

Messenger

Summerfield | WALDORF SCHOOL AND FARM

March 19, 2015

Volume 27, Issue 7

Up, Up, and Away!

EIGHTH GRADERS BUILD ROCKETS

Interview by Adam MacKinnon, Editor

Parents arriving at school by the track one recent Friday morning were treated to the sight of rockets being launched amidst much excitement by the eighth graders on the final day of their physics block. Curious about how this much fun could possibly fit in to the curriculum, I talked with Fred Bassett, HS Physics teacher and guest teacher for this eighth grade block.



Messenger: I know the study of Physics begins in sixth grade in Waldorf schools. What topics are you bringing to the eighth grade?

Fred Bassett: In this block we chose three segments, with a focus in each on the practical. First, students looked at electricity and electromagnetism. Together, we built capacitors (out of plastic film canisters), and talked about how electricity is a seemingly invisible phenomenon. They discovered it can be created by rubbing two dissimilar materials together (insulators). The students did this as an experiment, and found they could store it in their canisters.

We explored the history of electricity—and there was a sense of wonder in hearing of the early demonstrations—objects were picked up using electricity, and when people first realized it had an effect, they saw it could defy gravity. We carried out our own simple experiments to explore the limitations of electricity, for instance, students observed that light is dimmer when going through long wires.

Our second area was the study of simple

battery-powered switched circuits. Once they had the fundamentals, they used simple thumbtacks, paper clips and wires, trying to create same functionality of a three-way switch, and then they documented it. We then moved on to the idea of an electro-magnetically controlled switch: the concept of a relay. They examined examples and got a sense of what electricity can do once one has control over it.

We considered the speed of electricity and how it differs from sound? We conducted experiments with boards on opposite sides of the track: when we clapped two boards together, we had a light bulb that came on attached to a relay. In answering the question “Did they see the light come on first or hear the sound?”, they got a sense of how instantaneous electricity is.

Finally, they all built relay circuits at their desks, took them outside, and practiced morse code to someone out of earshot. The challenge was to see if they could communicate across distances, forcing them to work with and for each other.

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SENIOR PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

**Wed, Fri & Sat; Apr 22, 24 & 25;
6:30pm in Sophia Hall**

The class of 2015 is pleased to present their senior projects to the Summerfield community.

The senior project is a year-long, three-part experience which includes a project, a written paper detailing aspects of the project, and an oral presentation. This process gives students the opportunity to explore a subject that is meaningful to them, during a time of transition into adulthood.

Projects this year range from exploring Roseland's culture to cooking with troubled youth, and from building a telescope to building surfboards, and many more!

We hope that you can join the seniors as they present their projects to the Summerfield community.

TEACHER NEWS

First Grade Teacher Announcement

It is with great delight that we announce next year's First Grade Class Teacher, Patricia Walker. Last fall, the Lower School Support Group asked Mrs. Walker to consider taking the class, a request based upon her passion for teaching, love of the curriculum, and many years of teaching experience. With tremendous enthusiasm, she has informed us of her desire to accept the position.



Originally from Urbana, Illinois, Mrs. Walker has dedicated all of her professional life to education, especially Waldorf Education. Graduating with honors, she earned a B.A. in Liberal Arts with a focus in education and a minor in art. She holds a California Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and a supplemental credential in art. Mrs. Walker completed the Waldorf Teacher Training at the Center for Educational Renewal, and has over twenty years teaching experience, fifteen of those in Waldorf schools. In June, she will have the honor of completing a full 8-year teaching cycle, graduating her class of thirty-three students! Next year's first grade class community will have highly qualified and prepared teacher.

While we share with you the excitement of this news, we ask that you please be sensitive to Mrs. Walker's present priority, to focus on graduating the class currently in her care before taking on the responsibilities of next year's first grade. We will be organizing opportunities for you to meet and get to know her shortly after the school year ends.

Sincerely, the Lower School Support Group: Tim Allen, Jamie Lloyd, Saskia Pothof, and Isabel Wundsam.

New White Rose Teacher

By Thalia Baril for the Early Childhood Core Group

As some of you know, I am leaving Summerfield at the end of this year to begin a new chapter of my life in Wales. I have cherished the eight years that I have been here and the children, families, and colleagues that it has been my privilege to get to know and love.

The Early Childhood faculty and I are delighted to announce that we have found the perfect next White Rose teacher to take my place! Her name is Ms. Cynthia Vargas and she has been teaching for the last three years at the first Waldorf school in Puerto Rico. Before that she taught kindergarten at the Mendocino Waldorf school as well as at a Waldorf school in Illinois. Her hope is to come at the beginning of June so that we can spend some time together before I leave for my new life.



SENIOR CLASS EURYTHMY WED, MAR 25 AT 7PM IN SOPHIA HALL



PAINTING BY SASKIA POTHOF

How the Raja's Son Won the Princess Labam AND Tone Eurythmy

Rhapsody in Blue by George Gershwin

Arwin's Vigil by Jon Schmidt,
Steven Nelson & Al van der Beek

Vamo'alla Flamenco by Nobuo Uematsu

The senior class have this year created a wonderful fairytale performance in eurythmy. They chose this karmic sacred text from India, a tale about a prince and his good deeds, as a gift to their first-grade buddies. The class will also present *Tone Eurythmy*, a program of interpretations of three varied musical pieces.

