

Messenger

Summerfield | WALDORF SCHOOL AND FARM

May 29, 2014

Volume 26, Issue 8



Congratulations to the Class of 2014!

Congratulations to our Seniors. We applaud you on the completion of your high school years. You have worked hard and given much to Summerfield, and have come to know and understand your special gifts.

Here is a list of the 50+ colleges that accepted the Class of 2014. Two of our graduates plan to take a gap year, and the rest are on their way directly to college. We wish you all the best on your future endeavors and adventures in the world! ~ *The Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm Community*

American University
Bates
Burlington
CSU San Bernadino
CSU Stanislaus
Cal State, Monterey Bay
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
Cal Poly, Pomona
Chapman University
Chico State University
Colorado College
College of Marin
Dominican University
Evergreen State
Goucher

Grinnell
Hampshire College
Harvey Mudd
Kalamazoo
Kettering University
Lewis & Clark College
Marlboro
Mills College
Oberlin
Occidental College
Oregon State University
Oregon Institute of Tech
Pace University
Peredur Eurythmy School, UK
Quest University, Canada

San Francisco State University
Santa Clara University
Santa Rosa Junior College
Savannah College of Art & Design
Seattle University
Sonoma State University
St. Mary's College, California
St. Mary's College, Maryland
Syracuse University
UC Davis
UC Irvine
UC Santa Cruz
UC San Diego
UC Santa Barbara
Univ. of Aberdeen, Scotland, UK

University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Victoria, Canada
University of Washington
Warren Wilson College
Whitman College
Whittier College
Willamette
Worcester Polytechnic Inst.

Senior Class, with teachers George Herschkowitz & Angela Pryor-Garat.

First Row: Florian Basmajian, Arrate Martinez Prego, Ry Ulmer-Strack, Maya McNichol, Rose MacDonald, Isaiah Evans

Second Row: Cooper Casad, Brian Emory, Katya Rice, Sophia Wasteneys, Ruby Holve-Hensill, Alana Bowman, Aeryn Jungerman, Phoebe Rodgers

Third Row: Joshua Boshell, Alister Greenfield, Chloe Serkissian, Tucker Muollo, Rowan Foley, Gabriel Whitson, Sophie O'Hare, Cameron Nielsen, Nathaniel Bell

Absent: Isabelle Zimmerman

SENIOR GRADUATION

Sun, Jun 8 • 11am • Circus Tent



We Proudly Announce the Commencement of the 2014 Eighth Grade Class on Sat., June 7, at 11am, in Sophia Hall

Iren Barnum • Lily Clara Trinei Buller • Quaid Carlo Bulloch • Isabelle C. Dean • Lev Gatmon-Segal • Sophia Giegerich • Arah Miel Glessner • Caroline Dawn Kamin • Mason Kim • Mariah Kei Lanphar • Morgan Lee • Eli Mardigian-Des Jardins • Nora Miller-Fitzpatrick • Cerys Mordue • Madeline Elizabeth Nagle • Katie Maya O'Hara • James Finnian O'Riley • Bianca Marie Salmerón • Pascal Roger Serkissian • Wayland Lee Shepard • Mari Jeanne Stusser • Noah Westman • Dharma Ann Pulido Westphal • Samantha Ann Woo • Virginia Woolridge • Aaron Zellmer

Letter from the Board

By Jefferson Buller, Board President

As another school year comes to a close here at Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm, I'd like to wish you a wonderful summer break on behalf of the Board of Directors. As always, we are honored to have been able to engage in servant leadership here at SWSF this year and thank you for your trust in us.

It has been a relatively quiet year at the Board level, with little of the excitement or large projects we have seen in past years. As we move into summertime though, our sights are set on a productive fall, with several exciting initiatives on the horizon. We have a dedicated group of volunteers working on resolving the challenges around upgrading our septic system, which is the gateway to any additional infrastructure and building on campus. This group is headed by our Site Committee Chair Lisa Yoshida, and is populated with a dedicated collection of parents, future parents, and faculty and staff who are working tirelessly on constructing a first-of-its-kind-in-the-state natural wastewater treatment and recycling septic system, showcasing our community's focus on sustainability, water resources, and the environment. We'll have more to share early next school year, so stay tuned.

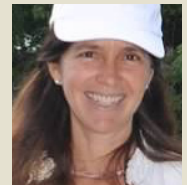
Fiscally, I am proud to share that SWSF is budgeting a small surplus again for 2014-2015, and has maintained a stable financial picture for the year. Our enrollment continues to be exceptionally strong, with many classes at or near capacity. We continue to be encouraged by strong Development activities, led by our Development Director Cyndi Yoxall. We have been able to maintain stable revenues and have coupled that with ongoing diligence in our expense management. The Board has engaged in (and will continue to work on) a process of creating the foundations of an Endowment, which will be a vehicle for legacy-giving and long-term assets that will aid in providing tuition assistance, increased teachers' salaries, and stability to our operating income. We will have to work industriously to balance those needs with the eventual need for additional classroom space on campus and an inevitable capital campaign to fund growth. No doubt we'll have more to share on this topic soon.

The Board would like to thank you for your support of our work. As members of this community, we are committed to the long-term sustainability and fiscal resilience of this institution, but we never lose sight of the trust you place in us, and recognize that we are so fortunate to be serving in our capacity of volunteer stewards of this school. We strive every day to make sure the legacy that has been built here at SWSF continues indefinitely. Have a great break, and we'll see you in the fall!

Farewell to Departing Staff

The Lower School bids our dear **Laurie Hartsook**

aloha! She came to us six years ago filled with her tranquil Hawaiian spirit, shining with her bright smile and beautiful way with her students. During her time here, Laurie's wise reflective nature was key as she served on the Lower School Core Group. Laurie's son Cody will continue in the high school, while she pursues artistic projects and some time off from class teaching. We thank you, Laurie, for all you've done for your class and the school.



