

Messenger

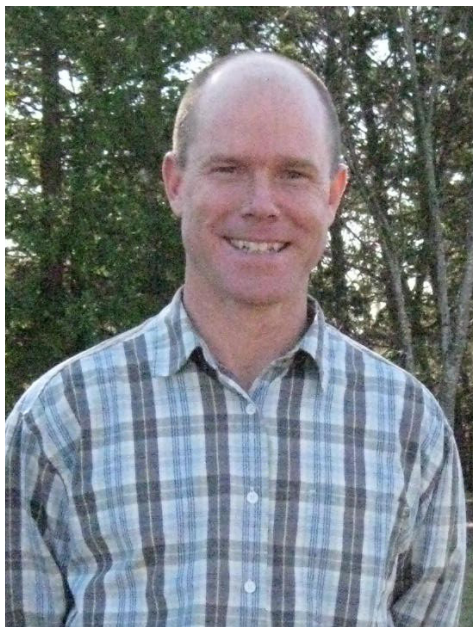
Summerfield | WALDORF SCHOOL AND FARM

January 23, 2014

Volume 26, Issue 5

First Grade Teacher Announcement

It is with great delight that we announce the hiring of our 2014-15 First Grade Class Teacher, Cody Smout. This past December, the Lower School Support Group asked Cody to consider taking the incoming class, a request based upon his passion for teaching, his love of the curriculum, and his work with children. He recently accepted the position!



Cody grew up in Illinois. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology in 1997, and worked for ten years as a field biologist for the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Central America. He then worked as a builder and designer while completing his Waldorf Teacher certification in Eugene, Oregon. He and his wife Charlotte have two sons and live in Sebastopol.

While we share the excitement of this news with the school community, we ask families to please be sensitive to Cody's need to focus on graduating the eighth graders in his care before taking on the responsibilities of next year's First Grade. We will be organizing opportunities for the incoming First Grade families to meet and get to know him before summer.

Congratulations, Cody!

Sincerely, The Lower School Support Group: Tim Allen, Jamie Lloyd, Kibby MacKinnon, and Saskia Pothof.

Festival of the Arts Date Change!

Due to Lower School Conferences and early dismissal days, the Festival of the Arts presentation for parents, originally scheduled for January 31st, will now be held on **April 4th**.

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Important Dates:

HS Winter Music Concert

Fri, Jan 24 at 7pm

Early Childhood Applications

2014-15 Deadline: Jan 31

Waldorf at Weill

7th and 8th Grade Choir

Wed, Feb 5 at 6:30pm, Weill Hall

**High School Musical:
The Pirates of Penzance**

Feb 7-8 & 14-15 at 7:30pm &

Feb 9, 16 at 2pm, Sophia Hall

Financial Assistance Deadline: Feb 11, 2014

and... dates to budget towards:

• Placeholder Deposits of \$400 per student **due March 3, 2014**

• Annual Fees \$450 ~ \$1,600 per student (depending on grade) **due June 1, 2014**

Quarterly Update from the Governance Council

By Jamie Lloyd, for the Governance Council

Happy New Year, Summerfield community! We continue to savor the fruits of our fall festivals and realize it's an ideal time to appreciate our community volunteers. Michaelmas, Sprites Night, Winter Faire, and holiday events and observances that take place here at school are not possible without your time and effort. The richness of our children's experience at school is enlivened and deepened because of your help. The Governance Council thanks you!

The GC was involved in guiding Winter Faire, in particular. A review of the massive 2012 Winter Faire yielded a community desire to pare down the event. We elected to try it as a single-day event, decrease promotion, and host only one performance of the Circus. We feel our goal was achieved but are wondering if we got it right. Many have shared their feedback, and we are still open to hearing your experiences as we begin our planning for next school year.

The Governance Council continues to be quite busy as it addresses the many issues our school faces. You may be aware that we are looking at some innovative waste water treatment options. We are working with the Board to ensure we are meeting the needs of the

school's families and teachers within a reasonable annual budget. With the drought hanging over our heads, we are exploring ways to update and improve our water conservation measures.

GC is close to approving a new mandate for a Care Team Services group whose mission is to create awareness of, recommend, and/or facilitate additional service for students beyond what class and specialty teachers can provide in their daily routines.

The work toward planning next year is already under way, believe it or not. Budgets, calendars and class schedules will take up much of the GC's time in the coming weeks and months. However, we are always open to hearing from you whether it's a concern, suggestion, or new initiative. Our members include Bob Flagg for the High School, Jamie Lloyd for Lower School, and Catherine Schlager for Early Childhood Education. You can also address some concerns more directly by finding a section core group member. See your Handbook for names and ways to contact.

