

# Messenger

## Summerfield | WALDORF SCHOOL AND FARM

November 19, 2015

Volume 28, Issue 3

### Doing What Seems Impossible...

By Don Basmajian, Circus Waldissima & Third Grade Teacher



Why do people love to watch a circus? Young and old alike are touched and inspired by seeing people

doing what seems impossible. Did you ever think that learning a circus skill might be a support to the child's physical, emotional and academic development? Well it just might be. Here are a few observations about learning to ride the unicycle from two Summerfield parents:

"My son, a student at Summerfield Waldorf, attempted the unicycle in third grade when it was first introduced, but he soon lost interest when he realized that learning the unicycle was not an easy task. Three years later, now in grade six, he discovered in himself the patience and willpower to persevere.

He is now very competent at riding the unicycle. Having taught himself how to ride the unicycle, my son is so proud of himself, and that confidence shows in everything he does. His ability to be self-motivated improved.

He now gets himself ready for school in the morning and arrives early.

His schoolwork improved too—his spelling and his math work both advanced exponentially. More importantly, his social interaction with friends in the class is better than it ever has been. Thank you to Summerfield for introducing unicycling to the students."

"My Third Grade daughter came home one day with a spark in her eye and a determination in her heart to master the unicycle, and thus began the many days of focus, perseverance, balance, and sheer joy as she practiced, practiced, practiced. The development of a particular courageous will we had never quite seen before in her came forth as she took on and mastered the unicycle, and the bold transformation in this accomplishment is palpable."

To be a strong powerful person, you must believe you can! When you believe you can, you are willing to work hard for days, weeks or longer in order to master the unicycle, one of the most difficult circus skills. The children who are determined to ride

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#### Important Dates:

**Ripples of Hope: Grade 8 Biography**  
Tuesday, Nov 24, 8:35am & 6:30pm

**Grandparents & Special Friends Day**  
Wednesday, Nov 25, 8:15am-12:30pm

**Community Advent Spiral Walk**  
Sunday, Nov 29, 6:30pm

**Annual Winter Faire**  
ADULT-ONLY SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA:  
Friday, Dec 4, 5:30-8:30pm  
THE FAIRE: Saturday, Dec 5, 11am-3pm

CIRCUS WALDISSIMA PERFORMANCE:  
Saturday, Dec 5, 3:30pm

#### Winter Faire Pre-Sale Tickets Available!

Entrance, activity & circus tickets will be available for pre-sale every morning at drop-off the week before the Faire (Mon, Nov 30–Fri, Dec 4), 8-8:45am at the Lower Bus Stop. Checks and cash only, please.

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the unicycle know how impossible it seems to find balance and, together, they form a social bond. Experienced riders often help and encourage beginners and the beginners look up to those who have learned advanced tricks.

Many years ago in Japan unicycling was introduced into the elementary school curriculum because the Minister of Education believed that learning to find balance in childhood would improve the sense of balance in adults and people in old age. The sense of balance allows us to know who we are in space. It helps us to be the master of our emotions and even helps us to balance an algebraic equation.

In our world of instant gratification learning to ride the unicycle takes a great deal of time, patience and perseverance. If a child can master the unicycle, she could do almost anything!

As you walk on campus enjoy the young circus artists struggling to find balance in their lives with joy and determination. Nearly every time someone falls off, they smile and try again.



## Live Oak No More

*By Ignacio Garat, Business Manager, for Grounds and on behalf of Governance Council*

No one visiting campus recently can fail to have noticed the sad loss of one of our huge, grand, live oak trees on the hill up towards the track on our exit road.

A couple of years ago the tree lost a big limb. The school consulted an arborist then, who deemed the tree still healthy and though it was a sign of the beginning of the end for the tree, live oaks typically take thirty years to die.

However, two months ago the tree lost another limb from the same side, which fell and damaged the back of a car.

Caution tape was set up around the tree, and we went back to the arborist again. This time the expert opinion, in light of the extent of the loss—some 20% of the tree had fallen—was that the tree should probably come down. GC was involved and recommended a second consultation which confirmed this course of action, in



light of the safety concerns.