We are also saying goodbye to Lower School teacher **Lisa Doyle**. Lisa has taught violin and viola to the fourth and fifth grades for three years, and sixth grade orchestra and seventh and eighth grade Strings Ensemble this past year. Thank you, Lisa, for your dedication and work with the students.

~ Jamie Lloyd, LS Coordinator, for Governance Council

May Faire Appreciations

By Andrea Jolicoeur, Lower School Secretary

What a blessing to finish our cycle of festivals with such a wonderful May Faire celebration! The day was beautiful, with flowers everywhere and happy children dancing and having all kinds of fun.

A big, warm thank you is due to our amazing May Faire Committee of First and Second Grade parents: Annalyce LaSource, Andrea Silverstein, Julie Milcoff, Rebekka Maestre, and Michelle Bovard—your care and hard work made our Faire shine!

Thank you to all the faculty and staff who played a part—especially Skeydrit, Deborah, Ignacio and Craig—we couldn't have done it without you! And thank you to the cooks and bakers, musicians and decorators, heavy lifters, activity organizers and countless others who made this event happen—too many to name, but we know who you are and I hope you know how much we appreciate your part in creating this year's May Faire.



MAY FAIRE PHOTOS BY MIGUEL SALMERÓN



Please welcome new teacher

By Jamie Lloyd, Lower School Coordinator

The Lower School faculty is pleased to announce the hiring of Adam Stopeck as the Sixth Grade Class Teacher for the fall of 2014. After a lengthy and careful hiring process, we unanimously and enthusiastically offered the position to Adam as we see that both his teaching and leadership skills are an excellent fit for this group of children and families.

Adam grew up on Long Island, NY, and enjoyed a childhood steeped in ocean and beach experiences. He attended the University of Colorado where he majored in Philosophy. After completing his Waldorf Teacher Training at Rudolf Steiner College, he put 16 years of class teaching under his belt, first in Colorado, and then most recently taking a class through from first to eighth grade at Sunrise Waldorf School on Vancouver Island, Canada. Waldorf curriculum is a passion for him, and he brings his particular loves of drama and physical education to his teaching.



Adam told us he was “completely smitten” by the warm reception he received from the class when he came and taught them in early April. He and his wife Patty (also a long time Waldorf teacher) have three teenage children who will be attending Summerfield. Please join us as we look forward to welcoming Adam and his family to our school community.

A Parent's Reflection on the Knighting Ceremony

I have been a parent at Summerfield for ten years, and I have seen many beautiful and moving things in that time. Last week I experienced something that touched and moved me more deeply than any event that came before... the Sixth Grade Knighting Ceremony.

As a virtue to improve upon, my son chose 'perseverance,' and his project was to build a labyrinth for his class. He collaborated with another classmate who wanted to work on her 'patience.' Things definitely did not go the way they anticipated and they had to shift ideas and make different plans frequently. The goal was minimal help from parents (which proved difficult for us at times!)—and they truly did persevere through each challenge that arose and learned quite a bit about flexibility and the joy of accomplishment.

On the afternoon of the Ceremony, the class put on their Medieval costumes and walked the labyrinth in silence. Of course it was the hottest day of the year—who wants to wear velvet and layers when it's 95°—but they all sat quietly and respectfully as they awaited their turn to walk, and then carried themselves with pride and grace. It was an opportunity for reflection on what they had accomplished, which they would describe to parents during their speech that evening. Each speech was honest and heart-felt. It appeared that each child had grown and matured exponentially through their process and really learned something profound from their experience. It was crystal clear that these students respect and care for each other deeply. With each presentation I felt we had been given a gift, for as each project was explained and lessons learned shared, we all were reminded of the importance of being virtuous... that when we are generous it not only makes others happy but warms our hearts as well; and that when we encounter challenges, we must keep working to find a way through or we will never accomplish anything.

~Lisa Hensley, Sixth Grade Parent



SIXTH-GRADE SHIELDS. PHOTO BY JEN HAUSER

The Knighting Ceremony

By Kibby MacKinnon, Sixth Grade Teacher

At the end of Fifth Grade, our class was invited into Mrs. Walker's Sixth Grade to hear a few of the speeches that the students had written about their Knighting Projects. We were all impressed by the poise and candor of these students and went away with new insights about who they really were, somewhat awed to think how we would ever become so noble!

Children of eleven and twelve years old are beginning to search for ways to define themselves. Marketers are aware of this too, and they offer the children brands and images to latch on to, to form their identity and in return, cash in on their consumer loyalty. In order to balance this out for our children, in Sixth Grade the Knighting Ceremony offers them an alternate way to define themselves based on their own accomplishments, the recognition of their abilities by their community, and heartfelt reflections from their peers.

We started the beginning of sixth grade with a new class: Values and Virtues, taught by Rick Concoff and America Worden, where the idea of virtues were introduced and discussed. In January, the students were guided to look within themselves and choose a virtue to develop, and to choose a service project or task that would help them strengthen that quality. Projects ranged from taking on more responsibility for meals and laundry at home, to helping in Aftercare, to volunteering in a elder care facility.

The students made their own leather-bound journals and started to think about qualities and activities that defined their own family values. As well as working at their task for six weeks, the students were to journal on a regular basis. Within these journals, each night, over the course of a month, they had to write about one of their classmates. In this short entry, they were asked to write what virtue they admired about that person. They were also told to write a helpful hint for their peer, to offer guidance and words of wisdom. My intention was to read these entries aloud at the culminating event of our Medieval Studies block, our Knighting Ceremony.

When we returned from Spring Break, we started working on our family coats of arms which would adorn our shields. The students chose two symbols that best represented their family values or way of life, and created simple but strikingly beautiful shields out of cardboard and painted paper.



A group of parents met to plan the transformation of Sophia Hall into a medieval banquet hall. The room was to be lit only by candles and be bursting with flowers. Elegantly draped tables would make an arc in front of the stage, and tissue paper stained glass ‘windows’ would soften the light from the doors and light booth. A throne and sword would grace the stage for the queen. The ceremony was planned as a time for the parents to focus solely on their sixth grade child, without siblings or grandparents.

