

Messenger

Summerfield | WALDORF SCHOOL AND FARM

February 21, 2013

Volume 25, Issue 6

The Class Play: Two Perspectives

THE PARENT...

by Cyndi Yoxall,
Fifth Grade
Parent

Our Class Five students blew us away with their intelligent and funny

performance of *The Iliad*. With only one month to prepare, I must say, I did not have the highest expectations, as the *The Iliad* is not an easy play to pull off! I wondered how even Mrs. MacKinnon, our talented teacher/writer/director, could work her magic with the energetic group of ten- and eleven-year-old tweens for this one.

The evening performance was absolutely fantastic! It took place in the circus tent, with each student performing as both actor and musician. The play opened with a Fifth Grade orchestra, the students in full costume playing their string and wind instruments as a group. As the action began, they shifted into their (different) places and roles, including female roles that required boys to wear beautiful wigs and dresses. Throughout

(Continued on Page Three)



THE TEACHER...

by Kibby
MacKinnon, Fifth
Grade Teacher

Drama is one of the integral ways teachers work with the curriculum in

Waldorf schools, and each year the class teacher writes or selects a play that will meet the children in their development. The format of the play in the lower school follows the development of human consciousness, so that in First Grade, the play is generally made up of choral speech that the class speaks together, and performed only for families in the classroom. By Eighth Grade, the play is a fully-staged production with major roles, and the responsibility for set, costumes and lighting rests in the hands of the students. Many teachers choose a Shakespeare play in the Eighth Grade, and offer several performances for the wider community.

In Fourth Grade I had the great joy of writing and directing my first class play. It was based on a little-known story from Norse

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Important Dates:

Walk through the Grades: A Campus Tour

Wednesday, 3/13, 9am
Meet in front of Sophia Hall

Circus Waldissima is Coming to Town for its 21st Year!

Saturday, 3/23 & Sunday, 3/24

REMINDER: Placeholder Deposit Due March 4th

This \$400 deposit reserves your child's place in his/her class for the 2013-14 school year. The deposit will be applied towards your August 2013 tuition balance. If a placeholder deposit is not received by March 4th and the class has a wait pool, the student will be placed in this wait pool with all other applicants.

News from the Board

by Craig Stanbrook, Board President

Much of our work takes place behind the scenes—where Board members volunteer time to oversee the legal and financial responsibilities of the School, as well as work in concert with the Governance Council, to ensure that our School continues to grow in a robust way, and can support a vibrant Waldorf pedagogy. Here are some areas the Board is currently addressing:

- **THE FARM:** The Board has been looking at all aspects of the Farm in an effort to envision, re-envision, and even to dream about developing and expanding the Farm's role. We are looking with great care and consideration at how best to integrate these various roles: outdoor classroom for educating children; food source for children and the community; School showpiece and magnet for outside interest and support.
- **DEVELOPMENT:** The Annual Giving Campaign was once again successful, with 100% participation for the second year in a row.
- **STRATEGIC (LONG-TERM) PLANNING:** Lisa Yoshida is leading the task of creating a focus group at the School in order to gather data for use in formulating a comprehensive strategic plan.
- **SITE:** We continue to bring the School and School facilities into compliance with the American Disabilities Act. Such work has greatly enhanced our grounds and created access for all.
- **BUDGET PROCESS:** Karl Forsyth, in conjunction with the Finance Committee, continues his work exploring and recommending budgeting and modeling tools appropriate for Board use, in the hope that it will improve our ability to forecast and budget (and thereby to reduce costs).

Information on these and other topics is always available by attending a Board meeting—check the School calendar for dates and times.

High School Cabaret

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY,
MARCH 1 & 2, 2013**

Join us for a night of song and dance as students from Tenth through Twelfth grade perform numbers from your favorite musicals! From *Fiddler on the Roof* to *Babes in Arms* and everything in between, this night will prove to be a show stopper!

Donations are kindly accepted at the door.

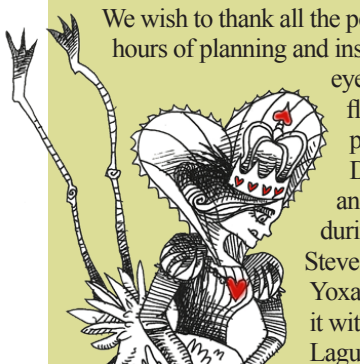
Alumni News...

We love to receive updates and hear stories about our alumni and alumni families!

Thank you to those who have kept us updated. Please continue to send us news.