They will perform on the morning of Thursday, March 26 for the Lower School, as well as this Wednesday, March 25 performance at 7pm for the wider community.

TICKETS FREE (DONATIONS WELCOME)

THE ERA OF MEDIA: CHILDREN ON THE DIFFICULT PATH TO FREEDOM OF MIND

SAT, APR 25 AT 10AM
IN SOPHIA HALL

Dr. Johanna Steegmans returns to Summerfield in April, and will be giving a parent education talk on media, trying to find and understand the healthiest way for our children to grow up in this new era.



(Continued from Page One)

Messenger: And what is the approach to physics at this age, and indeed to all the sciences?

Fred Bassett: It is still very much a sense-based learning experience. The idea is to keep it as a phenomenological experience, without introducing a significant level of mathematical abstraction. Above all, it's about meeting them at a developmentally appropriate place. We let them experience a phenomenon that is new to them, and let them see how it lives within their everyday world. If they're enthused about it, they get excited about what's out there to learn.

It's also about the social side—experiments are done in groups of 2-4, testing capacitors on each other, getting each others' hair to stand up, telegraphing messages etc. We did various experiments using Pascal's Principle with hydraulic pumps. We took the smallest and largest person and found that the smallest person was able to exert enough pressure to work against the strongest person. The smallest kid in the class also used Farmer Dana's hydraulic jack to lift up the four biggest kids in class. So, it's peer-based learning as well as active learning. These are principles that underscore the Waldorf approach to science.

Messenger: How about the Rockets?

Fred Bassett: Oh yes! Well, towards the end of the block we went on to study fluid mechanics. What are the properties of fluids under pressure, and how does that manifest?

Students got an introduction to Pascal's Principle: "a fluid under pressure will experience that pressure everywhere in

that contained space." This introduced the students to the concept of pounds per square inch. Why is that useful for them? There is so much in their world where an awareness of pressure is relevant. Weather is one example that is brought. And water pressure is relevant to anyone who has done any diving. We utilized the idea of air pressure and water pressure in a way that was fun by building water rockets!

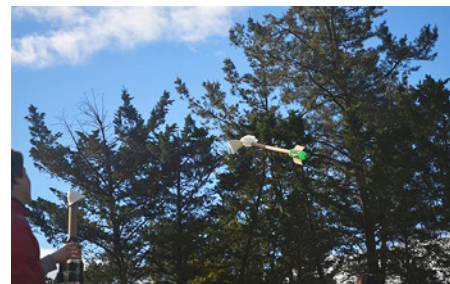
Together, we discovered that pressurized water in a one-liter plastic bottle can provide a propulsion system and defy gravity. Each student made their own rocket, adding cardboard tube extensions (for stability), the fins and nose cone, which were hot-glued or taped to the bottle. For those students attempting to deploy a parachute, they then attached six strings and an HDPE plastic bag between the tube extension and the detachable nose cone.

On the last two days of class we had a contest which was twofold: 1. Height of the rocket. 2. Could the rocket have a parachute stored in the nose-cone that would deploy, so that after it reached its peak it could fall slowly, i.e. it was capturing air to slow its descent. The highest rocket reached 108ft, while five students successfully deployed a parachute. Two students even built their own launcher assemblies.

There was also an observational element. Students made their own height meter (altimeter), and by observing from four points (North, South, East, West) and with a grid to understand distance from where rocket launched, they were able to measure the height the rockets traveled. This activity is intended to give a realization of what factors affect observational accuracy in experiments.

Messenger: How does science teaching in Waldorf schools differ from the mainstream?

Fred Bassett: Sense-based science is relevant to the human being, and there may be no better fuel for the imagination than a powerful sense-experience. The primary goal is to invoke a memorable impression that can be associated with the sense perceived phenomenon. A



startling or amazing experience of an experiment will out-live the analysis that follows it. The idea is to prime the student's curiosity, cultivating their self will to enthusiastically be eager to observe and understand the phenomenon, and ultimately, setting the stage for developing a more rigorously developed and specifically defined concept in high school science classes.

This is in contrast to a purely abstract approach to science from the perspective that everything is already known so you just need to memorize and learn how to use a formula. This disconnect from what is real phenomenon, that is human sense perceived and can be developed into an accurate concept, is what is often cited as a pitfall of classical, lecture-based, science education. It is the difference between memorized fact and deeply experienced understanding.

Robert Trostli says this about the Waldorf approach in his book *Physics is Fun*: "We must seek to cultivate the child's sense of wonder, stimulate their curiosity, deepen their interests, and help them apply their knowledge and understanding in meaningful and responsible ways. All understanding begins with wonder! The least as well as the most impressive phenomena can evoke wonder if presented and received in the right way. Our physics lessons should stimulate curiosity by confronting students with mysteries that are not always easily unraveled. In physics, students learn about forces that are experienced only through their manifestations."

I often tell myself before I start a lesson, that I only get one opportunity to introduce a new experience in science to a student for their first time. I hope they receive it in a way that builds curiosity and wonder for the rest of their lives.



PHOTOS: COLIN MCCORMICK

The Endangered Soul of the Child

By Adam MacKinnon, Editor

Sanford Miller spoke recently at Sophia Hall on the 'awesome and holy task of parenting' in an event organized by The Christian Community of Santa Rosa. Based at The Christian Community in Sacramento-Fair Oaks, Sanford is Santa Rosa's visiting priest, and offers a children's religious service and instruction (including wonderful storytelling) every month along with study groups, and the adult service, The Act of Consecration of Man. He has spent his life immersed in Anthroposophy, and warmly entertained his audience with an erudite, witty, and wide-ranging talk encompassing a history of childhood, the challenges of 21st-century technology, and our task as parents and educators.