On the day of the ceremony, the students prepared themselves inwardly to give their accounts of the work they had accomplished. In full medieval costume, we traveled offsite to walk a labyrinth. This labyrinth, built by two students who wanted to strengthen perseverance and patience, was lovingly created out of many thousands of river rocks in a field on the property of one of the families. The walk was undertaken in silence, and created a reverent and contemplative mood for the ceremony. When we returned to school, the parents, also in full costume, were arriving for the event.

During the ceremony, the parents were asked to present their child when the queen asked, “Who has cherished and guided this child?” Then the students were asked to speak about their peers when the queen asked, “Is there a squire or knight who will speak to the virtuous character of this squire?” Finally, the students each stood to give a memorized speech to share what they had set out to do, what they had been challenged by, what they actually did, and what they had learned. Many teary eyes shone in the audience, and the feeling in the room was compassionate and proud. The evening concluded with the following oath, which the Sixth Graders wrote as a group:

We, as young knights striving to develop our virtues and be of service to others, do solemnly pledge to do the following to the best of our abilities:

- To take responsibility for my own actions
- To complete my homework and my chores on time and on my own initiative
- To get enough sleep by getting up and going to bed on time
- Not to overbook myself and know my priorities
- To make my own lunch and snacks
- To do my own laundry, or help with the family laundry
- To admit when I am wrong
- To carpool and ride bikes when possible, and not to walk by trash without picking it up
- To be aware of others, and sensitive to when kindness is needed
- To keep our promises, and not to make rash promises
- To minimize pointless conversations and distractions during class
- To think before I respond, especially when I am angry or impatient
- To do at least three generous things a day
- And, to remember and thank people for the smaller things in life

As a parent, I often find myself wishing my own children would take on more responsibility and develop more awareness of others. As a teacher, I have seen a real transformation in the sixth graders this year, and the Knighting Project has certainly been a part of that.

On the day after the ceremony, we invited Mrs. Hartsook’s Fifth Grade in to hear some of our speeches, as had been done for us a year ago. As they spoke, I looked around the room, and I could see that the sixth graders had truly become knights of the 21st Century.

Medieval Sword-Fighting Champion



We were delighted to learn that amongst our parent body we have a new World Champion!

Lisa Galli (pictured above under all that armor), parent of Fredi (4) and Rylie (YRK), won gold medals at the Medieval Combat World Championship in Belmonte, Spain earlier this month. This was the first year in which the competition had allowed women’s participation, which prompted Lisa to make the trip, aided by the generosity of her brother Jeff, who also competed and won gold himself.

She was undefeated in singles fighting in both the Polearm, and the Sword and Shield categories. Representatives of some eighteen countries assembled at a 15th-century castle and, with authentic armor and metal weapons (but with blunted edges), fought duels according to the knights code of conduct. Congratulations, Lisa!

~ Adam MacKinnon, Editor

P.S. See stunning event photos [here](#)





Farm to Feast 2014

By Cyndi Yoxall and Caryn Stone, Development Office

Our biodynamic farm was full of celebration and heart on Saturday, when we gathered to share a meal and raise much needed funds for Summerfield. The day was lovely and warm, the farm was in bloom, and, in the days leading up, volunteers, students, staff and faculty all pitched in to create a beautiful gathering place.

Guests were welcomed with music by Summerfield alum Marty O'Reilly and the Old Soul Orchestra, a walnut tree decked in lanterns and silk scarves, long tables in white linen adorned in spring flowers, homemade jams and cherries. Summerfield vintners Claypool Cellars, Coturri Winery, Davis Family Vineyard, Littorai Wines, Martinelli Vineyards, Porter-Bass Vineyard, Small Vines Wines and Truett-Hurst Winery all shared their bounty again, joined this year by Roederer Estate.

Guests also enjoyed Revive Kombucha and Taylor Maid iced-tea while browsing silent auction tables laden with fabulous items to bid on and help raise money for the school—including class baskets put together by families, unique trips, stunning artwork, and more.

At dinner, guests ate mouth-watering southern BBQ cooked by our dedicated and extraordinary (and volunteer!) chefs Traci Des Jardins, Duskie Estes and John Stewart, Lowell Sheldon and Dana Revallo, and orchestrated by Nick Peyton and Bryan Myers. While enjoying the plentiful food and wine, guests enjoyed music by Cahoots, featuring Summerfield parent Andy Rodgers. During the dinner hour, graduating

high school students Cooper Casad and Chloe Serkissian shared what Summerfield has meant to them, and what they will carry with them as they graduate and move on, well-prepared, for the next phase of their lives. Chloe drew tears from audience members with her soulful song "Take Me Home."

Board President Jefferson Buller spoke from the heart about why he dedicates his time to Summerfield as a board member. To him, what makes Summerfield so special is the community that supports it, with commitment, partnership, time, and the spirit of generosity. Former Board member Jeffrey Westman compelled us with warmth and humor to dig deep and contribute to our school, children, and septic system.

After dinner, guests adjourned to the circus tent for delicious coffee by Taylor Maid Farms, fruit cobbler by SWSF Chef Mat Petersen and ice cream from Screamin' Mimis. Dessert was enjoyed on hay bale couches around a bonfire and, inside the tent, Country/Americana band Frankie Boots and the County Line inspired us all to kick up our heels and dance once we polished off our dessert.

A huge thank you to all the sponsors, volunteers, staff, faculty and guests who helped make the afternoon and evening so wonderful. **Thanks to this generous community, Farm to Feast raised over \$180,000... all for our children!**

* This event could not have happened without our lead volunteers: Suzi Redlich, Kosima Grundy, Sarah Brinkman & Kristen Humphreys, Jeffrey Westman & Jefferson Buller, Bryan & Lyza Myers, Lisa Hensley, Charmaine Stainbrook, Elena Bass, Judy Reid, Cathy Torres, Andrea Trinei, Miguel Salmerón, Dan Westphal and Kim Shepard.