Again, we wish you a great New Year, and express our appreciation for all you contribute to our community.

Alumni Event

By Cyndi Yoxall, Development Coordinator



Hats off to another fantastic celebration of hugs, laughter and stories that reconnect our graduates. Sophia Hall was full of life the day after Christmas for our 5th Annual Alumni Event. Alumni and former students gathered to show gratitude and support of their teachers and the school they love. The deep connection among friends was heartwarming. Together the group raised \$700 for Summerfield, giving towards our tuition assistance fund.



Thank you to the main volunteers who made this event possible: Tim Allen, America Worden, Rachel Kojan, Ann Platz, Jeffrey Westman, Tony Coturri, Susan Sterns, Dan Westphal and Craig Silva. And thank you to GrowKitchen, Redwood Hill Farms, Filigreen Farm, Coturri Winery, DNA Vineyards, Lagunitas, Revive Drinks, and Beauty Oasis Photography, who generously supplied food, beverages and services.



Housing Needed FOR SCIENCE TEACHERS' CONFERENCE IN FEBRUARY

We are looking for people willing to house one or two guests from the Conference, beginning Tuesday evening through Saturday, Feb 18–22, at a rate of \$25 per night per person. If you have the space and are interested, please contact Cathy Torres at cathy@summerfieldwaldorf.org.

THE HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THIS YEAR IS ...

The Pirates of Penzance by Gilbert & Sullivan

Frederick, the self-described “slave of duty,” is finally almost 21 years of age. At noon on the day we meet him, he will be freed from his mistaken apprenticeship to the least ruthless pirate band ever seen, the Pirates of Penzance, whom he will immediately dedicate himself to eradicating. His beloved nursemaid, Ruth, who joined the pirates when Frederick did, wishes to leave with and marry him.

Frederick, having been at sea since childhood, has seen no other woman and so tentatively agrees to the union. However, upon hearing and seeing from afar the singing daughters of Major General Stanley, he casts poor Ruth from him. Frederick is particularly smitten with Mabel, who sings “Poor Wandering One” to him. The pirates also appear and propose marriage to the daughters, all 23 of them, to which they object. Major General Stanley then introduces himself (“I am the Very Model of a Modern Major General”) and, through the use of an elegant fiction, rescues his wards from pirate clutches.

Later, Frederick plans his attack on the pirate lair with a tribe of comic constables led by the Police Sergeant (“When the Foeman Bares His Steel”). BUT!!! When it is revealed that Frederick was born on February 29th (a leap year) and as a consequence is only five and a quarter years old, he must again do his duty, forswear (or at least put off) Mabel, return to the pirate fold, and repulse the same annihilating attack he had planned! What a pickle!

Come join our cast of 42 singing actors in their beautiful costumes accompanied by our terrific orchestra for six fabulous performances in Sophia Hall! Shows are at 7:30pm on the evenings of February 7th, 8th, 14th, and 15th, and at 2:00pm the afternoons of February 9th and 16th. (Runs about 2¼ hours.)

This will be one of our best shows yet! From the same creative team who brought you *The Mikado*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *My Fair Lady*, and many more. Absolutely not to be missed! You’ll want to see it more than once, so catch it early in the run! Absolutely guaranteed first-rate, sure-fire superb singing, dancing, and comedic moments in riotous plenitude galore! Suitable for ages 8 and up.

Tickets are \$10 each. Available through Brown Paper Tickets ([link here](#)), at the LS and HS offices, and in front of the school starting two weeks before opening, and from cast members.

See you there!

~ Kevin Simmons, HS Drama Teacher



DRAWING BY AMY FREEMAN

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

By Cyndi Yoxall, Development

Welcome to 2014! I hope you all had a restful Winter Break, full of both family time and quiet downtime. Once again, our students seemed ready to come back, and parents were also ready for the school schedule. Our dedicated teachers and staff returned with renewed energy and enthusiasm. As we begin planning for upcoming events, I would also like to take a moment to thank you all for your commitment that helped with last year's success. With gratitude and appreciation, I want you to know that each and every contribution matters.



For the third year in a row, we hit 100% participation by all classes, preschool through 12th grade, and have raised \$221,000. Every single family in the school donated, along with the Board of Directors, faculty and staff. We are still hoping to surpass our goal of \$230,000 by the end of the school year. Family, friends and businesses in the community can help us get there. AGC is vital to the strength of our school. Simply put, without Annual Giving, we could not cover our costs to run the school.