At the same time, we had both arborists conduct a review of all of the sensitively-placed trees on campus, for instance in the kindergarten village and the 3rd grade playground, along with trees by the eurythmy barn and two additional ones near the entrance. All were deemed safe. Nevertheless, we are undertaking various measures to improve their health, including oxygenating them and improving water access to their roots. We will also trim them more extensively than our current regular process. Much of this work will take place over the Winter Break.

## Urgent Parking Notice

Please remember the SWSF Driver Guidelines state, “Leave your keys in the car if you double park”.

We have been experiencing higher than normal back-up in the gravel lot at pick-up time. This is due, in part, to parents double-parking behind already parked vehicles and NOT leaving the keys in the ignition so that their vehicle can be moved should the vehicle being blocked need to leave.

Also, when double-parking, please make sure to leave enough room from the vehicle in front of you so that your vehicle can actually be pulled out of the double-parking space. We have had several reports lately that, between keys not being left and not enough room to maneuver vehicles, people cannot get out of the parking lot and are being made late to their next activity.

We appreciate your continued mindfulness and respectfulness despite the school’s parking challenges.







JOHN THOMAS SCOPES BY JOELL VACA



BELVA LOCKWOOD BY ZARA KEEN



MARIAN ANDERSON BY NINA CAUNTAY

## Ripples of Hope EIGHTH GRADE BIOGRAPHY NIGHT

*"Each time a person stands up for an ideal, or strikes out against injustice, he or she or they send forth a tiny ripple of hope..."* —ROBERT F. KENNEDY

Please join the Eighth Grade on Tuesday, November 24, for *Ripples of Hope*, a presentation of music, poetry and brief biographies of twenty-four individuals in American history who made a difference in creating a more just and compassionate world: Samuel Adams, Thomas Paine, Johnny Appleseed, Levi Coffin, Henry Thoreau, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Fredrick Douglass, Clara Barton, Belva Lockwood, Octavius Cato, Mark Twain, John Muir, Crazy Horse, Chief Joseph, Eugene Debs, Theodore Roosevelt, Albert Einstein, Martha Graham, Marian Anderson, Amelia Earhart, Bessie Smith, John Thomas Scopes, Josephine Baker, Rachel Carson.

The Eighth Graders study history from the time of the Reformation up through modern day world events, and the Biography Night is a chance to share some of what we are

learning with the school community. The study of history in Waldorf schools progresses from the ancient civilizations to modern times in the Lower School, and then, as critical thinking develops, reverses back from modern to ancient times in the High School. The goal is to develop a depth of understanding that prepares students to be able to contribute to the world; and the more they understand, the more they can help create new solutions to the world's conflicts as they enter adulthood.

The presentation is geared to Grades Six and up, but younger children who would enjoy this material are welcome. The program length is approximately 90 minutes.

Tue 11/24, 8:35am: Presentation to Sixth & Seventh Grades (open to school community)

Tue 11/24, 6:30pm: Family and friends presentation (open to school community)

~Kibby MacKinnon, Eighth Grade Teacher



FREDERICK DOUGLASS  
BY ANTONIO CARRILLO



HARRIET BEECHER STOWE BY  
ABBIGAIL GRUNDY



HENRY DAVID THOREAU BY AIDAN  
KELLY

## THE BARD IS IN THE YARD OR IT'S SHAKESPEARE BY THE METRE!

By Kevin  
Simmons  
& Leila Allen

The 11th  
Grade's  
Hamlet  
Main Lesson  
culminates  
this week  
with two  
performances of Shakespeare  
scenes!



Join us at 7pm in Sophia Hall on Thursday 19 and Friday 20, as our intrepid student-actors bring **Hamlet, Brutus, Desdemona, Rosalind, Juliet, Cleopatra, Falstaff**, and others to brilliant life and to "speaking the speech" once again!

Not to be missed!

*Runs about 90 minutes.  
Suitable for sixth grade and up.*

## \$\$ Saving Money \$\$

By choosing to utilize cash, checks or money orders in the 2014-15 school year, YOU saved SWSF over \$16,000 in credit card processing fees compared to the prior year.