PHOTOS BY MIGUEL SALMERÓN

The Greek Games

By Laurie Hartsook, Fifth Grade Teacher

Every year in Waldorf Schools around the world, fifth graders train and meet for the Pentathlon: The Greek Games. It is the culmination of the fifth grade study of Ancient Civilizations. The Ancient Greeks expressed their appreciation for beauty in their architecture, sculpture, even in their speaking and physical fitness. To be strong in mind and strong in body was to be like the Gods.

Witness the grace of one of our fifth graders as she hurls the javelin, see the determination of one who wrestles, watch the beauty in their running. Then you can see the child at the heart and peak of childhood. Similarly, the Greeks represent a peak in the life of humanity.

Here at Summerfield, we are lucky to have a beautiful campus, worthy of hosting the Greek Games. Thanks to the initiative of Don Basmajian, many other schools get to experience the games on our campus. This year, on May 9th, nine schools came together to participate with a total of 240 students. Thanks to the hard-working parents of the fifth grade, the many tasks involved in putting on this event were accomplished.

Each fifth grade class is divided into four city states who then compete with each other. The day begins with everyone getting their shirts and colored sashes. There is a buzz in the air. All gather by the temple, representing the ancient temple of Zeus, and recite the Ode to the Gods and sing the Olympic Hymn. After the call "Let the Games Begin" children dash off to find their first event: the javelin or discus, long jump or footraces. Parents follow, mingling with other parents, eager to proudly watch their child.



Winners of each heat or the top five earn a ribbon to be tied around their wrist. This tradition also comes from the ancient games. Boys and girls compete separately except for the last event, the relay.

After lunch, all athletes meet in the center of the track to find out who are the strongest, or perhaps most strategic, wrestlers. Girls and boys from Sparta, Athens, Corinth, and Thebes line up and, in turn, greet their opponent. The games teachers from various schools, trained in Spatial Dynamics, remind the athletes to maintain the golden circle of arms. Excitement builds until the final two give their best effort to push the other out of the ring.

Next comes a rousing round of relays accompanied by enthusiastic cheering. Finally all come together again to receive medals. Each athlete is asked to reflect upon his effort and achievement of the day. Mr. Basmajian asks the athletes to step forward to receive a bronze medal for the event in which they most pleased the gods with their courage, determination and grace. Everyone is a winner.

I enjoyed watching the students' faces as they achieved their best, but my favorite part of the games was the wonderful spirit that could be felt by all. Students shared a bond with their fellow statesmen. They made new friends. Everyone had a moment they were proud of and most surprised themselves. These games served as a memorable milestone, a glimpse into what each child can become.



Fiddler On The Roof



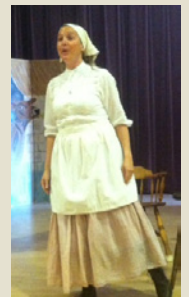
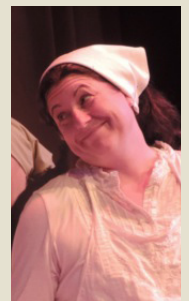
The Center for Educational Renewal's Class of 2014 presented *Fiddler On The Roof*, directed by Sieglinde Basmajian, on Saturday, May 10, to a full house in Sophia Hall.

The play was filled with humor and song but it also deeply touched the audience with modern-day themes of the changing consciousness of humanity and how people from different cultures relate to each other.

As the students completed their four-year Waldorf Teacher Training, several people commented how close they became through the social art of drama.

Congratulations to the following graduates:

Natalie Brinkley
Kyle Collins
Cynthia Durocher
Jyles Airey Filipelo
Brighid Fitzgibbon
Meagan McCabe
Jennifer Monin
Robert Pegg
Alex Reed
Michael Sellors
Molly Sierra
Lois Wildgrube
Adam Williams

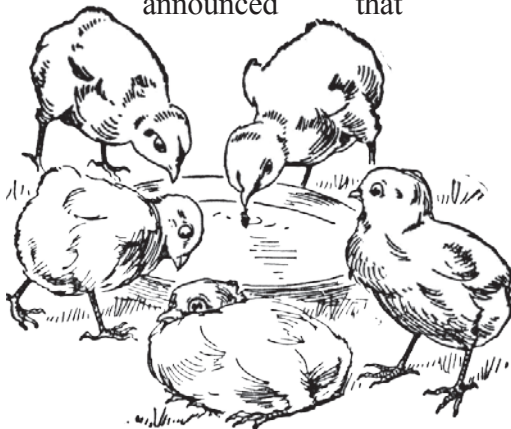


Summer's Unfolding and the School Year's End on Summerfield Farm

By Farmer Dan

Over the past several weeks the younger children and the farmers have been enjoying watching the baby chicks grow from one-day-old puffs of yellow down into good sized pullets. The “Red Comets” are a good, hearty breed for egg laying and almost all of the 115 chicks have survived their infancy and now are poised to join the mature flock of about fifty or sixty to bring our total up to some 160 laying hens—so lots of eggs to look forward to! With typical child-like sensitivity, some young students recently approached me after school to ask whether they could sit on the farm and eat their after-school snacks made of chicken, quickly assuring me that they would be careful not to let the new chicks see them eating it.

The younger students, first and second graders, were excellent helpers on some of the recent hottest days on the farm, spreading several yards of fresh, fragrant wood chips for the Farm to Feast celebration for our guests. On one particularly scorching late morning, after hauling several five-gallon buckets of wood chips to the pock-marks under the swings where other students were raking the piles out smooth, one of the children announced that



Farming was no longer his favorite class. A little girl overheard him, so when the class was leaving the farm she lingered behind and shyly came over to reassure me that Farming was still her favorite class, in spite of it all.

So building and strengthening that “will to work” comes chore by chore, day by day, class by class. The third graders who struggled with shaking butter into cream for the Michaelmas Festival in September, now, in May, were able to make twice as much butter, mixed with honey, for the corn bread served at Farm to Feast, with very little complaint and lots of energy and a spirit of *joie de vivre* as thick cream turned into thick whipping cream and then, presto, into a solid ball of golden yellow butter in a pool of butter milk. And speaking of fresh cream, we have a new lactating cow on the farm again, thanks to the generous donation of Petaluma creamery, so freshly-made biodynamic yogurt is now available in the farm stand refrigerator for \$6 a quart (which includes a dollar jar deposit), and will be for sale throughout the summer months.