Sanford opened his talk by reminding us all of the awesome task we have taken on in receiving our children. They come out of the spiritual world "trailing clouds of glory", as Wordsworth put it—they are like messengers of paradise, coming to parents who've had little or no training in how to do this job! It's little wonder that the task of parenting can seem terrifying at times.

He went on to talk about how childhood has been perceived historically, recounting a fascinating series of shifts of attitude through the ages. In the medieval world people didn't have a real concept of any time between infancy and adulthood, and it was not until the Renaissance that the concept of childhood as a special age emerged, one in which nurturing and education were seen as important. However, there were conflicting ideas of children as being evil and depraved (courtesy of Reformation thinkers such as Calvin and Zwingli), contrasted with the idea of children as innocent and blessed, as described in the Bible.

The debate between Nature and Nurture began to be expressed—John Locke, for instance, wrote of the *tabula rasa*, where a child is born with a blank slate, and thus Nurture was the most important factor in raising children. In more recent times, there has been a recognition that childhood is a social construct, dependent on so much else of what is happening in our society. Ideas of such thinkers as Neil Postman center on the notion that childhood is disappearing altogether because adults and children are becoming so similar, with the lines between youth and adulthood blurred. While our youth are being

beckoned towards early sexualization and consumerism, adults get stuck in searching for the fountain of youth instead of learning how to grow old gracefully.

In speaking about the endangered soul of the child, Sanford described briefly the almost-tsunamic forces (his own invented word!) at play in the life of children in our times. It isn't just the technology, the screens, the effortless access to endless information, the too-early sexualization of children, the loss of outdoor time, free play, real wilderness, and of being able to climb trees and walls with some risk-taking... it's all of these and more that amount to a loss of childhood. And trying to stop it all is like spitting into Hell!

From an essay by Steve Talbott, Sanford shared the Greek origins of our words for technology and mechanics, noting that *techne* implies craft, skill and cunning, while *mechane* has meanings of contrivance and trickery. Homer's Odysseus is described as a cunning, habitual liar during his Odyssey, a story of the journey of the self on its way to becoming fully conscious. His acquisition of the facets of *techne* en route can be seen as ambiguous, a double-edged development in the history of human consciousness.

The advent of technology has led humans to begin to separate themselves from the sense-perceptible world. The historical paradigm that once had early technological man carving out enclosures against the wilderness (fenced-off farms and homesteads), has turned on its head—we now live a world

where it's the remaining enclaves of wilderness that are vulnerable, and we need laws to protect nature from the ravages of humanity.



Technology is now our cocoon: it promises us endless distraction to the point of overwhelm. It's both attractive and smothering—we don't realize what it is doing to our consciousness. There is a risk that children no longer get their information from trees, water, the stars, but instead from screens. Their reality is becoming more and more abstract.

Sanford described a survey of young people and texting that revealed the appeal of allowing just a small amount of contact with others without actually talking to them; the satisfaction of being in touch with lots of people but essentially keeping them all at bay. What is happening here? Something is being developed that is almost anti-social.

So what are we to do, as parents, as teachers?

Well, whatever we do, there is no guarantee of a positive outcome, said Sanford! But there is a guarantee of a negative outcome if we mistreat or abuse our children. Sanford raised a big laugh from his audience in saying that, if your children are difficult, take comfort that the spiritual world chose YOU as their parents. He brought in the whole concept of karma, and that our children come to us with so much already within them. In the debate between Nature and Nurture, karma trumps all! Indeed, Steiner described it as if they have already been taught everything they need to know during their descent to earth from the spiritual world. It is our role, through nurture and education, merely to 'draw out from' (the definition of the Latin *educare*) the wisdom that is in them, and remove the hindrances.

Giving them too much that is already

completed stunts those capacities for learning, because something that is only there for entertainment or delight requires little or imagination. Sanford described how Steiner was aghast at seeing a “modern doll” (this was in 1924!) with glass eyes that opened and shut, calling it a “monstrous thing” and comparing its effect to that of a simple rag doll, which would require fantasy from the child, the effort to inwardly call upon imagination.

Our job is to recognize the effects of technology, to do what we can to minimize our children’s exposure to them, and provide enough real-world experiences that are true, good and beautiful as food for their souls. We must trust that the children have their Guardian Angels—they will look after them when they climb trees and walls!

The biggest threat to our children is not lions and tigers, it’s us!

We can’t avoid the negative forces altogether, and we shouldn’t try. After all, even Rudolph Steiner’s mentor told him he had to crawl into the Dragon’s Skin. What we can do is work on our own inner life. By taking the world seriously, by studying, praying, meditating, observing nature, by establishing the rhythms of a spiritual life (in whatever form works for you), then you are engaging in the task of self-development. We need to be asking ourselves the big questions: Who am I? How will I die? We are here to try to die well—as better beings than when we were born. Our job is to be awake!

When we demonstrate our awareness that the world is permeated by the divine, we awaken our conscience, and exert a healing influence on our being and on our children. This is what allows us to greet our children with wonder and love, so that they can truly emerge into what they will become.

