

Messenger

Summerfield | WALDORF SCHOOL AND FARM

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When Time Stands Still

By Rick Concoff

Every once in a while time at Summerfield stands still. Just for a blissful moment, we gather together to acknowledge an auspicious passage that only happens once. It comes and goes in a flash and then off we go on our various journeys, until we meet again at yet another passage.

We gathered for the annual Rose Ceremony, during the first week of school, to welcome our First Graders to their Lower School journey in a most tender way. The Seniors and First Graders filed in to the lilting sound of harp music and stood silently, dressed in their “Sunday best.” As they stood facing each other in concentric circles, each of their names were called, and the seniors passed a beautiful young rose bush to their First Grade buddies.

All the other classes between the First and Twelfth Grades sat in sweet remembrance of their first day, and in awe of the Seniors who seemed so big and grown-up.



Parents and teachers stood breathless around the inner circles of students, so many of us remembering our first day as well our own Senior years. We all knew that, in what would seem like a moment, we would be standing together watching the not-so-small First Graders honor the departing Seniors with their own gift of a rose in the bright sun of late spring.

These circles and tears of joy, and emergence, anticipation and reflection continue to go round and round as yet another year begins at Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm, and we all give thanks to the traditions and rituals that document the transitions that seem to make a moment stand still in time.

Blessings on our new school year and on each member of this Summerfield community, as we work together to bring our young ones into the world in safety and peace.

MORE ROSE CEREMONY PHOTOS IN OUR GALLERY AT SUMMERFIELDWALDORF.ORG



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Important Dates:

**Michaelmas Festival
and Potluck**

Friday, September 26

**Walk Through the Grades
—Campus Tour**

*Wednesday, October 15, 9am,
Sophia Hall*

STORY IDEAS!

Adam MacKinnon is the editor of the Messenger. Please let him know if you have story ideas, feedback on what you want to see more (or less) of, or just have a burning desire to write. Many thanks!



Adam can be reached at messenger@summerfieldwaldorf.org.

Welcome Back from the Board

By Jeffrey Westman,
Board President

Welcome back to a new year at Summerfield. I am returning this year, after a year's absence from the Board, in a new role as Board President, and very much looking forward to the challenges ahead.



This is a big year for our school: our 40th Anniversary. The anniversary is a huge opportunity for us to acknowledge and celebrate our history, and to transition into the next 40 years of growth and improvement.

We are in the process of strategically orchestrating things to strengthen the Board, with a view toward fundraising. We've also set ourselves the goal of re-enlivening committee work for the school. We welcome your help! Do you have specific skills in the areas of ADA, site development, legal, marketing and communications? You don't have to be on the board to offer your skills—let me know, please.

The Board kicked off the year this past weekend with our Retreat, a chance for us to gather in an unrushed period of time, to dig deep into some tasks that we don't generally have time for during the year. We'll be establishing our roles and responsibilities under the new leadership, and we'd like to acknowledge the extraordinary work Jefferson Buller has done in leading the Board for such long and dedicated service. Thank you, Jefferson!

Celebrating 40 Years!

By Cyndi Yoxall, Development Director

Welcome back to another inspiring school year! This year we are celebrating 40 years of creative academic excellence, thanks to the handful of committed founding families with the vision that paved the way for all of us.

As I sit comfortably on this beautiful campus, I think about the risks that were taken and the faith that was held by a group of parents and teachers who started this school. It's almost unimaginable for me, who holds education and stability so dearly, that they had the vision and clarity to leap and make it happen. They were adventurers in establishing an alternative to the school system they felt was lacking for their children and for the future. They too were parents, with jobs and busy lives, yet this important mission was in the forefront. When I stop to really reflect, it makes the daily tasks of today seem easy in comparison. I have deep reverence for all families and donors of the early years of Summerfield. Thank you for giving us this gift.

For the past four decades,
Summerfield Waldorf School



and Farm has graduated students with integrity and passion, who are prepared to bring their talent, leadership, and gifts into the world. With a solid history, we move forward into the next 40 years as a strong institution that has weathered storms, yet has gained strength with each step along the way. We are in a healthy position, built on strong ethics and commitment, ready to thrive in the ever-changing world. I feel it is our responsibility now to carry this legacy forward. It's our turn to roll up our sleeves and to hold each other tight as we give our best efforts and heart in growing this school and community. We owe it to those who drew the plans, who bought the land, who built the buildings, who taught the students. We owe it to our children and society as a whole.

I look forward to an inspiring year full of heartfelt work! Thank you for living a giving life.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS...

Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day

Wednesday, November 26

A special day to visit the school and farm, and enjoy a special assembly featuring our students. To help with invitations, please make sure we have your child's grandparents' information on file. *This event does not include parents.*

Alumni Event

Friday, December 26

A fun celebration to maintain old connections and build new ones. This event takes place on campus over the Winter Break and includes food, beverages, music and a nostalgic display of old photos and memories. Volunteers needed!

Farm to Feast 2015 Auction and Dinner on the Farm

Saturday, May 16, 2015

This event will take many hands in many areas, and is *so much fun*! Farm to Feast always sells out and is our largest fundraising event of the year (bringing in over \$200k for the school in 2014).

Questions? Contact: Cyndi Yoxall, Development Director, or Caryn Shapiro-Stone, Development Associate at development@summerfieldwaldorf.org.

My Summerfield: 1980 to Present Day

By Leslie Young, former LS Secretary

Leslie's piece below is the first in a series planned for this, our 40th Anniversary year. We'll be inviting reflections from those willing to share their stories of the history of our school, and what Summerfield has meant to them and their families.



What does Waldorf mean? We all have memories of our first attempts to define it – sounds Germanic, heard

it's artsy, costs a bundle, beautiful campus... well, in 1980, the first three phrases applied, but certainly not the last! Summerfield was housed in two rented church facilities, its festivals held on a gritty blacktop driveway adjacent to a major highway.

My husband and I were leery. Were all the drawings the same because the school was enforcing conformity? Would the students actually learn reading and numbers to be competitive in modern society? Weren't children being too sheltered from "real world" events? And what's worse, we were finding out that we had made several mistakes before we even enrolled our child—he had listened to recorded music in our home and cars, he'd worn disposable diapers, marking pens had been seen in his possession, and all the wrong foods, sleep rhythms and clothing materials were in evidence. Was he damaged now, or was it still possible to adjust our parental course and lead him to Waldorf greatness?

Since my mother was a eurythmy teacher at the school and we both greatly admired her, we decided to give it a try. (Due to a divorce, I had not grown up around my mother nor gone to a Waldorf school, so this decision was not fait accompli.)

We were drawn in quickly. I was a

writer and teacher so I volunteered for the newsletter, my husband an architect so an obvious choice to help create new buildings. That project came quickly. Just a year after we arrived at the school, a group found and purchased a large, barren horse ranch on Willowside Road, necessitating a lot of communication, fundraising, and construction skills. We became part of the school's work force and grew into enthusiastic, supportive parents.

The Waldorf way suited our choleric son, our family's evolving value system, and our desire for community involvement. Where we had had very few local friends, having moved from L.A. with our infant just four years prior, we now had a village to help raise our child. I plunged into Board and festival work with fervor. As Summerfield (and the number of my offspring) expanded, employment at the school became an inviting and helpful option. I began work as the school secretary eight years later, part of an admin staff of four and continued for twenty-four years. About ten years ago I completed a Waldorf teacher-training course and taught middle school English, an enjoyable new role for me at Summerfield. Retirement came in 2013, but my heart is certainly

still strongly aligned with the school, especially in my current incarnation as owner of Circle of Hands, a Waldorf-inspired children's store.

There have been many changes, challenges, and great advancements that I've been witness to over the last 34 years in Summerfield Waldorf School's rise to prominence. And I know that there will be many more steps that today's young parents will also have to take, integral to the excitement and satisfaction of defining the institutional being of such a great school.

I'm so fortunate to have raised three wonderful sons who attended Summerfield's kindergarten through 12th grade, and I have never regretted the fateful decision we made in 1980 to "join up." Although the depth of the curriculum, the insight into child development, and the wonders of an agricultural campus are aspects I feel are key to the rich Waldorf experience; really, above all, it was the community of dedicated teachers, caring parents and shining children that made Summerfield one of the most memorable journeys of my life.

Blessings on your journey and happy 40th to Summerfield!

New Faces on Campus

In addition to Adam Stopeck (our new Sixth Grade teacher announced in the May issue), we welcome a new Spanish teacher to the LS, Marcela Mejia-Ronan (Left); Abigail Summers as the Lower School Strings & High School Orchestra teacher (Right); and Lucinda East as the new Farm Assistant.



The Michaelmas Festival

By Kibby MacKinnon, Seventh Grade teacher

MICHAELMAS CELEBRATION ~ STUDENT WORKDAY, PAGEANT & COMMUNITY POTLUCK ~ FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

REMEMBER TO BRING POTLUCK, BLANKETS, PLATES & UTENSILS!