Whenever possible, please continue to pay by cash, checks or money order for Summerfield activities.

THANK YOU!

~ The Finance Department

## Seeking Coordinator for Epiphany

The Governance Council is looking for a volunteer to coordinate this year's Epiphany Bonfire celebration on Wednesday, January 6.

If interested, please contact Andrea Trinei at [andrea@summerfieldwaldorf.org](mailto:andrea@summerfieldwaldorf.org).

# A Reflection on the Day of the Dead

By Sra. Marcela, LS Spanish teacher

Summerfield's Day of the Dead celebration took place on Friday, November 6. In our version of the festival, each class has a short time to visit Sophia Hall with their teacher to help build our Community Offering, then there is a quiet assembly to honor those dear friends and family members who have crossed the threshold.

The Mexican festival of Day of the Dead originated in the pre-Hispanic death rituals and the Roman Catholic traditions introduced during the colonization. 16th century Spanish chronicles noted that the original people from Mexico honored their ancestors and the spirits of children with beautiful ceremonies. Food and drink offerings as well as salt, water, toys, incense, and flowers were presented at rituals and placed on tables and even in the ground, with the idea of sustaining the souls of those who have departed during their journey in the after-world. Spanish missionaries, as part of their efforts at conversion, transferred these festivities from August/September to the early days of November to correspond with the Christian celebrations of All Saints and All Souls days.

Today, a traveler around Mexico, Guatemala, or even in Petaluma around the dates of the Day of the Dead celebrations can easily find themselves immersed in serenaded songs, delicious smells, altars and niches full of marigolds, sculptures of dead, and the tree of life, with pictures of the deceased. Elders might be telling scary and funny stories in restaurants, while markets and cemeteries are a highlight for the youngsters. The streets are full of action and a happy mood that reflects a strong playful connection with the dead. Aztec dancers with minimal clothing, decorated with body paint, bells, seeds and feathers, many of them carrying skulls and candles are often also part of the special appearances during these days. Toys and even bread depicting death, skulls, bones, and coffins abound everywhere, all profusely decorated. But there are also many opportunities and places for one to find quietness, to ponder life and death, to recall memories of past times and to send loving thoughts to those who are not physically with us.

For many of us not growing up with these celebrations or, in my case, coming from a country with quite a bloody political and unsettling social history, where the images of the dead are quite frequently related with massacres and tragedy, the wide display of festive colors and joy around the dead, and the presence of so many skeletons during this celebration can be beautiful, strange, crude, and attractive all at the same time. For some people it may be a reminder of the pain of separating from those who have passed, or the imminent passing that awaits for us all. For others it is a lovely way to keep in mind those who made their lives so full when they were physically together or those who paved the way for us. I feel fortunate here in California to have met so many nice Mexican people and, through them, understand more about their many beautiful traditions. Also, the fact that I see more shooting stars this time of the year when I walk our dog late at night, and that the earth starts to look so bare and apparently quiet, but in its depths is more alive than ever, is a sign of the spiritual world veils getting thinner—all these have helped me to develop a deeper connection with this festival, and now I look forward to this time of silence and remembrance.



Though I have to admit that the prospect of eating a good “tamarindo” sweet or a coconut popsicle while thinking about my dear grandpa “Papalao” after cleaning up an altar, makes me want to dance like a happy skeleton too. Dance, and sing like the beloved poet Atahualpa Yupanqui: “*Y así, seguimos andando curtidos de soledad y en nosotros nuestros muertos pa’ que nadie quede atrás... Yo tengo tantos hermanos que no los puedo contar y una novia muy hermosa que se llama ¡Libertad!*”

## Community Advent Spiral

SUNDAY, NOV 29–6:30PM

*Brightly, brightly, deep within, a star is glowing...*



Parents, older students, community members and friends are invited to light a candle and walk the evergreen spiral path, accompanied by beautiful lyre music, in the Eurythmy Barn on Sunday, Nov 29, from 6:30-8pm. Just enter the Barn and be seated, observing a quiet meditative mood while you await your turn.