If you are interested in learning more about the Christian Community in Santa Rosa, which meets at Summerfield, please contact Elinor Biller: 707.542.5744 or by email to biller@sonic.net.

Farm to Fiesta MAY 16, 2015, 4-11PM

by Cyndi Yoxall, Development Director

This year’s Farm to Feast will have a new menu and theme: “fiesta”! This idea comes from our creative, award-winning chef team that is working together on a delicious menu featuring Latin cuisine. Tortilla de maíz, carne, salsa...exquisito! Pairing the food with wines by our nine unique Summerfield vintners... ¡delicioso! Is your mouth watering yet?

Meanwhile our fun, talented décor team is working on the fiesta flair. Bright flowers, paper décor, lantern lights, everything with a classy fiesta style... ¡precioso!

Oh, and the music. The *music*. Get ready for Spanish guitar or brass quartet, a salsa dance lesson and Orquesta Batacha-ing the night away. ¡Qué divertido!

Tickets are available online through brownpapertickets.com or in the Main Office; \$90 each, space is limited (350 guests max). We expect a sellout for the fourth year in a row. Line up the babysitting and get ready to enjoy the evening.

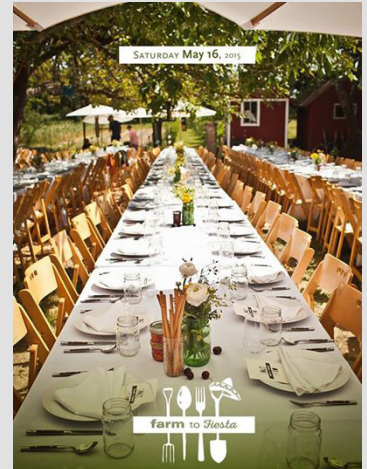
Unable to attend? You can still do your part by making a donation, offering auction items, spreading the word, and lending a hand. This important event takes all of us and raises much-needed funds that support tuition assistance, as well as the overall function of the entire school. Our goal is to raise over \$200,000. We invite all of you to get involved and spread the word to friends and family. *This fundraiser is also a fun celebration for all of us... ¡celebremos!*

AUCTION

We are gearing up for creative and fun online and silent auctions! We need your auction donations: please contact the Development Office with your offering and ideas. You can make a donation online at farmtofeast.org. Our online auction will run April 27-May 22 at biddingforgood.com.



Fabulous buy-in parties will also return to the silent auction this year. Stay tuned for party themes. We will also have new class projects for auction this year—made by students and offered by each class. Together we can maintain the vitality and diversity of the school.



The Human Encounter: PARENT-TEACHER RELATIONSHIPS IN A WALDORF SCHOOL COMMUNITY

WEBINAR: APR 21 AT 11AM PST

A school is a community, and like all communities its health depends upon the quality of its relationships. Join us as Torin Finser speaks to the parent-teacher relationship in all its dimensions, offering both practical advice and deeper, spiritual insights. This webinar is co-sponsored by AWSNA and the Anthroposophical Society in America. Register at goo.gl/koAigQ.

When It's Springtime in the Farmyard

By Farmer Dan



Summerfield's free range kids were busy all day today on the farm, teaching me again how to teach. First, some were reminded that they were given two ears and one mouth, so perhaps that meant they should listen twice as much as they liked to talk. Next, some got a reminder, borrowed from the Dalai Lama, to "be kind whenever possible" and that "it's always possible." While "painting" the newly pruned apple trees with Biodynamic tree paste (made of clay, water and cow manure spiked with the Biodynamic preparation #500), honeybees were visiting the new apple blossoms, reminding us in their irreplaceable ways that one bite of food in every three we take can be credited to the work of bees. As we worked our way down the apple row painting the trees, it felt like "we built the plane as we were flying it" so to speak—we solved little interpersonal skirmishes one-by-one, with the gradual realization that it takes about ten times longer to pull yourself together than it does to fall apart, so for gosh sakes lets try to keep it together! As the class neared its conclusion and an ample amount of the fragrant mixture soaked into the tree trunks, as well as into the clothing of the children, speckling their hair and smiling

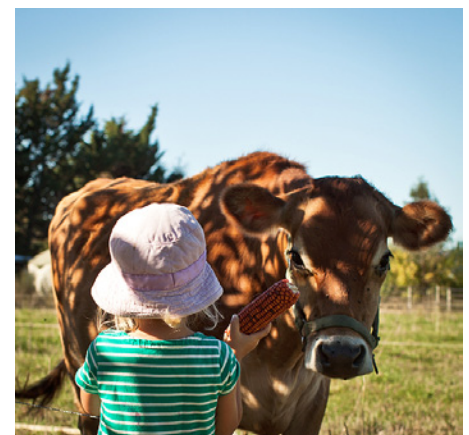
faces, and with our two pregnant cows looking on approvingly through the pasture fence, we took a moment to admire our handiwork. Words of Julia Child came to mind as we pulled the cart to the farm kitchen sinks to wash up: "Nothing is too much trouble if it turns out the way it should." And so another successful farming class adventure and accomplishment.