Another notable student contribution in the farmyard are the cleanly weeded, freshly dug and planted beds of zinnias, marigolds, sunflowers, daisies, and rubeccia seeded from starts for a lively summer camp farmyard, all meticulously done by cheerful sixth graders. In addition they sifted the freshly-made compost for some of the richest “farmer’s gold,” i.e. biodynamic compost we have

made in several years, again thanks to the painstaking work done by the fourth grade animal-care students who continue to layer and tend the lasagna-like piles week after week. It’s all put to good use in the flower and vegetable beds so please come by mid-summer to see the gardens in full bloom.

The sixth graders also reminded us, as they evolved from mere Squires into Knights at their Knighting ceremony, just how noble they all are. Witnessing the pride and love radiating from the faces of the proud parents in the “court” as each student presented their project is a highlight of each year as we welcome and give witness to the next generation of young adults come into their budding adolescence.



One could chatter on but, now, seemingly from out of nowhere, the end of the school year rises like a wave to meet us the way the strains of a violin come through an open window just as you walk by. A teacher-training graduate recently speaking at their graduation ceremony said simply that, as Rudolf Steiner indicated, Waldorf education is a healing education, inherently therapeutic not just for the students but for the teachers as well... it really takes a community to grow a good teacher. It’s like the child who says inwardly to the adult in so many ways, “I have made you grow,” or the garden

that speaks to the gardener each season, “I have made you grow” that turns conventional wisdom on its head. Simply put, all of you as part of the Summerfield extended community have made me and my fellow teachers grow through yet another wonderful year, and for that I am deeply and sincerely grateful. To adapt the words of an old spiritual hymn, now as this school year ends let us, together, “Go in peace, go in kindness, go in love, go in faith. Leave the year, the school-year, behind us, day is done, go in grace. Let us go, into the summer, not afraid, not alone. Let us hope, after summer travels, safely to arrive at home.”

Summer blessings from Summerfield Farm, Farmer Dan

Mr. B. Travels To Mexico

By Don Basmajian, First Grade Teacher

I was invited by Nora Heredia and AWSNA (Association of Waldorf Schools in North America), to lead a conference for Waldorf Teachers in Mexico on *Working With Teenagers*. Fifty-three Waldorf teachers met together in Guanajuato for three days in May.

I began with the thought, “Lighting a candle to create a listening space for first grade children must be transformed into a space where the teacher can listen to what speaks from the hearts of young people.” The teachers enlivened the space between each other as they explored the development of the child, sexuality, the human heart, Waldorf methodology, movement, acrobatics and discipline.

The Mexican teachers were warm, open and filled with enthusiasm for the joys and challenges they meet in their work. My heart was touched and nourished by this cultural experience. I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity I was given. I developed new friendships with colleagues from a different culture. Together we share the same goal of educating the next generation towards the future.



Nora and I met Summerfield Fifth Grade student Hannah Peyton and her mother, Karla in Guanajuato. Hannah attends the Yeccan Waldorf School in Guanajuato and she and Karla will return in July.

Taming of the Shrew!



ARTWORK BY KATYA RICE

Come One, Come All!!!

Shakespeare’s tumultuous comedy on wild-caught versus farmed, feral adoption, standing by your man, honey-do, and other models for marriage...

See, hear, witness the Twelfth Grade’s final valentine to the SWSF community, sumptuously costumed and staged, on Wednesday, June 4th and Thursday, June 5th, both at 7:30pm. Suitable for all ages.

(Of special interest: the show will be presented intact, including the rarely performed, gently comic “Induction” to the show, intended by Shakespeare as part of the whole.)

See you there!

~Kevin Simmons, HS Drama Teacher

Summer Farm Guild

Come join the Farm Guild over the summer. The farm volunteers will continue to meet every Tuesday morning. We meet at 9am, have a potluck snack around 11am and work until 1pm.

Learn about planting, biodynamics, irrigation and harvest. Drop in when you have time. Questions? Please contact Farmer Dana at dana@summerfieldwaldorf.org.



PHOTO BY MIGUEL SALMERÓN

The Human Race

Participating in the 2014 Human Race earlier this month was so much fun. Our family had decided to do the race together as part of the Summerfield group.

Surprisingly, our kids, Abigail (6) and Justin (1), were really fired up to run the 10K. Really? This was their first race, so we were unsure what would happen out there. It ended up being an awesome experience that the kids loved. Abby took second place in her age group, and Justin actually won his age group (as the only seven-year-old and youngest racer that day)!



The energy of the runners, walkers, volunteers and spectators was infectious. Abby and Justin had so much fun they asked to make running the Human Race and annual family tradition. Want to join us next year? ~ *The Grundys*

From First to Eighth...

By Wendy Mardigian, Eighth Grade Parent

I remember my son's first day in the First Grade. I recall him glancing up into the confident and kind face of his senior buddy during the rose ceremony that first day. His buddy was twice as tall and twice as broad, I just couldn't imagine that my six-year-old would ever grow to such a size. Well, he's not a senior yet but if eight years is any measure of how time flies, a senior is just a blink away!

Under the guidance of their teacher Mrs. Lloyd, the first graders were quite ready to march and play and count by jumping rope. They knit—how wonderful to observe the concentration on their faces as they “followed the sheep, around the tree, over the fence...”—so many little hands engaged in creating—what a perfect age to be!

One grade rolls into the next and they just get better, the children more capable. By Third Grade, all the baby teeth were gone supplanted by larger teeth and grins! I noticed my son's hands, the fingers longer, wanting



CLASS EIGHT BACK IN FIRST GRADE...

to do! His body, more lean, his head not so much in the clouds and his feet actually touching the ground. With their feet on the earth and their hands in front of their hearts, this class of children busily spent the year engaged in practical activities, the art of sanding, sawing, stirring, kneading, cutting, drilling, soaking, straining, mixing, dyeing, cooking, building. These little doers helped to build the playhouse for the preschool yard.