Queen of Hearts Dance Party

The Royal Court Committee doth hereby decree that the Queen of Hearts dance party was a HUGE SUCCESS! Guests traveled though the rabbit hole into a marvelously decorated hall, where the dance floor was grooving, the photo-booth flash was snapping, tables were filled with wonderful food and decadent desserts, and the bar was well-tended by smiling mixologists. Thank you to everyone who came out to support Summerfield—a great time was had by all.



We wish to thank all the people who made this event possible: Ashley Radzat and Kayse Hofland for your fabulous party vision and hours of planning and inspired decorating skills; Mike Mitchell for your original artwork and Andrea Trinei for using it to create eye-catching publicity; Dimitri Gortinsky and Bryce Williams for spinning great tunes and keeping the dance floor moving; Cyndi Yoxall for all of your support; Holly Hollinger and Willow Niitsuma for preparing and presenting an elegant spread of food; and to all of the bakers who provided those delectable bite-size treats: Mia Davidson, Christina Panza, Monica Sallouti, Becca Nance, Elizabeth Bissonnette, Aimee Mitchell, Cathy Torres and Angela Persinger. Royal appreciation also goes out to all our many volunteers helping out in various areas during the night: Sarah Whitmore, Karl Forsyth, Deborah Pulido, Dan Westphal, Kim Shepard, John Camastro, Steve and Andrea Bossio, Andrea Trinei, Jefferson Buller, Christine Mooney, Aura-Lee Salmeron, Cyndi and Joe Yoxall, Susan Sterns, Tony Coturri, Heather Topham, Sarah Neff and Ignacio Garat—we couldn't have done it without you! We would also like to thank all of our generous sponsors: Coturri Winery, Taft Winery, Korbel, Lagunitas, Ace Cider, Bellwether Farms, and Wild Flour Bakery. We can't wait until next year!!!

~Andrea Jolicoeur and Lisa Hensley

Editor: We would like to thank Andrea J. and Lisa H. for the tireless energy and seemingly unending work they put into this event—they both went above and beyond what was required in order to make this event the best! Thank you, Andrea and Lisa, and here's to the Second Annual Summerfield Dance Party!

THE PARENT (Continued from Page One)

the performance, background music was played by the students while others acted, switching back and forth between actor and musician. It was so much to ask of the young class; however, they stepped up and took it on with confidence and grace.

As a staff member, I felt so proud of our school, and grateful that we have the resources and ability to offer this rich education to our students. As a parent, I felt blessed and touched on many levels—it moved my heart to see the class work together as young actors, but also like siblings, covering and encouraging each other—helping each other change into costume, remembering the next line, or shining in their own way. I felt touched by my son, out there on stage as Aphrodite, comfortable enough to play a female part, wearing a wig and dress, and playing his cello in the group, in a duet and as a soloist in a way I had never seen before. And I was touched by Mrs. MacKinnon, who brought this passion and energy to our class, finding a way to involve each student and allow them to build this cohesive bond.

As the play ended, you could see and hear the excitement of the class. They each had needed to step outside the box and work hard both individually and as a group. They celebrated together with big smiles and yells, hugging and dancing around. And then, in typical Summerfield style, they started picking things up, each lending a hand to clean up and deliver props and costumes back to their classroom. Once again, I felt blessed.



THE TEACHER (Continued from Page One)

Mythology called *Grimnismol*. The play had an even balance of choral pieces, where the children spoke in unison or had short lines as part of a poem, and also individual roles for about half the class. Then, in Fifth Grade, I could sense that the class was really ready to move into meatier roles and had the inner strength to develop their characters. So I decided that the play my class needed to do this year was *The Iliad*. I dove into reading and writing, and had a draft by the end of last summer, but it took reading it through several times with the class, and then rewriting during the winter holidays to finalize the script. The play had seventeen scenes, and we had three weeks to rehearse. Collaborating with our music teachers, eurythmy teachers, speech teachers, and with a great deal of support from parents and other teachers, we spent every available hour during those weeks learning music for the music cues and for the full orchestral opening piece, working on the whole-class eurythmy at the end of the play, making papier mâché helmets, creating free-hand geometric drawing and painting for shield designs, making swords, and learning stage fighting from two

guest fencing instructors who happened to know quite a bit about Greek history! On their own, several Fifth Graders choreographed the acrobatic and juggling pieces in the play, and others

made their own cardboard armor. Our Odysseus spent many hours at home with his father painstakingly designing, sawing, drilling and sewing over 150 pieces together for his boar's tooth replica helmet.