Thank you to **Suzi Redlich**, Volunteer AGC Chair, who stepped up this year to fill some big shoes, after George Triest helped lead the campaign for many years. Suzi's positive energy and commitment inspire us. And **THANK YOU to all AGC Class Reps**, whose dedication, spirit and hard work helped us reach 100% participation: Sarah Brinkman, Kristin Humphreys, Jesse and Joanna Jacobs, Luke and Elena Bass, Eric Iskin, Vipassana Esbjorn-Hargens, Jennifer McKenzie, Robyn Prusky, David Traversi, Ivo Austin, Addie Mullinex, Glenn Berger, Dan Young, Elsa Garcia, Jeffrey Westman, Liz Evans, Linda Tropeano, Tracy Saucier, and Sonja Rohde.

Reflections From the Mid-winter Farmyard...

By Farmer Dan

Thus far this post-holiday winter season on Summerfield Farm has been an exercise in layering, from down jackets on chilly, frosty mornings to the short-sleeves of warm, sunny afternoons when the students come down to the Farm with bare arms and, sometimes, shorts. Our collection of spare rain boots has become home for various spiders and other critters during this unusually dry stretch, but we still remain hopeful of the Farmer's Almanac predictions for probable rains come February, March and April. A gentle, brief weekend rain did give the fields just enough moisture for the cover crops of oats, peas, beans, barley and vetch to emerge in an emerald carpet of green. The valuable legumes are doing their job of enriching the soil for the spring plantings we hope to have ready so as to feed greens to our Farm to Feast guests in May.

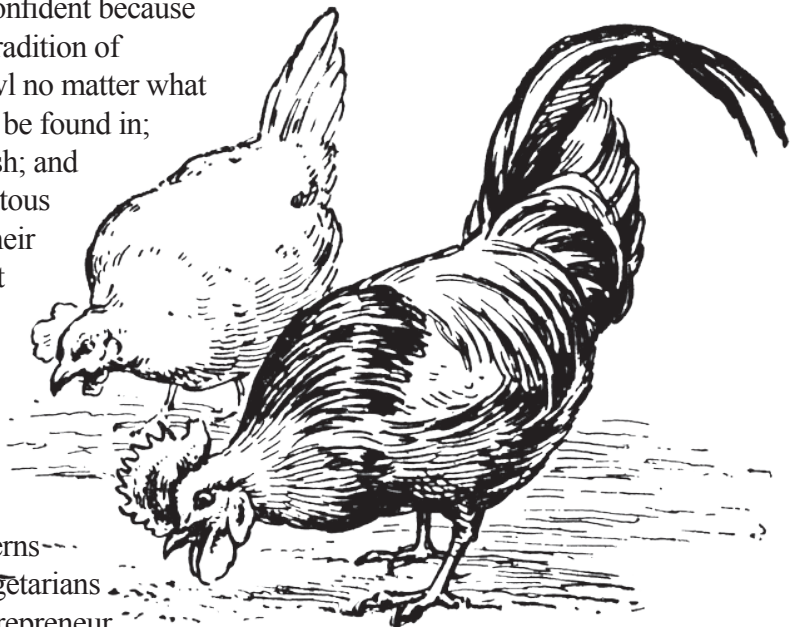
Over the holidays, many alumni returned to the Farm for a visit to the land they had worked on and come to love so dearly as younger students. Reading about various other schools by a cozy fire during the Holy Nights, a private school that opened in the Chelsea area of NYC last year caught my eye. Here the founders have the intention of turning out young people who will be "architects of lives that transcend the ordinary," something often encountered in our own SWS alumni. Because our students all participate in Gardening and Farming classes, one muses over the attraction to families who visit and often end up enrolling their children after a visit to our Farm. Where else is there a school sign and logo

that states: "Summerfield Waldorf School (or whatever school) and Farm"? ... The mission statement of the Chelsea school ended as follows: "...graduates are to be accomplished in the academic skills one would expect: at ease beyond their borders; truly fluent in a second language; good writers and speakers one and all; confident because they excel in a particular passion; artists no matter what their field; practical in the ways of the world; emotionally unafraid and physically fit; humble about their gifts and generous of spirit." In line with this mission statement, an enterprising student proposed a chicken club, dedicated to raising chickens in a coop on the roof of the school, a former grocery warehouse. He outlined the club's aims in line with the mission statement: "The club would raise chickens who are accomplished in the poultry skills one would expect; at ease beyond their coops and industrial farms; truly fluent in second clucks and crows; good scratchers and peckers one and all, and confident because they excel in the tradition of chicken-hood; fowl no matter what field the feed may be found in; emotionally skittish; and humble and gratuitous and generous of their eggs." The student club's goal of "using poultry as instruments for children to learn benevolence upon" ultimately trumped the concerns of the school's vegetarians and the young entrepreneur