Ours is a community that is nature rich, and spending time on Summerfield Farm helps paint a picture of a world that the students will hopefully want to go towards. A twenty-year-old friend who attended midwestern schools recently mused that the media seemed to portray so many dark images of a future that it was hard for him to focus on hopeful images of the future. He was not really interested in merely a sustainable future, but rather was striving to paint a picture for himself of a beautiful, hopeful future. To emphasize his point he said that most people want more than merely a "sustainable" marriage, but rather one that is filled with deep hope, inspiration and promise. So, how we look at and talk about and imagine the future in the presence of our kids/students needs a strong dose of light and possibility; one that the natural world in springtime gives witness to *à la* "if the world can make a springtime every year, so can we." (Alice Walker).

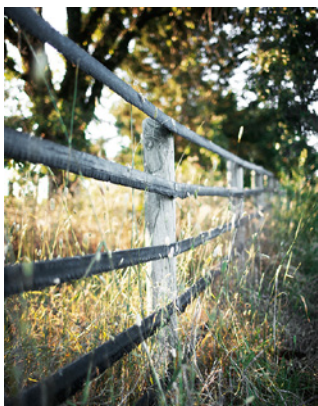
Going out and working in nature on Summerfield Farm changes the biography of our students. Especially now in the spring—as the sap rises in the plants and trees, we experience an inner power

surging up enabling us to

imagine the garden's latent potential and its full summer promise. There is no media in Farming or Gardening class, no borrowed pictures, no inhalation of pre-fabricated images. Rather a refreshing inner meditation occurs that inspires and allows the child to take the world that is outside and bring it in, and to "re-imagine" it. That gives birth to a beautiful organ—the organ of imagination. The children work with the earth, much like in other artistic classes they work with wool or clay or wood or metal or color, and in transforming the material they transform themselves. As they work together in the garden or orchard a number of amazing things are unfolding: they come to recognize themselves and others in new, often less competitive ways; they nurture the ability to hold themselves in space; they develop deeper self- and social-awareness; and they are empowered to achieve and make positive contributions, giving back in a self-directed, productive and enjoyable way. The regenerative power of the earth,



PHOTOS: MIGUEL SALMERÓN



where all elements converge, goes way back to shamanic traditions and is highlighted throughout the Waldorf curriculum which is steeped in the study of plants, animals and minerals and their importance and interrelatedness in the development of the human being.

Before Farm to Fiesta comes to visit the farmyard in May, the replanted raspberry patch will sprout and bloom and ripen, thanks to the sixth graders. A swath of verdant cover crop mowed down and turned under will furnish fresh carrots, beets

and salad greens for the feast. Tiny onions flourishing in the cold frames will be painstakingly and meticulously planted out by the farm guild and apprentices. Beds of zinnias, merigolds, sunflowers and cosmos will be waving in the early summer breezes and one or two newborn baby calves will join the five new lambs frolicking in the pastures. Summer Farm Camp staff will be hired, and plans finalized for the new SWSF septic system's leach field will be in place to begin installation just as school is out for the summer. The fall crops of potatoes, field corn, winter squash and pumpkins, apples and broomcorn will be well on their way towards a bountiful harvest, and another successful growing season will be well underway thanks to the hard work of the students and farmers, as some three hundred plus guests sit down to dine once again under the magnificent walnut tree in the farmyard and together we celebrate and bless the gifts of the land.

The younger children at times bend down and tenderly stroke and appear to whisper to some of the more inviting plants on the farm, and when asked what they said to the plant a typical reply is, "Nothing. I just helped them grow." Like the four-year-old who noticed his elderly, recently widowed neighbor crying: he went over to his porch, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there, and when his mother later asked him what he had said to the neighbor, he said simply, "Nothing. I just helped him cry." Children often listen to the natural world with a wonderful attention/intention. While adults can tend to use forms developed too much out of mistrust, the younger child lives so beautifully with trust, not only in the natural world, but in the people around them.

The Waldorf teacher's job is one of self development and they get paid for it—amazing! How, when working within a cacophony of voices and a whirlwind of activity is the Waldorf teacher able to become inwardly quiet and carry on throughout a lesson? What is the foundation stone the teacher needs, in order to deflect the forces that want us to get rigid, and to harbor the forces that want us to remain mobile? The poet Rilke answers with a gentle introspective question:

"On which instrument are we strung... and who is playing us..."

Spring hay-fever-less blessings from the blooming farmyard, Farmer Dan



May Faire

by Andrea Jolicoeur, LS Secretary

Summerfield's annual May Faire will be held on Friday, May 1. The festivities start during the school day with first-twelfth



graders decorating head wreaths followed by dancing around the May Pole! After the school day is over we will open the Faire on the track field with games, activities, crafts, food, treats and more.

We are soliciting your creative energy! Planning meetings will be held every Tuesday at 8:40am in the Music/Aftercare Room up until the week of the Faire (with two weeks off for Spring Break). The 1st and 2nd grades are assigned to organize the Faire and will work to plan and coordinate activities offered by each class, but anyone and everyone interested in May Faire is invited to join the planning committee! Grades 1-11 will all organize some kind of offering for the Faire, and a representative for each class is asked to attend some of the planning meetings.

Elements of past festivals have included flower garland-making, maypole dancing, live music, a May Queen and Jack O' the Green, games, races, crafts, animals, a meal, and strawberry shortcake. Besides your class's activity, parents in every grade will be needed to donate flowers and greenery for décor and garlands, and to assist with parking, decorating, and clean-up, etc. Please call me if you have any questions or can offer a helping hand. More details on the event will be provided in upcoming weekly Minis and the monthly Messenger.