Another grade gone by with such profound accomplishments, the overnight field trips begin. Off to Fort Ross, immersed in a moment of California history for 24 hours, returning with an experience they are sure to remember for a lifetime and looking older! The Gold Rush trip, two nights out under the stars, panning for gold, working together

to make the meals, clean the pots, pack the lunches, keep the campsite clean, with campfire songs and stories by night, adventures by day. The camaraderie just builds! The social web that the children weave is so very strong. There it is, the understanding of and compassion for others, the awareness of a bigger world around them, one foot in the river wanting, and not wanting, to cross! Such a delicate and sweet place to meet the children as, slowly but surely, each one makes the move to cross the rubicon, and another milestone is met.

Beyond the wonderful Greek games of the Fifth Grade and onto the Sixth Grade, values and virtues are in question. This group of delightful children start looking within and examining their own set of standards. Put to task, they seek out ways to help in their small community, helping third graders to read, reading to the elderly, helping a neighbor... just more ways of stepping outside of themselves only to discover more of who they are. I loved hearing them talk about themselves at their final overnight gathering, a sort of knighting ceremony, and passing of the torch as Mrs. Lloyd gracefully lets the helm be taken over by a new shepherd, Mr. Smout. Mr. Smout, lucky to be receiving such a tight knit, and copacetic group of students.



... AND IN EIGHTH GRADE

Then the beginning of seventh grade, a ropes course challenge to start the year and build new bonds, and the Tall Ship adventure. The Balclutha, a ship docked at Hyde Pier on which the children spent a day and night aboard as crew. There is a captain, a first mate, a galley cook, all role-playing, continuously in character as part of a very effective immersion into a time in history, and the students on board have to play along. This Seventh Grade class willfully transported themselves into the time and place and lived the life of seafarers, all through the power of their imaginations. I was able to go along and witness this testimony to their education. I watched every child playfully embrace this idea of pretending to be on this ship ready to set sail. It was like they were little again, yet there they all were, receiving and following orders from the crew, taking it very seriously. The child alive in the adolescent! Holding themselves this way through the year, and going to Ashland to see Shakespeare woke them up even more. It was a perfect place for the emotional and social muscles to get even stronger, and the seventh grader emerging into an eighth grader.

Eighth grade, a final year spent highly focused on more academics and emotional/social intelligence-building. The first graders I saw eight years ago stepping up into the lower school realm, are now stepping out of that realm and stepping up into an adolescent, teenage realm where they will practice that drive for creativity, passion, confidence, curiosity, emotional intelligence, and so much more that Mrs. Lloyd and Mr. Smout guided our children towards. And, just like the beginning, back in first grade, so many little hands engaged in creating—what a perfect age to be!

In praise of Daddy!

The kindergarten classes celebrate Mother's Day with such sweetness and gusto. Making beautiful handmade and heartfelt gifts. Well, Fathers, we haven't forgotten you!

This year we have baked some delicious treats and made lovely cards. The five- and six-year-olds were asked to share something they loved about their Dad, Daddy or Papa. "I wonder what's special about your Daddy?" the kindergarten teacher asked. The following are excerpts from these beautiful letters appreciating you wonderful Dads:



"I love that my Daddy fixes my toys. I love that he can go fishing with me. Once he helped me catch a rainbow trout. I love to play games with him like Candyland. He hugs me and tells me that he loves me. I love that."

"My Dad knows how to run. He likes to run marathons. I love to go camping with him. I like him also because he wrestles with me, and he also jumps on the trampoline and really, I love when he does that. I like when he wears his suit jacket. I just Love him!"

"My Dad is good at racing little fake cars. He plays with me a lot. I like to sleep near him because his shirt is soft. Whenever I want to play bow and arrows, he watches so I do it right. I know he loves me 'cause he laughs, 'cause I make him laugh."

"My Dad is really good at soccer. He's also getting better at tennis. He knew how to fix my arm when I had a bump on it. I love to play soccer with him. I wish that his ankle gets better. Also, since he's from Ecuador, he teaches me Spanish. I like how he speaks Spanish. He's good at building and fixing computers if they get over-heated."

"My Daddy likes to farm and he loves red. He knows how to drive a tractor really good and fast. He can make a very big chicken tractor go really, really fast. He made pretty, sharp, wooden knives. He loves to hug Anna and me. I love to go with him to do some work."

"My Dad is good at making waffles. I love that about him. It's my favorite thing when I wake up. He also knows how to make pancakes. I like the way he makes miso soup a lot! I love that he's going to get me a new rod and reel because I love to fish with him. I love when he reads me books and gives me hugs and kisses."

"My Daddy is really good at putting together bunk beds and flying helicopters. He knows how to make lassos for catching lizards—really good ones! Something I love is to snuggle with him. I just love him."

Dear Summerfield Daddies, Blessings on your Father's Day.

With love from the Early Childhood Teachers

'Bringing In Baby'

EMPATHY IN THE CLASSROOM

By America Worden, Lower School/
High School Counselor

This year in their Values and Virtues Class, the Sixth Grade had the very special honor of welcoming two new teachers: mother-baby pair Laura and Jackson!

The idea of inviting a baby teacher and his dedicated Mama into the classroom came from searching for ways to bring ideas like empathy, vulnerability and human needs into Values and Virtues as experiences, not concepts. Rather than talk “about” these things (which are hard to articulate and can be awkward for younger students), I was looking for ways to create space for students to explore these more tender knowings through being and doing.