*In Autumn, great Michael
With sword and with shield
Passes over meadow and orchard and field
He's on his way to battle 'gainst darkness and strife
He is the heavenly warrior
Protector of life!*

With these familiar words, so begins another school year, and another Michaelmas pageant. For parents watching the play, it brings an annual chorus of “I can’t believe they’re already the _____” (fill in the blank: peasants/royalty/angels/dragon!) For parents with young children, the pageant may offer the first glimpse of where their child is in relation to the class, and to the other grades. Each family can see that they are part of something much, much, bigger. It is a window into the whole school.

For many children, as soon as they get back to their classroom to change costumes after the pageant, they’re already chanting the songs they will sing in their grade next year. By the time they get there, they already know their part. The Second Graders are



particularly eager to join in, for as First Graders they watched with awe, and have been waiting with anticipation for when they would be a part of the pageant too.

One of the reasons we hold festivals is to ground us in the circular movement of time, rather than just the linear. Annual events give us a great sense of security, familiarity, and reassurance. They help us connect through our senses to the natural world, as we remember what the weather was like at the festival last year, or how high the creek was, or “that year it rained!”

The medicine of our annual Michaelmas Festival is potent, not just for children but also for adults. It gives us a sense of the cycle of the year and fortitude for the months ahead.

Come join our first school festival of the new year!



PHOTOS BY MIGUEL SALMERON

MICHAELMAS NOTES PLEASE READ!

- Children must be under the supervision of their parents as soon as the pageant ends.
- Parents are often asked to bring tools from home for their class’ workday activities (during school hours)—label with family name!
- Classes Two through Eight and a few high schoolers perform in the pageant.
- In the lead-up to the festival, parents may be asked to assist with costume fittings and alterations.
- Each class will ask a few parents to provide a healthy, hearty snack for the entire class to eat at 3pm.
- Students will stay with their class from 3pm until after the pageant.
- In the lower grades, a few parents may be asked to help get the children dressed for the pageant, between 3:30 and 4pm.
- We ask that families arrive by 3:45pm in order to be settled on the grass in back of the lower school buildings by 4pm when the pageant begins.
- The pageant begins at 4pm and lasts approximately 45 minutes.
- An all-school community potluck follows the pageant.
- Bring blankets for seating along with your potluck offering and your family’s personal eating utensils, plates and cups. The school will not be providing paper products for the meal, so please remember to bring what you need!
- Seventh and Eighth grade parents are in charge of the clean-up after the potluck.
- Please be sure to let your teacher and Viviana know if your child will need to be in Aftercare after 4pm.

Thank you, Andrea Jolicoeur



Let there be Light!

By Caryn Shapiro Stone,
Third Grade parent

On the first day of school, the third graders arrived, not in brand new school clothes, but dressed for work. They jumped right into the new school year by getting muddy building a wood-fired adobe oven and preparing ingredients for a week full of baking. By the end of the week, the students had baked turnovers, pizzas, and bread; cooked a soup, and harvested produce from the Farm. They also began recording the recipes in order to create their own recipe books. One high school teacher reported that all over the high school, mouths were watering because of the aromas coming from the third grade.

Throughout each day the students rotated activities so they all were able to experience building, cutting, chopping, mixing. The classroom was very open and lively as parents were on hand to help—one parent built a roaring fire in the adobe oven, others instructed on how to follow a recipe, and another ensured safe chopping. The students chopped every vegetable for the pizza on their own; they cut up every piece of fruit for the turnovers; they worked in groups to share the building of the adobe oven; they each mixed ingredients for bread; and they all stirred and watched over the soup.

As a parent, I so enjoyed the enthusiasm with which my own child experienced this first week of third



grade. On Apple Turnover day, she saved her turnover until after school. The moment the school bell



rang, she pulled it out of her lunch box with relish. Immediately, a parent laughingly offered her \$5 for the turnover. Then, another parent offered her \$10! She really wanted to engage in the transaction (she is ready for the money block)... but she wanted her turnover more. I loved the smile of confidence on her face as she retold the story over and over again as she enjoyed eating her turnover.

It is so remarkable to witness our children jumping into the curriculum with both feet, doing with their hands—baking, cooking, creating aromas, eating—an all-sensory experience. And they just so happen to be learning as they do it all. As Mr. Allen explains it, “In the third grade, the practical and the profound are beautifully woven together in the curriculum.”

And as the students entered the second week of school, the Creation Stories block began. The metaphorical fire for the year was lit, as the third graders literally lit the fire under the adobe oven they made with their own hands. And as the light was lit under the oven, the third graders launched their school year... let there be light!

10th Grade Play!