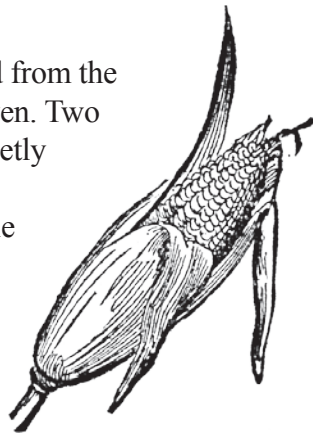
successfully received the blessing of the administration to proceed.

Meanwhile, life in our chicken house goes merrily onward as the children's love and care still coaxes a couple dozen eggs out of the hens each day, even when the days are short and the nights long, dark and cold. The eggs are a precious commodity when in short supply, and the kindergarden and third grade egg-collectors, as well as the farm overseers, do not take bribes so, if you really have a craving for biodynamic eggs, a hot tip is that they usually find their way to the produce stand refrigerator between eleven to twelve noon on any given day when available. Then they seem to disappear in the blink of an eye.

The kindergardeners had a little marshmallow roast near a modest "campfire" on the Farm over the past week (they actually make gluten free, vegetarian marshmallows) and enjoyed warm cider before settling into a



spot at the picnic tables to crack walnuts harvested from the farmyard tree and roasted in the Farm kitchen's oven. Two gallon jars of fresh, tasty nut-meats have been sweetly stored in the cupboard for snacking on by hungry gardeners from all the classes. The students' nimble fingers also continue to shell the special corn we grew and harvested last summer, and it is available as a tasty ground cornmeal for polenta and muffin mix at the farm stand for anyone looking for a special treat with winter chili.



Finally, the farmers have been putting together this season's seed orders to be sent off by Friday, and the sixth graders have been beginning the work of pruning back or "caning" the raspberries before the sap begins to rise, bringing the fresh, new spring shoots, as well as weeding, composting and mulching the berry patch for the most efficient use of water. After one more week of broom making and animal chores, we have realized the half year point of the school year and the fourth grade will return to the Farm after a half-year break, switching with the fifth graders to take on the weekly animal chores as well as the pruning of the roses. So the seasons go 'round and 'round.

Working outside on the Farm day after day, one is constantly reminded of life's amazing bestowal of riches. While feeding the cows beets at dusk this evening with the hushed, golden sky over the western hills towards the coast, Rilke's words once again came to mind when he wrote, simply, in a letter to a lifelong friend:

"In the course of my work this last long winter, I have experienced a truth more completely than ever before: that life's bestowal of riches already surpasses any subsequent impoverishment. What, then, remains to be feared? Only that we might forget this! But around and within us, how much it helps to remember!"

Winter's richest blessings from the school's farmyard, Farmer Dan

Farm to Feast 2014

By Cyndi Yoxall, Development Coordinator



Dust off those boots—plans are in full force for a grand party! Farm to Feast 2014 will take place on Saturday, May 17th, at 3:30pm on Summerfield's biodynamic Farm.

Over the past three years, our largest fundraising event of the year has been re-created and continues to grow with great success. We anticipate another sold-out event, accommodating 350 guests for wine tasting, silent auction, live music, farm-to-table dinner, outdoor bonfire and dancing, with a few new, fun twists. We are excited to feature our outstanding, award-winning Summerfield chefs and vintners. We will also welcome back Taylor Maid Farms, who will be on site greeting guests and serving organic iced tea and coffee. Don't forget the fantastic buy-in parties (we have new ideas here too), pre-sold before the event and during the silent auction! Tickets will go on sale in late February through brownpapertickets.com.

We will need help from the entire community to make this happen and are excited for new energy. We are also collecting auction items for both an online and silent auction. To volunteer or donate auction items, contact farmtofeast@summerfieldwaldorf.org or call Cyndi Yoxall at 575-7194 ext. 105.