Inspired by a cutting-edge bullying prevention program out of Canada developed by Mary Gordon called Roots of Empathy, I went and found Ms. Donna in Roots and Shoots. I explained to her the idea that students could experience both vulnerability (from the baby) and compassion (from the parent) as well as understanding that life is constantly unfolding: no one is finished developing. Donna was excited to give it a try and so was Mrs. MacKinnon in the sixth grade. Donna



MOTHER LAURA, BROTHER KYLE &
BABY JACKSON WITH HIS NEW HAT

suggested the idea to a willing and enthusiastic Laura (whose older boy Kyle attends Roots and Shoots). The Rotary



THE SIXTH GRADE CLASS WITH JACKSON AND FAMILY

PHOTOS BY JEN HAUSER

Club of Sebastopol provided a mini grant, and we were ready to begin!

Laura visited the sixth grade in December, just weeks before Jackson was due to be born. Laura was warm and funny, and the students were quickly asking her about deciding to have a baby, what it was like to be expecting, as well as telling her stories of themselves and their siblings when they were being born.

In January, Jackson came for the first time. He was only three weeks old and, before welcoming him, the Sixth Grade discussed how to help him feel safe in their classroom. They cleaned the floor, borrowed a comfy chair and lambskin from Roots and Shoots, practiced a lullaby, and decided to be quiet and calm and give Jackson lots of space. When he came for the first time, he was tiny and pink! We all noticed how fast his breaths were, how he couldn't see very far or hold his head up, and how he needed to be touched, talked to, and fed when he fussed.

Jackson came back when he was nine weeks old. What a big change! He had grown a lot, his eyes were more alert, he looked around and responded more. We watched him playing with his fists, bring them together in front of his face, putting them in his mouth. We watched how much focus this took, how tired he got, and we saw his smile for the first time.

On his next visit Jackson was 13 weeks. He was much bigger again, with dimples in his cheeks, and the students noticed that he could now

move his fingers separately and arch his back so he was lying on his side (but not turning over yet). He had much more hair, and made many new sounds. We watched him play with a toy for the first time (he pulled a piece of silk over his face and sucked on it).

Each visit, Laura would explain how Jackson could communicate, how she responded, the things that they were learning together. The students took turns sitting around him on the floor and captivated him by singing the *Eency Weency Spider*. Before he left the last time, the class sang *Substance of Earth* in harmony, which brought wonder to Jackson's eyes and tears to Laura's.

The mood in the classroom was reverent, with cooing and laughter sprinkled in, and the students seemed calmer the longer Jackson stayed. Their observations and reflections from their own experiences were insightful and poignant. The most frequently asked question was if Jackson will keep coming. One student knit Jackson a hat for part of his knighting project, and the class got to see him one last time this year and meet his big brother Kyle when Laura and the boys stopped by to receive the gift.

Mrs. MacKinnon, Ms. Donna, the sixth grade and I are all very grateful for Laura's kindness and generosity in sharing Jackson and her own life. This was an inspiring collaboration and a special opportunity we hope to continue and develop in years to come!

Finding One's Self

A LOOK AT THE SENIOR SELF-PORTRAIT

Interview by Adam MacKinnon, Editor



Any of our readers who were present at Farm to Feast this year would surely have been moved by twelfth grader Cooper Asad's story of overcoming his trepidation at working on the senior self-portrait, the bust. He spoke of his personal challenge in working with clay, and of the care and trust placed in him by his HS teachers. In being given support and the option to take an easier path, he chose the harder one, overcoming his fears. It was a telling reminder of what the HS at Summerfield tries to do for all students, enabling them to rise to and overcome any challenge, and sending them out into the world as capable, accomplished and truly 'human' beings.

Intrigued to learn more about the senior self-portrait and its significance, I spoke with Konstantin Gortinsky, HS Art Teacher...

What does this project teach them?

Above all, persistence. I give them the tools, and many think right away that they've got it. But it's much harder than they expect. There's a fine balance of when to push things on the student, and when to let go, and let them find their way, or fall into it, and then if they wish to be helped, to come and ask. And, sometimes, there's a student who needs to have the experience of crash and burn. In the end though, I insist that they have to achieve something they can say is finished.

The process is intense—three days a week of long classes for four weeks straight (half the class does theirs at the beginning of the year while the other half does a painted self-portrait with Kathinka, and then they switch towards the end of the year). And it forces them to consider: "Who am I? Do I give up when things are hard? Or do I knuckle down and finish it?"

Why do we do the self-portrait in



Twelfth Grade?

Twelfth Grade is the right age because they are starting to really ask themselves about themselves. Their "I" is emerging...

So, at this time when they are coming to an end of something, and when developmentally they are beginning to have the capacity to reflect on their time here, we ask them to make a representation of themselves.

They must get the proportions correct: the relationship between eyes, nose, mouth etc., which is harder than it seems, requiring very careful observation... but of course, we ask more from them. They have to try and find the essence of themselves too. I say to them, "You have to be able to make the forms so that the forms reflect something of who you are."

I can't tell them how to do that... I can allude to qualities they might look for, but it's up to them. I can ask them questions, but essentially there's no escape, no easy way, they have to find it themselves. Some come and think "I'm good at art," and get surprised that it's a struggle to give life to this project.

And then there are others who find the whole measurement part difficult. One student last year really struggled, but finally when left alone and encouraged not to worry about precision, he got along great with it.

It wasn't accurate, the proportions weren't right. But there was no doubt who it was. He had captured his essence.



The Messenger Marketplace

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Community Enrichment

Volunteer Host Families Needed for Summer Cultural Adventure!

Educational Homestay Programs, a non-profit org., is seeking interested families to host Norwegian, Spanish and Italian High School students arriving Sonoma County June 25th–July 21st for a 3 ½ weeks. Students are bussed to Sonoma Academy for morning English language classes and organized cultural activities, M-F. Host families are invited to join us in these activities! Make a lasting impact on a young person's life by opening your home and heart to one of our students. Students do not need their own room. A network of host families is developing to coordinate summer time gatherings to heighten the cultural exchange and community experience our programs create. For more info, contact Lisa Breschi, 707-304-1739, or lisabreschi@gmail.com. To learn more about EF Homestay Programs: www.ef.edu/ehp.

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. 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.