Antigone BY SOPHOCLES

Teen-aged Antigone, daughter of the infamous Oedipus, has a problem: her brothers have just slain each other;



one has been buried with full military honors, while the body of the other, Polyneices', lies unburied, unsanctified, outside of Thebes' city walls. Thebes' new king (Antigone's uncle) has issued his first royal proclamation: none may bury the traitor Polyneices, upon pain of death by stoning. Antigone must choose between society and family obligations, between man's laws and those of the gods, and between life and death. This 2,500-year-old tragedy is as timely, dramatically convincing, and relevant as the day it premiered at the Athenian Dionysia festival around 441 B.C.E.

Join our talented, committed actors as they explore, celebrate, and present the profound and amazing gift of undiluted Greek drama!

Thursday & Friday, September 25 & 26, at 7pm in Sophia Hall.

(Length: approx. 90 mins)

~ Kevin Simmons

Summerfield Silver Medalist

By Glenn Berger

Sixth Grader Ella Berger competed in the Judo Junior Nationals on July 4th in Honolulu, HI. She amazed her parents, who thought the tournament was just an excuse for a fun Hawaiian vacation, by coming in second place!



The Hope of the Future ...

By Farmer Dan

A vision without a task is but a dream.

A task without a vision is but a drudgery.

A vision with a task is the hope of the future.

8TH GRADE GARDENING VERSE



“Has anyone ever figured out which is the actual harvest moon” I wonder this cool September evening while being mesmerized by a huge, golden full moon over the neighborhood park while walking my puppy and wondering if I am actually going to get anything written for the first *Messenger* of the school year. “If one must hurry, then hurry slowly,” I read this summer, so while hurrying slowly I mull over a statement I recently read that by the end of the century the world may have to accommodate ten billion inhabitants and that sustaining that many people will require farmers to grow more food in the next seventy-five years than has been produced in all of human history.

The Indian environmentalist Vandana Shiva, speaking this summer in Florence at the Seed, Food and Earth Democracy Festival where a large crowd had

gathered in the Piazza, spoke of two trends. “One: a trend of diversity, democracy, freedom, joy culture—people celebrating their lives.” And after a sustained pause: “The other, monocultures, deadness. Everyone depressed. Everyone on prozac. More and more young people unemployed. We don’t want that world of death.”

Waldorf education believes the first seven years of a child’s life should be grounded with reminders that the world is beautiful, followed by the years of seven to fourteen when the curriculum brings forth the underlying reality that the world is good. In a world increasingly saturated with virtual images, Summerfield’s Farm allows the students to experience first-hand the reality of these ideals by immersion in gardening classes, animal care, hard work, nutritional snacking and herbal studies.

When asked if gardening should be a voluntary pursuit in the Waldorf curriculum, Rudolf Steiner clearly responded that “the garden work should be an obligatory addition to lessons.” Gardening puts the children in the right soul mood, or attitude, to meet the environmental difficulties of our time. Gardening also stimulates the social development of children through the experience of one’s

own hand bringing forth the inner realization that people always depend on the work of their fellow human beings. Emphasizing the student’s understanding of the context between the plant kingdom, the earth, and the radiant sun is something that needs to be experienced to be ingested. Farming and gardening work on Summerfield Farm immerses the children in, and allows the children to grasp, the context and to understand how, by their own attention and caring effort, they can contribute to healthy growing and a bountiful harvest.

Gardening centers on movement and physical work in a space where walls, ceilings and windows disappear and the school garden becomes wider and open to the cosmos, the place where nature’s elements play. Duration and brevity are expressed by plant formations in the gardens and rains, wind, hot sun, summer blossoms, spring bulbs, falling leaves and fragrant manure, all stimulating certain soul moods through practical experience. Hoeing, weeding, watering, harvesting, and weeding again require care, nurturing and patience. As providers of opportunities for plant life, the children’s will forces carry the physical creation and, at the same time, an awareness is born of how dependent plant life also





is on the forces of the cosmos and nature. Activity and observation flow and co-mingle and combine in the child's soul. Working with tools becomes a rhythm and rhythm carries physical movement and develops forces. Hence, "we learn to work in the world, we learn to grasp the world."

But now, once again, it is very late—my, how one can get carried away. My grandfather

would often say, while pondering his fields and animals, "You scratch something ordinary and more often than not there is something extraordinary underneath it." ... Like on the first Friday of the school year when the Seniors gathered in a simple circle facing outward towards a ring of tiny first graders, who were in turn surrounded by all the students sitting in a star shape holding the space, and sang them a song and presented each first grade buddy with a simple rose and so many of us teachers and parents stood silently in the background with tears streaming down our faces.

Welcome to a new school year.

Farmer Dan

Exciting Volunteer Opportunity!