(Continued on Page Six)

Congratulations to our Basketball teams



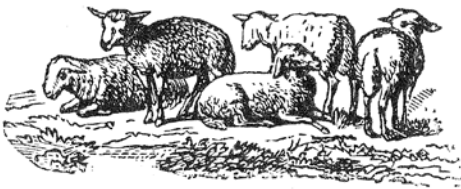
Both of the High School Mustangs teams won their year-end tournaments, and the Boys won their league title too. The Boys were 21-7 for the season; the Girls 15-9.



Farmyard Reflections as Spring Approaches

By Farmer Dan

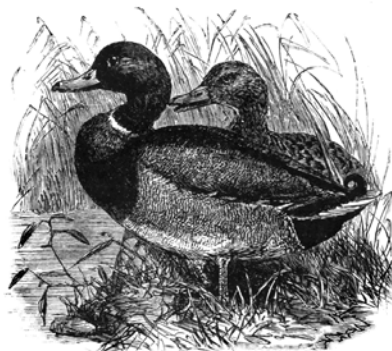
At a faculty meeting during Advent a colleague offered that Advent is a season of opening the heart, and that thought comes to mind now as the buds on the camellia trees unfold and Valentine's Day approaches. (This "heart opening" reminds me of the Norwegian farmer who loved his wife so much that he almost told her he loved her!)



Early spring on the Farm brings something uniquely special with it—something is present—just as music is present, yet you can't touch it. Arriving early one morning, there she is: the tiniest of white lambs. All the Kindergartners marvel as she steps freshly from the womb out into the misty pasture—her glorious stage. While moving rocks in the native plant garden with hearty Sixth Graders, a glistening prehistoric-style lizard flashes his glittering, bewildering eyes at the startled students and teacher, and a mad scramble ensues to catch it, to no avail. High School students arrive to tenderly ferry several full-grown ducks over to the High School Permaculture garden to help keep the slug population at bay. They talk softly to the ducks—and to each other—as they walk. In the first half hour of the day, the farmyard is bathed in light. All these subtle vignettes provide lubrication for the hinges of the heart that can get rusty over the winter.

President Obama in his inaugural address talked about life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, as well as tolerance and opportunity, but he coupled these high ideals with an awareness for the need of hard work and personal responsibility. Steiner, writing in an essay titled *Necessity and Freedom*, wrote of "people who do not know what to do with themselves because they are not filled with the Spirit." An old Cherokee told his grandson, "My son, there is a battle between two wolves inside us all. One is Evil. It is anger, jealousy, greed, resentment, inferiority, lies and ego. The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, humility, kindness, empathy and truth." The boy thought about it, and asked, "Grandfather, which wolf wins?" The old man quietly replied, "The one you feed."

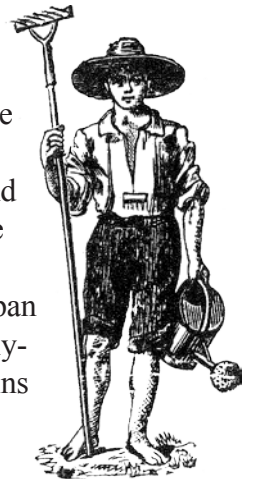
Time and time again, the work in the student gardens and on the Farm feeds the "good wolf." It nourishes and enlivens the Spirit, and it hones an awareness of the human need for hard work and personal responsibility. The Fourth Graders, absent from the Farm the first semester of this school year, came bounding back ready to work. They scoured the duck pond, cleaned the chicken coop top to bottom, and began pruning and weeding the Farm rose bed. Their enthusiasm was visceral



and infectious. The Eighth Graders chopped celery and red peppers galore for huge pots of chili. They made pan upon pan of freshly-ground corn muffins from corn planted and harvested and shelled and ground all with student help on the Farm, (the Farm that would not exist without their help!). While serving their fellow students, one Eighth Grader came back to me to report that sometimes when serving the Sixth Graders, some of them don't listen to her directives. "Why," I reply with a twinkle in my eye, "I can't even imagine such a thing—Sixth Graders not listening! I am absolutely shocked!" Steiner, again: "We learn to work in the world, we learn to grasp the world."

As the students work on the Farm, often very hard, it has come to my deepest realization over time to be grateful for any one success, for one transcendent moment in any given class or activity. The natural world seems to be the great equalizer and simply having the students out on the land is in itself a great gift and a blessing for their lives. It is so gratifying that our community understands that, and the tremendous sacrifices so many families make to send and keep their children at Summerfield never cease to amaze and inspire me.

