet. When we finish, the children will take the readers home and share them with their families.

We have also been VERY BUSY with our class project for the auction. So much work, dedication, and care has gone into it. We hope you enjoyed it!

Blessing to you all and Happy Spring!
Mrs. Nelson

In the After Care...

Heart Song Extended Care

Hi! I am Kate Pascal, or, "Ms. Kate", and I work in the Heart Song After Care at Tacoma Waldorf. It is my goal to make the world a better place by working with the children and parents involved in it. Tacoma Waldorf extended care program, Heart Song, addresses the needs of working parents who want their children to receive quality afternoon care consistent with the principles of Waldorf education. It offers a safe and nurturing environment. Ten years ago it was rare to see an after school program in a Waldorf school. It was thought to be in the child's best interest to be at home after a full morning program. But, as we know, that is not always possible.

Today we are faced with family lives that consist often of two working parents or a single working parent and so the need has arisen in our community, and as a society, for extended care. This can make for a very long day for the children attending these extended day programs. In Heart Song we hold family life as the focal point for all we do. It is important to offer the children new experiences in the arts and movement. Free play is vital for their social learning and imagination and thus a good portion of the day is spent in free play.

Having such long days at school and work can take a toll on the child and family. A few ideas that can ease the fatigue are listed here. Keeping a consistent schedule for you and your child, and holding to that schedule, can help the child feel secure. Make transitions to and from school special by adding some humor or movement to your drop off and pick ups. Both can help make transitions run more smoothly! Remember, what you do, say, and notice is what your children will do, say, and notice.

A family activity that is easy and inexpensive, yet yields positive results is drawing. When was the last time you picked up crayons or markers and just drew to draw? Parents, let go of what you think you can or can't do, should or should not be doing; just draw. Set aside a "family draw" night once a week or even once a month. You will be sending your children such a positive message by doing so. You can buy a roll of white or brown butcher paper to cover your kitchen table and before or after dinner roll out the paper and take out the crayons! Create picture stories together, scribble, just have fun. In order for children to want to draw and to continue that into adulthood, they need to see the adults around them draw. No matter what our "skill-level" or whatever hang ups we may have about being - or not being - "an artist," if we want our children to draw/paint/knit/sew/make, we must be doing it too. If you are interested in more about drawing as a family check out [The Creative Family](#), by Amanda Black Soule, [How to Encourage Imagination and Nurture Family Connections](#).

~Kate Pascal
Director of Extended Care



Committee News....

New Waldorf Blog Supports Waldorf Parents –

Last week, I launched a new Forum for parent education and connection which, I hope, will help parents support each other, their children and their schools and teachers in this worthy endeavor we call Waldorf education. It is my hope that this forum can become another vehicle towards strengthening our work and our schools. I welcome the participation and interest of all Waldorf parents and teachers.

The address to the Forum is
<http://waldorfparents.blogspot.com/>.
Warmly, Ilian Willwerth

Note: Ms. Ilian has been a Waldorf teacher for 30 years, first in the kindergarten, and then in the grades as class teacher. She has also served in Waldorf schools as German teacher and Music teacher. When not teaching in a Waldorf classroom, Ms Ilian performs as a puppeteer with Magic Garden Puppets, teaches courses in Wilma Ellersiek's hand gesture games, writes children's books, and plays and teaches saxophone.

50 VOL Community Involvement Hours

by Sylwia Jones (Greenwood)

Logging your Volunteering Hours is **easy**:

- a) **Email** volunteer@tacomawaldorf.org
- b) **TWS Website** <http://www.tacomawaldorf.org/volunteer.htm>
- Volunteer Hours Community Involvement Hour FORM
- c) **Paper forms** located in the binders by the grades classrooms and at the school office. Please leave it in a binder or hand it to me.

Thank you for sharing your gifts, talents and time!
Your volunteer hours impact our ability to attract funds
by documenting the high parent participation at TWS.
Questions: volunteer@tacomawaldorf.org



Adult Education....

Announcements from Sound Circle Center

April 2010



Circle Center's Foundation Year's **Introduction to Anthroposophy** sessions are open to the public. On April 17th and 24th, The Social Mission of **Waldorf Education** will take place in two parts. This will be presented by Michael Soule, who has extensive involvement in Waldorf Education both in the classroom, administratively and at a national level as the Leader of Programs and Activities for the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA) .

These lectures will be presented from 9:20 to 10:30 at the Seattle Waldorf School, 2728 100th St NE, in Huckleberry Hall, upstairs. \$10 per session. For more information see: <http://www.soundcircle.org/docs/Social-Mission-of-Waldorf.pdf> or call 206-925-9199.

Sound Circle Center is currently receiving applications for its seventh **Foundation Year**, beginning in September, 2010. This may be taken independently to deepen creativity and study of Anthroposophy, or as a prerequisite for Waldorf Teacher Training. If you are curious to know more, please see www.soundcircle.org.

This summer, Sound Circle Center will be offering a series of intensives for practicing teachers. In addition, there will be a course open to the public, Music and Western Art through the Ages: Expressions of Evolving Consciousness with Janet Lia and Patricia Costa Kim. They will be joined by Anna Mansbridge , the artistic director of Seattle Early Dance.

This intensive takes place **July 12th-16th, 2010**. Music, Dance and Art both provide rich examples of shifts in the development of human consciousness. This course will offer participants, both experientially and theoretically, the opportunity to explore each of these mediums as they evolved through time.

For more info, see: http://www.soundcircle.org/docs/Music_flyer.pdf

Adult Education....

Tacoma Waldorf School Presents Adult Education Series

Growing a Healthy Garden of Childhood: The Seeds for a Meaningful Life

How do we cultivate a rich experience of life that nourishes children as developing human beings? How do we support their healthy growth of body, soul, and spirit? Come and discover what nurtures children and strengthens them so they find a path for a life filled with meaning and purpose.

**Monday
April 19th
7-9pm**

Dr. Johanna Steegmans, N.D. will share a wealth of wisdom regarding healthy childhood and how parents can consciously work to support their children. She has an abundance of experience and knowledge having trained as a pediatrician in her home country of Germany, as a graduate of Naturopathic medicine at John Bastyr University, as a founding faculty member and current Co-Director of Sound Circle Center teaching the Foundation Year Studies and Early Childhood classes to upcoming Waldorf teachers. Dr. Steegmans is a well respected and sought after lecturer both here and abroad and we are honored to have her join us.

Adults only. Free to TWS families. Open to the public. A suggested donation of \$10 for members of the greater community but no one will be turned away due to inability to pay.

Please contact Tacoma Waldorf School to reserve your spot



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Tacoma Waldorf School

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