The Development office is looking  for a dedicated volunteer to spearhead our eScrip campaign. The volunteer would help publicize the current eScrip program to the Summerfield community, and research new opportunities and best practices via the web and by contacting other schools. This is a wonderful opportunity to represent Summerfield in a professional capacity. Please contact development@summerfieldwaldorf.org if interested.

Farm Stand News

By Farmer Dana

It was a warm yet mild summer, and our bountiful harvest reflects the warm days and cool nights we've felt the past few months. The kale and carrots were sweet all summer long, tomatoes are getting better by the day. The 3rd grade will be harvesting our onions this week as well, possibly the best crop we've ever grown. Toward the end of the month we'll be digging potatoes, this year's German Butterball, Bodega Reds and a small purple Peruvian potato. Our new chickens have also started laying. In August we were collecting eggs that were only slightly larger than an acorn, but they've sized up nicely now and we are collecting around five dozen a day. I am happy to say we have enough eggs that even Chefs Mat and Tom are using exclusively Summerfield eggs. Families have also been enjoying our yogurt made with 100% Jersey milk. We use an heirloom Greek culture in our yogurt so if you'd like to make it at home you can use ours as a starter. Now is also the time for apple tasting at Summerfield's Farm. We have 42 different varieties and most are ripe during September and October. Finally, we recently planted a u-pick herb garden in front of the farm stand, where you can pick your own herbs to bring home with you. We have parsley, cilantro, basil, English and French thyme, summer savory, Italian oregano, marjoram, tarragon, and four kinds of mint.



OUR TABLE AT THE HEIRLOOM FESTIVAL
WON THE SECOND-PLACE RIBBON



Here is a list of available produce:

Apples: 5-10 varieties at any given time.
Beets
Broccoli
Cabbage
Carrots
Cucumbers

Eggs
Eggplant
Kale: Camden, Nero di Toscana, Red Russian & Rainbow Lacinato
Garlic
Onions

Peppers: Anaheim, Poblano & Carmen Sweet
Tomatoes: Black Krim, Early Girl & Sun Gold
Raspberries
Yogurt
Zucchini

Our 'Farm Guild' volunteer day is on Tuesdays, and we always welcome newcomers. We meet around 8:30am and work until 12:30pm doing seasonal work on the Farm. We take a potluck snack break around 10am. The farmer makes tea. Bring closed-toed shoes, a water bottle, and any gardening questions you have...

Kindergarten in the Mall... ?

By Sarah Whitmore, Yellow Rose teacher

Each summer I go into my school preparations with the same mystery: Who will my new class be? What will they want, need? What will really meet them, make them thrive? What will they teach me? June, July and August have me memorizing stories, making puppets for plays, sewing and mending trillions of sew-able/mend-able items. I experiment with food in a never ending quest to disguise flax seed oil and broccoli sprouts as cupcakes. All the while I'm wondering... who are the little people that will fill my heart, thoughts—and classroom—come September?

This year I welcome 11 new children into my class. Half! This is a lot for kindergarten, especially because even the returning children are “new” (such young children can be worlds different after three months). Usually I see five to eight new students. The first days of school are like a birthday celebration for me, opening to these bright gifts, the children. I'm always surprised and have the feeling, “How did you know I wanted and needed this very gift!

As the first day of school approaches and I wonder if I've prepared correctly for the new class, I wait for my “school dream.” This is not a rainbow-hued, angel-filled, gift-from-the-spirit-world kind of dream. It's my school anxiety dream. After 17 years it still comes and it's always weird. This year I dreamed that my classroom had to be placed in the mall (because of septic issues), and that three of the walls were made entirely of glass. I took this in stride and didn't wake in a panic... until I learned that my “kindergarten” students ranged in age from 11 to 37 *and* that we also were obligated to maintain a year long pet walking business as a fundraiser.

Now the school year has begun, and the anxiety vanished. My dreams are back to normal (relatively). The new class is pure joy and totally distinct. Little differences add up to create the uniqueness of each group. This class feels younger and they are In Love with nature. They sit quietly, with laser focus at story time and are especially thirsty for outdoor play. There is *only one* choosy eater. He sits in awe, watching with disbelief, as his classmates appear to enjoy the “horrible” popcorn and apples. One of the younger girls appears shy and delicate upon arrival in the morning but, after she warms up, she plays as robustly as any pillaging pirate. Two children visited an aquarium over the summer and have filled play time with themes of the ocean. Seems Ms. Fawn and I can't take a single step without stumbling over whales, squid, hermit crabs or sea stars. This is the *new Yellow Rose*.

I wonder, in gratitude, about the perfect fit of our first story. They loved the tale of a drought, a dry well, a thirsty old dog and a magical tin dipper that fills again and again with fresh cool water. A story chosen in July, for little strangers. Children I didn't even know I loved yet.