So thanks, and I leave you with this closing reflection: "Farmer Dan, remember—there is a little person inside each big one." ~a reminder from an astute kindergartener.



12th Grade Zoology trip

by Kyle Collins, High School
Biology and Math Teacher

On January 24 the Twelfth Grade visited the California Academy of Sciences as part of their Biology block on Zoology, the study of animals. At the Academy, each student took up an independent study of a single organism, characterizing its life and qualities. Here, they also explored concepts in Ecology, Marine Biology, and Human Evolution.



The aspects of this field trip tie in directly to content, themes, and questions that the seniors are studying in the classroom, which are “How did life begin? What was the first animal? What are the patterns and links of commonality between animal groups? Where did we come from? How can we harmonize our actions and systems with Nature’s?”

The trip to the Academy of Arts brought the students one step closer to answering these questions—all while having a genuinely fun time!

Second Cup of Coffee

by Rick Concoff, Teacher & Parenting Coach, SWSF

EVERY TUESDAY
AT 8AM IN THE
SPANISH ROOM

For the past couple of months now, every Tuesday morning, a group of Summerfield parents of various-age children have met for a cup of coffee and to talk about parenting. I lead the discussion with engaging topics, then let the conversation bloom organically.

During the gathering, we take on such issues as:

- Managing and supporting our children’s busy academic and extra curricular activities
- Media and technology in our lives and our children’s lives
- Alcohol and substances in youth culture
- Parenting, co-parenting, step-parenting and every other kind of parenting
- How to enrich and improve the time we spend with our children
- Ways in which our children harm themselves

Everyone gets a chance to add to the conversation, as we search for “in-the-box” and “outside-the-box” strategies, solutions and approaches to parenting. Each session is its own session—so, please feel free to come and go from week to week and enjoy the talk! The best part is that we all come to realize that we are not alone in the journey, and that we can help ourselves and each other by sharing stories.

Bring your own cup and purchase coffee from Tate, up by Sophia Hall. More info: call 823-3916. Read my blogs: www.parentingpanicbutton.com

Farm to Feast 2013

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

Last year’s Farm to Feast SOLD OUT—let’s make it happen again!

We are planning an afternoon/evening event on the Farm that will include wine tasting, a silent auction, live music, an art display and dinner, followed by a bonfire and dancing.

Farm to Feast is the year’s largest fundraising event and will be held in a similar style to last year. We are pleased to be able to offer it again to a larger crowd at a reasonable price. Tickets will be \$75. We appreciate your enthusiasm and support.

Volunteers are needed to help plan the event and coordinate our auction. Please contact development@summerfieldwaldorf.org and let us know how you can help. It will be a fun time for all!

AUCTION DONATIONS:

We also need your help with donated items for our Farm to Feast auction. We will be holding both an online auction (opening in May on biddingforgood.com/farmtofeast) and a silent auction at the event on June 1. Contact giving@summerfieldwaldorf.org if you are able to donate an auction item or assist with procurement. Auction item donation forms are available in the Development Office.



(The Class Play... Continued from Page Three)

The dedication, creativity and drive the children brought to our production was apparent. In the book *Waldorf Education: a Family Guide*, Grace Broussard and Richard Lindley write:

In some measure, each performance works to bring the child toward full awareness of who he or she is, and to give awareness and control that will eventually allow the child to take charge of his or her own destiny or life, a destiny that is as particular and unpredictable, and yet as universal, as the destinies of the heroes and heroines, the gods and goddesses of the ongoing human drama.

After the play, there was a sense of accomplishment, confidence, and also respect among the class, as they discovered previously hidden aspects of each other and marveled at each other's growth. Working on a play with the children is for me the highest honor, the culmination of how we learn together, and truly the highlight of the year.

Community Business Profile

Another profile of one of our family businesses, showcasing the abundant resources and skills in our community.



By Michael Stusser, Owner of Osmosis Day Spa Sanctuary

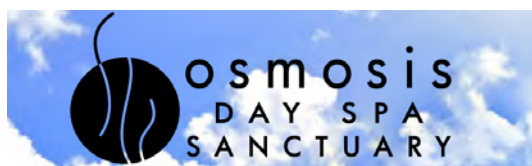
The inspiration for Osmosis was born in the spring of 1983 when I took my first enzyme bath in Japan.