Mardi Gras Masquerade

Saturday, March 8, 2014, 7pm-11pm,
at Graton Community Club [21 & UP ONLY]



Back by popular demand—we are holding an adult night out! Join us for our very own New Orleans-style Mardi Gras Masquerade! We'll have DJ's to keep the dance floor moving; snacks and desserts; beer, wine and cocktails; and a photo booth to pile in with your friends or sweetheart. Summerfield friends and family are welcome, adults 21 and over. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. Beads available at the door. Tickets are \$25 online in advance at summerfieldmardigras.brownpapertickets.com and \$30 at the door.

Proceeds will benefit Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm.

~ Cyndi Yoxall, Development Coordinator

Alumnus off to Hollywood!



**David Luning
(Class of 2005):**
SWSF alumnus and Farm to Feast performer, David Luning, made it to Hollywood courtesy of a gold-ticket winning performance on

American Idol, January 16. We wish him all the best for the rest of the competition!

David went to UC Santa Cruz after graduation, before moving on to the Berklee College of Music in Boston. Visit www.davidluning.com to listen to David's songs, and follow his progress.

JANUARY GREEN TIP *from the Green Team:*

"Methyl alcohol, the main ingredient in traditional windshield-wiper fluid is extremely toxic. Next time you refill your wiper fluid, try using vinegar and water."



New T-Shirts!

These beautiful new organic cotton Tees, made by Farm Fresh Clothing, come short-sleeved (\$18), long-sleeved (\$20,) and as sweatshirts (\$30). Show your Summerfield pride—buy one in the high school.



The Messenger Marketplace

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Classes/Training/Camps

Waldorf Teacher Training at Summerfield!

Center for Educational Renewal is now accepting applications for a new 4-year, part-time course beginning in June 2014. The Waldorf Teacher Training program was founded in 1990 to enable Sonoma County residents to prepare to become Waldorf school teachers or to deepen their understanding of Waldorf Education. This course has been designed to enable people who cannot leave the area to take part in a full-time course and to meet the growing need for Waldorf Teachers at Kindergarten, Elementary and High School levels. Each year of the course begins with a 2-week, six hour a day intensive in late June. It then continues from September to May, meeting Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:30-6:30pm at Summerfield. For more info and to apply, visit our website: www.edrenew.org or contact Don Basmajian at (707) 575-7194 Ext. 301. Enrollment is Limited to 30 students!

Waldorf Teacher Training Program Open House! Tuesday, February 11, 2014 6:30pm-8pm, no charge! The Teacher Training course began in 1990. Many graduates have become Waldorf Teachers, found direction and purpose in their lives, deepened their parenting skills or were nurtured through art, study and new social relationships. Come and meet students, view their artistic work, ask questions and learn more about the Waldorf Teacher Training program at Summerfield Waldorf School.

Center for Educational Renewal presents

Understanding Your Child: Two Workshops for Parents and Teachers. Fridays, January 24 & 31, 2014, 3:30pm-5pm in First Grade classroom at Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm. Register online at www.edrenew.org. Sliding Scale \$50-\$200 per workshop.

Working With The Twelve Senses, Fridays, January 24 and 31, 2014, 3:30pm-5pm. A human being is more than the traditional five senses. Rudolf Steiner inspired Waldorf teachers and parents to educate "multiple intelligences" of children with new and creative impulses. If the four lower senses of touch, life, movement and balance are nurtured in a healthy way, the child will be able to develop the higher senses which help us sense the humanity of other people. Join us for two classes as we playfully work and move together to understand the child through the window of the Twelve Senses.

Discipline at Home and School. Fridays, February 7 and 14, 2014, 3:30pm-5pm. The word discipline is the root of the tree of discipline. If the parents and teachers are worthy of love and respect, the child will become his/her disciple. Discover how to meet your child with loving firmness and humor as we explore the development of the human being from early childhood through the teenage years. At every stage the child is asking us to meet her in a different way. If adults are on a path of inner discipline, we will have the possibility to touch the hearts of our children even when the relationship is in turmoil and instill self-discipline in the growing child.

These courses will be led by Don Basmajian, who has been a Waldorf Teacher for over 35 years. He is also the director of The Center For Educational Renewal's Waldorf Teacher Training course at Summerfield Waldorf School.



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Upcoming Classes at Circle of Hands

Ongoing:

Village Grandmas - loving guidance in Waldorf parenting: \$5 sugg. donation. Share family themes & activities w/ experienced teachers; your pre-school children can accompany you. (First Thursdays, 10-11am), next date Feb. 6.

Mixed Media Art Time w/ Melissa Baker: \$5. Expressive, free-form activity; choose from supplies provided or bring your own project materials. All ages welcome, but parents must accompany young children. (First Wednesdays, 3:30-5pm), next date Feb. 5.