Here's to the Mysteries! Blessings on this new school year.



AFTER MY “SCHOOL DREAM” I REPLACED THE TISSUE PAPER PICTURE ON THE GLASS DOOR OF MY CLASSROOM. SO HAPPY TO NOT BE AT THE MALL!

Sprites Night Planning Begins!

Sprites Night will be held this year on Saturday, October 25th. As always, Grades Three and Four are



PHOTO BY MIGUEL SALMERON

in charge of organizing this event with the Sprites Night Committee. We'll begin our official planning meetings on Wednesday, October 1, 8:40-10am, in the Music/Aftercare Room and we'll continue for the next three Wednesday mornings up until the event. Everyone is welcome, but attendance by Third and Fourth Grade representatives is especially requested.

For those of you who are new to Summerfield, Sprites Night is our annual alternative to the commercialism and ‘sugary focus’ of Halloween. Lower School classes organize and present scenes on the beautifully lit Pumpkin Path, along with a haunted classroom (for the older kids), a special office scene and warm food & drinks from the Eighth Grade. Look for more information in the upcoming Mini-Messengers as the event gets closer.

~ Andrea Jolicoeur, LS Secretary

Annual Giving Campaign (AGC)

Thank you to those who have already pledged! This year our AGC goal is \$250,000 and we hope for full participation by parents, faculty, staff and Board of Directors. You can expect to receive our AGC brochure in the mail in October and all classes will soon have an AGC Rep to help with communication and to guide the campaign.

~ Cyndi Yoxall,
Development Director

Open Week in the Redwoods

By Kiya Polo-Schlosberg, Twelfth Grade Student

At many schools, the first week of high school is often a time of social adjustment. New students and incoming freshmen must endure an awkward period of bouncing around the various social circles, hoping to find a niche for themselves. Luckily, Summerfield has found a solution for this chaotic kickstart to the year. For the first full week of high school, we enjoy a bonding journey known as Open Week.

There are several different choices for us to consider when we set out to choose an Open Week. Do we want to go kayaking for a week? Do we want to ride horses, or camp, or delve into art? Perhaps we will go sailing...who knows! Each trip holds in store for us its own merits and points of interest, but no matter what we choose, we know that we will emerge from the trip with new friends and shared memories. Unlike the class trip at the end of every year, this trip bridges class gaps and introduces us to people we might not otherwise interact with much.

This year, I chose to go on the Creative Redwoods Open Week. The description promised lots of creative expression and light hiking, all while camping in Santa Cruz's Redwood Basin. Myself and a few of my friends wanted a mellow last Open Week, a trip on which we could make some final memories and express the benefits of our art-oriented education. We were looking forward to this one, excited to have a week with friends in a scenic area. We also anticipated with eagerness the role we now played as seniors, welcoming in the incoming freshmen and getting to know our younger schoolmates better.

The first day was very mellow. We chatted cheerfully in our big vans, and ate lunch together before going on a mild hike and setting up camp. We then shared our art and sang songs with Jason and Skeydrit around the campfire. On the second day, we went on the longest hike of the trip. There was whining. There were blisters. But in the end, we were proud of ourselves for completing the hike, and the conversations we had on the trails greatly contributed to our bonding process. On the third day, we went on a shorter hike up a mountain with large boulders on the top. We had loads of fun climbing the boulders and finding little caves, and learned to share cooking and cleaning duties fairly back at camp. On the fourth day, we did not hike, but found secluded spots in the woods around our campsite and worked on our art, then spent the rest of the day playing games and becoming closer to the other people on the trip. That night we sang camp songs arm in arm with great gusto around our campfire and made promises for future friendships.

Whether fending off raccoons or learning to cook bacon, we found both adventures and new friends in the Santa Cruz Redwoods. Although the trip is now over, we have many memories and the art we made, as well as the connections we forged in the process. Hopefully, the new students feel better socially prepared to start their high school experience and someday will enjoy time spent with new students in their Open Weeks to come. Happy 2014-2015 school year, everyone!



Musical News!

Congratulations to SWSF students who were accepted by audition into the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestras:



Preparatory: Uma Baker, Ella Berger, Antonio Delario, Theo MacKinnon, Bodhi Morgan, Lola Myers, MacKenzie Stewart.

Repertory: Kendall Block, Sophie Feinstein, Mando Ramos, Brydie Stewart, Sequoia Wattles, Lukas Westman, Colin Williams (*principal*).