As the healing warmth of the bath enveloped my entire being, I experienced

a dramatic physical and spiritual transformation. The whole picture of creating a healing sanctuary with the magical fermentation bath at the core surrounded by meditative Japanese-style gardens and gracious hospitality, flashed before my mind's eye. From this remarkable moment on, I knew it was my calling to return and make recreating the Japanese enzyme bath in West County my focus.

The stated intention of the original business plan was to introduce and establish the enzyme bath as a genuinely beneficial form of heat therapy. I also wanted to build a profitable, sustainable business enterprise that conveyed a right-livelihood opportunity/situation for owners, managers, and employees, and to create a restful sanctuary conducive to effective relaxation and therapy that contributes a sense of well-being to this world.

Thirty years later, Osmosis has become a nationally known destination, employing 85 dedicated, talented people who continue to provide exceptional transformative experiences for our guests at our 6-acre sanctuary every day.



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Center for FoodEducation
Grow Kitchen brings people together to deepen their relationship to food, their family and their community. We provide food craft training steeped in tradition and focused on experiencing a sense of place in everyday eating.
Don't miss these coming classes:
Feb. 22nd - 6pm: Bring Back the Birthday Cake!
Feb. 23rd - 3pm: The Whole Hog - Hands on butchery
To explore our classes & events please visit: www.growkitchen.com - Sebastopol, CA - 707-477-5367

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Summerfield 12th Grader
Sydney Hollinger
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The Messenger Marketplace

Classes/Training

Simplicity Parenting Support & Integration Group held at SWSF!!

Free Introductory Workshop Wed. 2/27, 6:30-8:30pm. 7-Session Group begins March 6. Integrate small, but transformative changes into your family life with Certified Simplicity Parenting Coach & Group Leader, Sue Gimpel, www.FamilyHomeCoach.org.

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Waldorf Infant to Preschool toys, silks, structures, dolls, bowls, woolen animals, etc...

Anything that would furnish our Waldorf-inspired Child Care, My Little Farm, is needed. www.mylittlefarm.com. Call Julie at 707-396-7738 or email: mylittlefarm1999@gmail.com, or FB us My Little Farm, Waldorf Child Care, Santa Rosa. A Big Thank You!

Summerfield Family of Four Looking for New Home

Rental or possible purchase. We have one small, well-behaved, non-shedding dog. Prefer Sebastopol or Santa Rosa close to school. Please call Cynthia at 874-2694.

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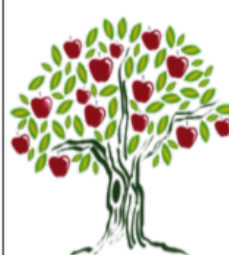
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Summer Farm Camp

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 1ST

Summer is just around the corner and we are making preparations for a wonderful Farm Camp. Summerfield offers six one-week sessions for children ages four to nine, June 17th through July 26th, 8:30am-1pm, Monday through Friday. Children may be registered for just one week, or up to six weeks.

Our four- to five-year-old program has its home in the Kindergarten Village. The children make their journey to the Farm every day with visits to the animals, berry picking, egg gathering and vegetable-harvesting. Then they return to the Kindergarten Village for crafts, stories, lunch and play time.

The six- to nine-year-old program meets at the Farm every day and begins with circle time on hay bales, then animal chores, garden work, cooking, as well as herb and vegetable-harvesting, crafts and games follow. Their day ends with a story and lunch.

**Aftercare is available from 1pm–3:30pm for all children—advance registration required.*

Earth Ecology and Farm Camp FOR 10-12-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN

Two one-week sessions (weeks to be determined)

Children will have fun learning life skills in ecology that can be applied in our “edible food forest” Permaculture Garden. Their day begins with animal chores, fruit and berry picking and preparing snack. Themes of fire, earth and water guide the curriculum and artistic activities. This includes gardening and composting, herbal crafting, papermaking, cooking, solar energy, having fun and building community.

by Ronni Sands and Farmer Dana Revallo, for Farm Camp

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR ALL CAMPS

Please turn in your registration form, with payment, by April 1, 2013. On-time payment and registration will guarantee your child a place in Farm Camp—annually we receive many registrants from outside our School community and therefore encourage you to register now, in order to guarantee your child a spot. Forms for both camps are available in the Summerfield Main Office, Finance Office, or on our website at www.summerfieldwaldorf.org. We look forward to another great year!

Questions: Call Lisa Hensley, Farm Camp Registrar, at 575-7194, ext. 103 or email farmcamp@summerfieldwaldorf.org.