~andrea@summerfieldwaldorf.org
575-7194 ext.101

Update from the Governance Council

*Into our Will let there pour strength
Into our Feeling let there flow warmth
Into our Thinking let there shine light
That we may guide this school
with enlightened purpose
Caring with hearts' love
And bringing wisdom into all things.*

This is the verse that the Governance Council (GC) of Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm says together before each of our meetings. It is with "earnest, heartfelt striving" that five representatives of the school come together, twice a week, having taken on the delegated responsibility of "overseeing, coordinating and finalizing decisions in all matters concerning the day-to-day administrative and educational life of the school."

Since our last article in the Messenger the GC has worked with issues large and small. Primary amongst our work in the past few months has been discussing and overseeing site development, which has involved working with the Board and on the Site Committee, reporting to our sections in the school, and receiving feedback. In a short time exciting new site plans will be shared with the community.

We have done a good deal of work on next year's school dates. The final draft should be complete very soon. Revised Media Guidelines are also in the process of completion. The three sections of the school have been working on their own sections, and we look forward to sharing the finished product with the community soon.

Finally, we are very pleased that Dr. Johanna Steegmans will be able to visit us in the springtime after all! It is always an enriching experience for her to come visit with the children, the faculty and the parents of our school community.

Blessings on our school!

~ Thalia Beam, for the Governance Council

Run Away With The Circus This Summer!

Summerfield is offering the ever-popular Summer Circus Camps again in 2015! For children 6- to 8-yrs-old, there are three, one-week sessions (June 8-12, 15-19, 22-26). For children and adults ages nine to ninety-nine, there is one, two-week long session (June 15-26). All skill levels are welcome. Our days will be filled with learning new skills in circus arts, including clowning, juggling, tightrope, trapeze, and acrobatics, to name a few. We will then bring it all together at the end in a wonderful free performance for friends and relatives to enjoy. This is the 17th year of the camp, led by experienced circus arts instructor, Sieglinde Basmajian. Camp hours are 8:30am to 1pm, Mon-Fri, in our big blue-and-red circus tent. Each week, for the 6- to 8-year-old group, the cost is \$260 and the two-week session for 9 to 99-year-olds is \$560.

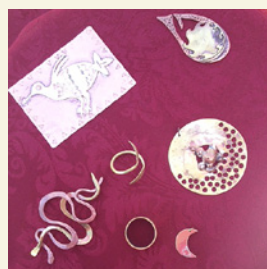
NEW THIS YEAR! Circus Camp is delighted to offer an After Care program 1-3:30pm daily.

Please visit the Summerfield website to download registration forms for Circus Camps or pick one up in the Main Office. Questions: Call Lisa Hensley, Circus Camp Registrar at 575-7194, ext. 103 or email circuscamp@summerfieldwaldorf.org.



Festival of the Arts ~ Crafts Display

In addition to the live performances by classes two through twelve in last Friday's Festival of the Arts event, attendees were treated to a beautiful display of craft work from all the grades on display tables outside Sophia Hall. Here is a small selection of photographs taken on that day:



Permaculture: A Picture of the Work in the Garden

by Ronni Sands, High School Gardening Teacher

The ninth grade farming block has begun! The students are hardworking and enthusiastic. We began last week with a history of the garden and a look at the differences between organic, biodynamic and permaculture practices. More questions arose, as we sorted out the differences and the similarities in these three methods.

Important tasks were taken up by the students, the first being to extend our deer fencing. We have had a regular visitor who has been eating the asparagus. In all practical work there is the intricate involvement of thinking, feeling and willing. What does one need to do? How is it best accomplished? How do I give myself to the task and how will the community be affected by my deed?

All of these questions are part of the simple tasks of weeding, cultivating, mulching, watering, etc. Strawberries, the first producers of fruit, need to be cultivated, weeded and watered. They will soon enough be ready to eat.

We visited the water catchment system and learned how it works and how we can use that water now to water certain plants in the garden. We have been doing a lot of mulching to keep water from evaporating and weeds from returning. We looked at the berms and swales in the garden that served us well during the two big winter storms.

Swales are trenches that are dug to catch water and then hold it and slowly allow it to be released to soil downhill from the slope. Berms are the higher banks along the swales that hold plants and stabilize the hill. Our motto is: slow it, spread it, save it!

Our next topic was compost, how to build it and who makes it. Organisms and microorganisms break it down and we build it up. We place layers of carbon, (dead, brown, dry material) and nitrogen, (living green weeds) neatly in a pile that must be tended and shaped as it is built. Order in the compost pile is important to it's success. Finished compost takes about nine months (like a baby, says one of the students) and is added to the garden beds each growing season in order to feed and produce healthy nutritious crops.

Next week we will be starting seeds in flats and keep them watered in the greenhouse. As these plants sprout and grow, we will transplant them out into the garden. Our goal is to create a beautiful landscape of fruits, flowers and vegetables for humans, bees, and butterflies to enjoy, all while we are learning new skills and building community.



PHOTO: MIGUEL SALMERÓN

HS SPRING BREAK SERVICE TRIP Journey to Bhutan



From March 27–April 12, 2015, eleven current HS students and one alum will travel to the remote kingdom of Bhutan for an eye into a world rich in tradition and customs.

Waldorf education has always had a strong commitment to social responsibility: part of the trip involves volunteer service work, planting trees, teaching in a local middle school, and assisting in a hospital.