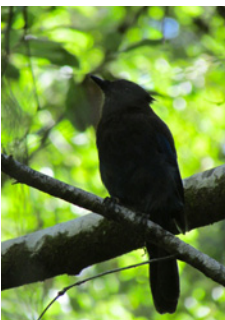
Youth Orchestra: Lucinda DeNatale, Austin Kamin, Amelie Schlager (*principal*).

[Note: next summer the Youth Orchestra is taking a special concert tour to China to perform in Beijing, Hangzhou and Shanghai]

Young People's Chamber Orchestra: Amelie Schlager

Additional kudos to HS Eleventh Grader Sophia Conti who has been accepted into the **San Francisco Youth Orchestra**.

Bravo to all!



The Value of Cursive Handwriting

by Adam MacKinnon, Editor

As a Waldorf parent with atrocious handwriting, I've often wondered just how the teachers manage to guide our children through the early grades towards such beautiful flowing cursive. This summer, our family got to see just what a difference it makes in the outside world as well.

Our son Theo, a Fifth Grader, is hooked on golf, and when planning our family vacation to Monterey (to recreate his recent class trip!) he wanted to visit Pebble Beach. We encouraged him to write them a letter, and the golf concierge there, a former teacher herself, was so impressed by his beautiful handwritten letter (and his drawing of one of the world-famous holes) she called to invite him on a personal tour of the whole course, a highlight of our summer.

The human being becomes unfettered when he writes in the way that he paints and draws...
—Rudolf Steiner

*Dear staff at Pebble Beach Golf Links
My name is Theo MacKinnon, I am
ten years old and I love to play golf*



Summerfield
WALDORF SCHOOL & FARM

CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL
FOR RENEWAL



Understanding the Child

TWO WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

Summerfield is delighted to announce a special partnership with the Center for Educational Renewal to present a new series of courses in parent education for our school community.

AN INTRODUCTION TO WALDORF EDUCATION: THE LOWER SCHOOL

MONDAYS 3:30-5PM, SEPTEMBER 9, 22, & OCTOBER 6
AT SWSF IN THE SECOND GRADE CLASSROOM

Come and explore a unique approach to human development that considers the whole child. How can one allow the individuality of each child to emerge in a healthy way? Why is it important to teach reading and math through imagination and movement? Is it possible to help young people find connection and meaning in this fast-paced age of technology? Discover the hidden meaning in fairy tales and mythology. Try your hand in the arts and experience your own creativity!

COST: SLIDING SCALE REGISTER: EDRENEW.ORG

THE FOUR TEMPERAMENTS

MONDAYS 3:30-5PM, OCTOBER 20 & 27
AT SWSF IN THE SECOND GRADE CLASSROOM

Discover the Four Temperaments in this lively, experiential workshop that will give you tools for understanding your child or class. Many discipline problems can be overcome by treating each child differently according to his or her temperament.

COST: SLIDING SCALE REGISTER: EDRENEW.ORG

Both workshops will be led by Don Basmajian, who has been a Waldorf Class Teacher for over 35 years. He is also the founder and director of the Center for Educational Renewal, which trains Waldorf teachers in Sonoma County, www.edrenew.org.

Welcome Dinner on the Farm FOR NEW FAMILIES

We'd like to welcome all **new families** to Summerfield by inviting you to attend our Welcome Dinner ~ join us for a meal prepared by Summerfield's chef with ingredients from our farm.

Bring your children and enjoy a casual meal on the farm while learning more about the school. We hope to give you a better understanding of Summerfield, an opportunity to ask questions, and a place to meet other families outside of the typical school day.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 4-6PM

RSVP TO SUPPERS@SUMMERFIELDWALDORF.ORG



The Messenger Marketplace

Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm is not affiliated with, and does not endorse, any of the individual initiatives or services advertised in this classified section. Advertisements are screened for appropriateness and made available to community members to use at their own discretion

For Sale, Rent, Needed

Violin for Sale

Full size, played for two years by devoted Summerfield violinist. Euro Standard Antique made in Reghi, Romanian. Nice, rich tone, spruce top, maple back. Comes with good bow and case. \$650. Call Catherine at 829-2879.

Bike for Sale

Girl's Columbia bike, turquoise and purple, 16 inch wheels with basket, kickstand. Well cared for. \$95. Call Catherine at 829-2879.

Jonathan Marmelzat, Music Instructor: Winds, Piano & Guitar

Offering individualized Music lessons focusing on repertoire for enhanced enjoyment of playing and appreciation of music theory for students of all levels and ages -children to adults. Instruments available for sale, rent or rent-to-own. Contact: Jonathan Marmelzat, 824-1784, jonathanmarmelzat@hotmail.com.