Classes at Circle of Hands

Felt Painting Class: Sat. 5/31 (10-11:30 or 11:30-1) Make a lovely wool picture to take home. \$10, ages 6+. **Shell Bracelet Craft:** Sat. 6/28, ½ hr craft b/t 10am-12pm. \$5, ages 5+. **Soundpainting/Instrument-Making Summer Series for Kids:** Mon.-Fri. 7/14–18, 10am-3pm, w/ exp. instructors Kaya Martischius & Silvia Schroeder. A week of sound making, movement, rhythmic play & musical instrument building w/ natural & recycled materials. \$265, ages 6+. **Dream Pillow or Sachet-Making:** Sat. 7/26, ½ hour craft b/t 3-5pm. \$5, ages 4+. **Weaving Summer Series for Kids:** Mon.-Fri. 8/4–8, 10am-3pm, with Silvia Schroeder. Children weave on different looms to create wall hangings, jewelry and “magical helpers”. \$255, ages 5-12. **Doll-Making Summer Series for Children:** Mon.-Fri. 7/11-15, 9am-1pm, w/Grandma Mary. Make a traditional 16-18” Waldorf doll w/arms, legs, hair & clothing. \$250, ages 10+. **Village Grandmas:** (\$5-\$15 sliding scale) Share family themes & activities w/exp. Waldorf teachers – preschoolers welcome. First Thurs. of the month, all summer, 10-11am. **Summer Craft Classes:** On select Thurs. (3-5pm) or Fris. (10am-12pm) w/Heather Friedlander. Projects for adults & children. All welcome– pls. accompany kids under 5. For more detailed class information, see this link: www.circleofhandswaldorfshop.com/events/ Register via circleofhands@sonic.net or by calling or visiting our store! 707-634-6140.

Rosebud Summer Preschool

... is now enrolling. Join Miss Catherine in the Rosebud Preschool and play yard for a relaxed and joyful summertime experience. 10 sessions run from mid-Jun through mid-Aug, four mornings per week—Monday through Thursday—\$165/session. Applications can be found in the Main Office. Call Miss Catherine for more information at 575-7194 x322.

Acting Workshop for Teens

June 20 and June 21 in Sebastopol. Join in this exciting two-day workshop for teens ages 13-18 yrs. This introduction to the basics of Meisner acting is taught by Pamela Demorest. For details contact: pamela@healdsburgfilmfest.org.

Camp Cobalot: July 21-July 26 at Isis Oasis in Geyserville

For ages 9-12. Learn natural building techniques with Miguel Elliott of Living Earth Structures. Cob oven making, adobe bricks, cob bench, cooking in a cob oven and much more. \$500 for the week or \$100 per day. For more info call Miguel at (707) 320-3609 or email mudstrawcity@yahoo.com.

Art Camp at Summerfield

Children ages 6-12. Walks in nature, explore and create with a variety of art forms: drawing, painting, sculpting and print-making. Dates: weekly 06/16; 06/30; 07/7. For more info or reg. on-line at artcampkuprian.weebly.com or call Renate at (707) 495 7543 or kuprian@sonic.net.

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Housesitting Available

Are you looking for a responsible person to care for your home, while you're away this summer? I am an experienced Waldorf teacher returning to Sonoma County after four years in rainy Seattle! While seeking my own more permanent home, I would welcome the opportunity to lovingly care for yours while you are away in July or August. I look forward to speaking with you. Carolyn McRae (206) 325-0557 (evenings or leave a message).

For Sale/Rent/Needed

Looking for Housing

Family of 4 looking for a 2 or 3 bedroom home/townhome/apartment to rent. We are moving from Colorado to Sonoma County in June/July to begin attending Summerfield Waldorf School. Our daughters are 3 and 6 years old. We also have a small, well-behaved dog named Monk! Please contact Blake at 303-249-1167 or Amy at 720-878-7257.

Need a Loom?

Wanting to lend out a floor loom to a weaver. It is a Leclerc model, in great shape. Call Ronni 869-3903.

Looking for Housing

Newly immigrated family with 2 children looking for a 2 or 3 bedroom home to rent from September. Rural aspect preferred. We will be able to view properties from the end of June. Please contact Ken Smith ken@bacwtt.org.

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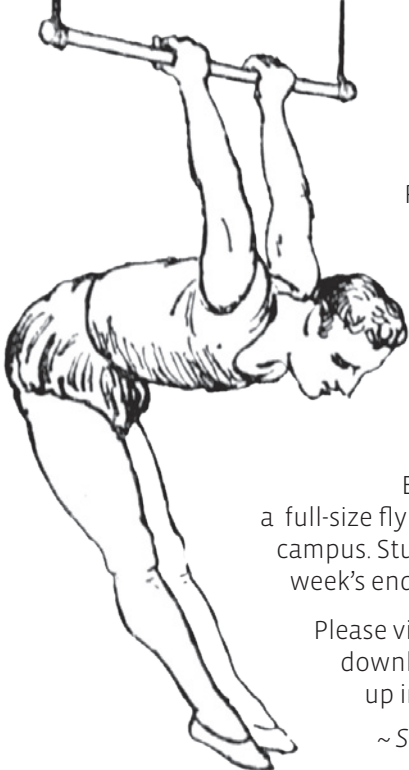
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Fly into Summer with Flying Trapeze Camp!



Circus Waldissima is once again proud to present two one-week sessions of Flying Trapeze Summer Camp, courtesy of Trapeze Arts!

Realize your dreams of flying and soaring through the air!

Session One is Monday through Friday, June 9-13, and Session Two is Monday through Friday, June 16-20. All ages are welcome; the cost is \$260. Choose either a morning (9am-12noon) or afternoon (1-4pm) session.

Each three-hour individualized lesson is on a full-size flying trapeze rig located on Summerfield's campus. Students progress at their own pace and, by week's end, can have a full repertoire of skills.

Please visit the Summerfield website to download registration forms, or pick one up in the Main Office.

~ Sieglinde Basmajian, for the Circus Program