The trip is led by Golden Mountain Education (run by former Summerfield staff member Sonja Rohde), which designs and implements service projects for adolescents who desire a deeper connection with our world.

Students have been actively fundraising in recent months to help cover costs. A Wine and Music Festival fundraiser was held recently at the Davis Family winery, and warmly supported by the Summerfield community: it featured food from WHOA farm, cooked by zazu chefs, and alumni bands providing entertainment. Over \$14,000 was raised towards the trip.



The Human Race

Mark your calendars for The Human Race 2015! We encourage all families to participate this year. Last year a small group of students raised over \$1,000 for the school. Our high school basketball players raised enough to help get new uniforms for their team. Just think, if 200 students raised just \$100 for their race, that is \$20,000! Asking grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends is usually enough to reach a \$100-\$200 goal. And what a great opportunity for students to challenge themselves and feel proud to contribute. Stay tuned for details and visit humanracenow.org.



The Messenger Marketplace

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Classes/Camps



Classes at Circle of Hands

Country Bunny Doll Class: with Monica Ashley. Make a cashmere rabbit just like in the storybook of the same name. Sat. 3/28, 1-3:30pm, teen to adult. \$25. Check out Circle of Hands' Facebook page for photos of these crafts, or view our website at circleofhandswaldorfshop.com/events. Please pre-register by coming into the store or calling us. 6780 McKinley St. #120, Sebastopol—in the Barlow, 634-6140.

Summer Preschool Now Enrolling

Join Miss Catherine in the Rosebud classroom and play yard for relaxed summer mornings of verses and song, imaginative play, simple crafting, an organic morning snack, gardening, stories and puppet shows. Sessions are four days per week, Monday through Thursday, 9am until 12:30pm \$165/session. Sessions begin June 15 and run through July 30. Application materials are in the Main Office and in the Rosebud Preschool foyer. Questions? Please call Miss Catherine at 707-575-7194 ext. 322.

Art Camp at Summerfield

Children ages 6-12. Explore and create with a variety of art forms: drawing, painting, sculpting and print-making, walks in nature. Dates: weekly, starting June 15; June 22; and June 29. Sign up at artcampkuprian.weebly.com or contact: Renate, (707) 495 7543 or kuprian@sonic.net.

Parenting Our Children from the Light

In this 4-week class led by Vanessa Jasper, CHT and Waldorf parent. You'll learn tools for yourself and your child to ground and clear your energy, connect with true feelings, release big emotions, connect with inner guides and tune into body wisdom. Come and experience this compassionate and empowering approach to supporting yourself and your child. Saturdays, April 18–May 9, 1-2:30pm. \$85. Intro class: Saturday, March 21, 1-2pm, \$12 in advance/\$15 at the door. Yoga Studio Ganesha, Sebastopol. Contact Vanessa: 707 738 3834 or divinestate@yahoo.com. More info at vanessajasper.com/classes.

Group Cleanse that explores a Mindful Relationship w/Food

Guided by Dr. Pamela Gould, ND and Aimee McConneloug, Somatic Practitioner. Next session starts April 15: 6 Wed afternoon classes, 11:30am -1:30pm. The group meetings are designed to prepare you for a successful 21 day purification program, while also providing you with the knowledge, support and practices to create sustainable healthy new habits. Contact Pamela: (707) 486-1964, drpamelagould@gmail.com. Info: drpamelagould.com/group-cleanse.html.

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Services

Looking for Childcare?

Hello! My name is Sinja Groß, I am 18 years old and live with my family in a little town near Nuremberg, Germany. I will graduate in June from high school, afterwards I would like to come to the US (roughly in September 2015) to work as an au-pair. I would prefer to live in a "Waldorf family" and would be very happy if there is a family who is interested in having an au pair! I went to Waldorf school since first class and made a lot of great experiences there. In March and April 2013 I made an internship in the Merriconeag Waldorf kindergarden in Maine for four weeks. If you would like to know more about me send me an e-mail to sinjakgross@web.de! Thank you, Sinja Groß

Farmer Dan Available For Summer Projects

Do you need a chicken coop, fencing, deck refinishing or repair, shelving, painting, sheet rock repairs, book cases, walls removed, window/door add or removal, etc? Many favorable SWS family references, child friendly, reasonable rates. Call Farmer Dan at 526-3917 to inquire or schedule a summer date.

Singing and Piano Instruction with Mary Beard

I am an experienced teacher, a Summerfield Waldorf founding parent and original creator of the school's instrument music program. My studio is located in Santa Rosa. Please visit my website marybeardmusicstudio.com. Contact me at marymezzo@sonic.net or 707-546-8782.

Piano/Recorder Lessons

Marilyn Wilson 792-9685, mlmwilson@comcast.net. Experienced Waldorf Certified music teacher; member of Music Teachers Association of California. Students learn the art of making and reading music through play, singing, hearing & improvisation. All levels, from 3rd grade. Also beginning trumpet, clarinet, and composition.

Now Accepting New Clients in Sebastopol

Allie A. McCann, MFT, ATR-BC, Phone: (707) 219-8484, email: mccannmft@gmail.com. Allie is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Art Therapist. She is a Waldorf-inspired mother of two and is sympathetic and supportive of Waldorf-inspired values and lifestyle choices. She supports children, adolescents, parents and adults, specializing in anxiety, mood, behavioral and relational issues, life transitions, and grief and loss. Allie has a holistic view of health, tending to mind, body, and spirit. She incorporates both art and a connection with the natural world into her healing practices.