Rick Concoff Violins

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

Classes/Training/Camps

Art Classes Offered

Waldorf Teacher Laurie Hartsook is teaching an art class for children ages 8 - 13 at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts. "Experiment with Watercolor" will explore different techniques through directed lessons and freedom of expression. 8 Tuesdays Sept. 9-Oct. 28, 4-5:30pm. Please email Laurie at lauriehartsook@gmail.com for more information and to register.



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10-week Mindfulness Class + Mentoring 4 teens

To understand basic principles, develop a personal meditation practice, apply in daily life. Intro trial class Wed. Oct 1, 7-9pm \$20. Series starts Wed. Oct 8, \$200. Location Sebastopol. Led by Aimee McConneloug, Somatic Practitioner. (707)328-1785, earthembody@gmail.com.

Explore Boundaries Mindfully through the Body...

and make your own protection medicine pouch for adults. Class offered on Tues. Oct 14, 2014 from 9:30am-12:30pm. \$45 in Sebastopol. Led by Aimee McConneloug, Somatic Practitioner. (707)328-1785, earthembody@gmail.com.

Now Enrolling: 1Revolution is happy to announce our 2014-15 School-Year programs

Including weekend, afterschool, and school break offerings for youth ages 8-17. Our community-centered experiential education model promotes connection to self, group, and nature while building developmental competencies. Please visit www.1rev.org or email/call paul@1rev.org, 707-338-6501.

I am a Camera: Imaginative Writing and the Image—A Workshop Created and Taught by Adam Shemper

I am a camera with its shutter open, quite passive, recording, not thinking. ~Christopher Isherwood

10-week workshop—September 24 to November 19, 2014. Meets: 3:15 to 5:00pm every Wednesday. Limited to: 10 students, 12 to 18 years old. Cost: \$200. The I AM A CAMERA after-school course teaches students to use images to inspire their own written stories. The aim of this course is to introduce students to the medium and history of photography; to explore the dynamic relationship between words and images; to see and understand photographs in a way that sparks their own creative expression in writing; and, ultimately, to teach students to trust the unique shape of their individual lives and voices. Students will be introduced to the medium of photography through a broad sweep of genres. Choosing pictures from a variety of sources-- including their own--that speak to them as inspiration, students will begin learning the basics of story-telling and creative writing. The class culminates in an editing and production of a bound book (as well as a digital version) of student work. For more information please contact: Adam Shemper, 415-690-3430 or adamshemper@gmail.com. For more bio info: www.adamshemper.com and www.shemperphoto.com.

Bio: Adam Shemper is a writer, photographer, teacher and psychotherapist in private practice in Petaluma and Sebastopol. His images and words have appeared in Time, Mother Jones, Double Take, Exposure, The Oxford American and Salon.com and The New York Times and The San Francisco Chronicle, as well as other national and international newspapers.



John S Woo DDS MS
Orthodontics

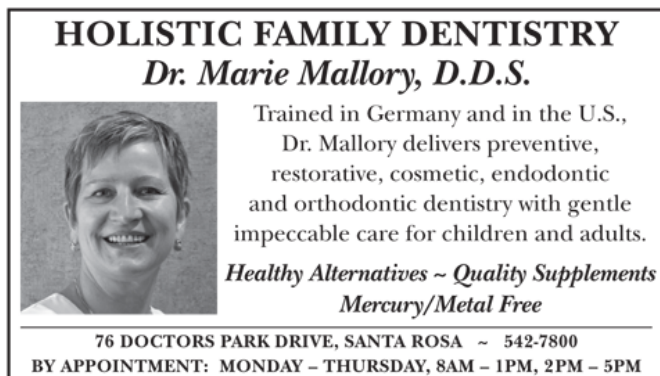
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Parent of Rachel 5th Grade & Samantha 9th Grade



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Visit us online at
www.summerfieldwaldorf.org

Hanna Andersson Comes to Summerfield



Clothing company Hanna Andersson chose the Farm at Summerfield for their latest location shoot. They loved it so much they “never wanted to leave.”

Here are some excerpts from their description of the experience ([full blog post here](#)):

“We couldn’t have asked for a better, more magical place to spend the week shooting our fall catalog. Our prop stylist was in heaven because everything there already looked so perfectly photo-worthy.”

The kids had an absolute blast (let’s just say it beats hanging out inside a studio all day!) and learned some important farmstead skills like feeding goats, chickens and cows (did you know that cows LOVE sugar beets?). It was far and away our favorite shoot to date!

We left with so much new-found inspiration and even more respect and love for all that is organic, natural, and farm-friendly.”

There are copies of the Hanna Andersson catalog in the Main Office if anyone would like to see the photographs.