Parent Relationship Class w/ Melissa Baker - How To Keep Romance Alive While Raising Children: \$15/person. (First Fridays, 3:30-5pm), next date Feb. 7.

One-time, in February:

Wet-Felt Wool Scarf Workshop w/ Jonatha Foli: \$80. Create your own lovely merino wool wrap, no experience necessary, all materials included. Saturday, Feb. 1, 10am-3pm. Register w/ \$40 dep. by 1/27.

Beginning Machine Sewing Class w/ Jeannie Carter - learn to sew and make a fun drawstring backpack: \$30, materials provided. Saturday, Feb. 8, 10am-3pm.

Valentine Card Making w/ various local artists: \$5 per person. You may use our materials and bring some of your own to add to the mix. Sunday, Feb. 9, 2-5pm.

Watch for Doll-Making Classes coming in March!

Call or email Circle of Hands to register for classes: Circle of Hands, 6780 McKinley St. #120, Sebastopol (in the Barlow), 707-634-6140, circleofhands@sonic.net, www.circleofhandswaldorfshop.com

For Sale/Rent/Needed

Rick Concoff Violins

Quality string instruments for rent or sale at below-market best prices. Rent to own as well. Accessories available too! Call Rick at 823-3916.

House for Rent

Spacious 2 bed 1.5 bath hideaway on 6 wooded acres in the Riebli hills area only 15 minutes to downtown Santa Rosa, 5 minutes to the new Sutter hospital, farmers market and Wells Fargo center. \$1400/mo. Available March. Contact Lisa (707)972-0884 or yes@mcn.org.

Seeking Housing

Summerfield mom and daughter (7th Grade) looking for a nice 2-4 bedroom house to rent in Sebastopol area. Flexible price range. No pets. Non-smoker. Call Julie 310-999-9751 or email: engstrom115@gmail.com.

Seeking Housing

Landscape / Naturalist / Writer couple (a former alumni parent) seeks peaceful, clean and sunny living space in the Santa Rosa area. Can pay about \$1,450. Open to offering caretaking, tutoring, pet loving or landscape gardening. Aiming to move March 2014, but open to a synergistic fit sooner. Catrina, 707.217.3611.

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Parent of Rachel 4th Grade & Samantha 8th Grade

Apartment for Rent

Quiet and Cute small 1 BR apartment near SWSF. Just off Guerneville Rd, near Fulton. Situated above an attached garage with plenty of residential street parking. Nice light, all windows have wood blinds. Good size bathroom with shower. A/C in BR, dishwasher/refrigerator. No onsite laundry, PG&E not included. 12 month lease preferred. \$850. Please contact Aura-Lee Salmeron 760-889-1787.

Seeking Housing

Summerfield Teacher Cody Smout and family welcome a long term care taking opportunity. Experience includes biodynamic agriculture, ecology, whole foods chef, flowforms, herbalism/natural healing, livestock, design/build and much more! We are also open to trade and For Sale By Owner opportunities. Please contact cody@summerfieldwaldorf.org Thank you!

Vacation Rental

Looking for an affordable getaway? A Summerfield family has just placed their fully renovated historic home in Mt. Shasta on the vacation rental market! 6 bedrooms, 3 baths, sleeps up to 13 people. 1 1/2 blocks from downtown in quiet residential neighborhood. See www.vrbo.com/513824 for more information.

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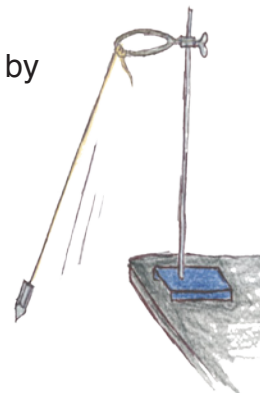
Waldorf Science Teachers' Conference



Middle and High School Science teachers:

Join us for a participatory, in-depth science experience led by
Dr Wilfried Sommer, Craig Holdrege, and Jon McAlice.

Topics include Mechanics, Atomic theory,
Understanding Development, Evolution and the role of
the will in developing concepts. Plan to attend the entire
workshop from Tuesday evening through midday Saturday.
Our costs are: Conference \$150; Food \$100. Scholarships available.
Register with Cathy: cathy@summerfieldwaldorf.org



February 18-22, 2014

Summerfield Waldorf School, Santa Rosa, CA

Center for Contextual Studies

Contact: Beth.baw@sonic.net