Summerfield Graduate Seeks Summer Internship/Job

Ilan Zur (class of 2013), is double majoring in Environmental Studies/ Sociology at UC Santa Cruz. A passionate idealist for environmental/social change and justice, Ilan is a self-motivated, 'A' student with excellent writing skills. Call 707-637-7842 or email ilan_zur@yahoo.com.

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For Sale/Rent/Needed

Looking for House to Rent

Summerfield family (2 adults and 2 daughters) seeking home for rent before April 30. 2 or 3 bedrooms, rent between \$2000-3000 per month. Ideally enough land for chickens and garden, country landscape with trees and views, quiet. Interested in sharing land with another family, close to school and eco/green home. Please call Marie-Michel 801 232 1562, Justin 801 694-1967.

Seeking House Rental (finder's fee offered!)

New Summerfield family looking for a long term rental in Sebastopol or Santa Rosa nr school or JC. 2-4 BR. We are professional family of 3 with v.well-mannered small australian shepherd, and live the Waldorf principles. \$250 offered as finder's fee for the right place (or a one week's stay in our meditation hall on the island of Maui). To start July or August. Contact Dr. Noah & Nadia Wolf: (808) 280-1032, sacredsupport@olympus.net.

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Home for Sale

Custom built home, 2 miles from Summerfield. Built with low maintenance & sustainability in mind, 2712 sq ft, finished in 2014. 3 bedrooms/3 baths, + a full office, 3 car detached garage. Scroll through to learn more: houzz.com/projects/567023/sustainable-new-home-project FSBO \$1,250,000. Frank 707-481-1397 or frankt2003@sonic.net.



Housesit needed for 3 weeks this summer

I am a past Waldorf parent now living in England and working at Emerson College. I will be visiting family this summer in Sebastopol and would like to make myself available to housesit. I am extremely reliable and have been housesitting for Waldorf parents for the past 10 years. I can take care of your pets and look after your house. I have references from past Waldorf parents that I am happy to provide. I can be flexible about dates. Please contact me by email, deby.watts@btconnect.com.

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Parent of
Rachel 5th Grade &
Samantha 9th Grade

Summerfield Costume Guild

Imagine your child in one of his or her first plays at Summerfield. There is such excitement as they step into another character and "walk a mile in their shoes"! (Or their tunic, or their royal robes...). Theater allows our kids to deepen their understanding of what it is to be human. The costumes they wear are essential elements of that experience.

Over the years, untold hours of volunteer labor and precious funds have gone into the making of costumes for the school's productions but we do not yet have sufficient space to store or a system to catalog those costumes. As such, it can be difficult or impossible to locate costumes when needed, necessitating longer volunteer hours or duplication of previous efforts. A core group of parents are organizing to preserve our present and future costumes.

Many hands make light work! Please join us, whether or not you have helped with costumes in the past!

Summerfield Costume Guild ~ Thursday, April 23, 8:30-10am in the Aftercare/Music Room, adjacent to the Red Rose kindergarten. Stay as long as you are able, and leave when you must!

We welcome your experience, ideas, support, and energy. Come help us save immeasurable volunteer hours, energy and funds—and let's all have more fun supporting these precious student productions!

Visit us online at
www.summerfieldwaldorf.org



Summer Farm Camp

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 1

Summer is just around the corner and we are making preparations for a wonderful summer Farm Camp. Summerfield offers six, one-week sessions for children ages 4-10, June 15 through July 24, 8:30am-1pm, Monday through Friday. Children may register for just one week or up to six weeks.

Our program for 4- to 5-year-olds makes its home in the Kindergarten village. The children make their journey to the Farm to visit the animals, berry pick, gather eggs and harvest vegetables. Then they return to the Kindergarten village for crafts, stories, lunch and play time.

The program for 6- to 10-year-olds meets at the farm every day and begins with circle time on hay bales. Then farm chores begin: gathering eggs, planting in the garden, drying herbs or picking berries and vegetables. Some children assist the farmer in the field work, or help prepare delicious organic snacks in the outdoor kitchen. Crafting and games are in the afternoon and their day ends with a story and lunch.

**After Care is available from 1pm–3:30pm for all children by advance registration.*

Earth Ecology Camp FOR 11- TO 15-YEAR-OLDS

June 29 through July 3, 8:30am-3pm, Monday through Friday.

Does your child love exploring the outdoors, gathering food, cooking and baking? This year's Earth Ecology Camp will be taught by Ronni Sands, SWSF High School Gardening teacher, and will take place in the Summerfield Permaculture Garden and the Farm Kitchen. We will travel to the farm fields to harvest vegetables and berries. We will study the ecological influences of Fire, Air, Earth and Water by using our solar oven, water catchment tanks and learning compost building. Other activities include papermaking, basket weaving and herbal studies, all while building community!

by Ronni Sands and Farmer Dana Revallo, for Farm Camp

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR ALL CAMPS

Registration is now open for all camps. Please turn in your registration form with payment by April 1, so that your child will have a guaranteed place in this summer's Farm Camp. Families come from all over California, as well as other states, for our Farm Camp program. Therefore we encourage you to register now securing your child's place. Forms for both camps are available in the Summerfield Main Office or on our website at 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.