Donations will be gratefully accepted to cover the cost of candles, apples and musician. A note about the timing of the Spiral Walk: We encourage you to come early... if at 7:30pm, there is no one in attendance, we will end early!

Students in first through third grade will walk the Advent Spiral on Monday evening, Nov 30.

~Andrea Jolicoeur, LS Secretary

## The Christmas Festival—a study

Join us for a study of one of Rudolf Steiner's lectures entitled *The Christmas Festival—A Token of the Victory of the Sun*. All welcome, also newcomers. Children can attend with parents.

Monday, Dec 7, 8:45–10:15am, in the aftercare room. \$15 per person. Contact Kate Hammond [2katehammond@gmail.com](mailto:2katehammond@gmail.com) or (707) 623-9863 to register, or just come along. Reading material provided.



# Spring Valley Eurythmists Captivate School Audiences



Sophia Hall  
Summerfield Waldorf School & Farm  
655 Willowdale Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
707.575-7198

Friday, October 16, 2015  
11:00 am

By Renate Lundberg, LS/HS Eurythmy Teacher

Last month Summerfield was honored to host members from the premier eurythmy performing group in the country, the Eurythmy School in Spring Valley, New York. They often tour on the East Coast or in Europe, including Dornach, Switzerland, the international headquarters of the Anthroposophical Society, so it was a privilege to be part of a rare West Coast tour.

The group offered a wide range of different programs: kindergarten through third grade had the story of *The Little Donkey*. For grades four through seven, there was *Gawain & the Loathly Lady*. And for grades eight through twelve and an evening performance, the show was a more abstract compilation entitled *The Tide is Turning*. After school there was a workshop tailored for our community.

We invited not only Summerfield classes to enjoy these programs, but also the neighboring Sebastopol and Sunridge Independent Charter schools. The beauty of the movements, costumes, music and lighting delighted all the different audiences during the two days of the performances. I received questions as varied as: "Where did the donkey go?" or "Why did I never see such dramatic



Sophia Hall  
Summerfield Waldorf School & Farm  
655 Willowdale Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

eurythmy before?" or "How did they move with so many people without ever running onto one another?" Anticipation filled the room every time the lights dimmed and gasps of surprise or mirth were the only thing that broke the silence during the performances.

*The ninth grade created this collaborative poem after watching the Spring Valley Eurythmists' performance of The Tide is Turning.*

It was the echo of night that foretold the beginning.  
As the wave broke, the audience was spell-cast.  
The voice seemed to shake like the mighty mountains.  
The voice trembled melodically.  
Her voice echoed into the shadows like a story never-ending.

The words flowed onto the stage, where the eurythmists portrayed a galaxy of stars glittering and shining over the face of the Earth. Their movements spoke like a constellation of voices blowing in the strong, autumn wind.  
Like a flock, they moved as one.  
A secret lullaby entangling itself between movements.  
The eurythmists in perfect form  
like starlings soaring through the sky.  
The silks flickered in the light, drifting in the wind like a ship in full sail.  
All a blur as the clouds shattered, revealing the tempest.  
The silks danced in the air around them.  
A breeze ruffled their garments,  
like autumn leaves dancing in the minty cold air,  
whirling around and covering the Earth with a yellowish glow.  
They moved like clouds, slowly circling the world in a misty silence  
like a flock of birds flying without air,  
moving with intensity, each step a snowflake falling from the night sky,  
that quickly melted in the warm, full piano accompaniment.

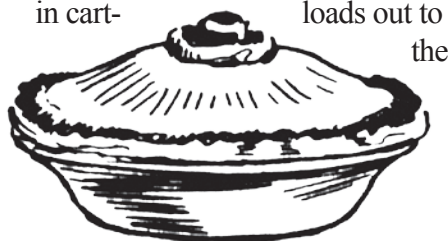
Quickly racing against time, inhaling in and exhaling out,  
like bellows that blow a final breath into a dying flame.  
The music reached for the moon, fell back to Earth in sorrow,  
and descended upon the crowd like a broken heart.  
All a blur as the clouds shattered, revealing the tempest.  
The music crashed down in my ears like waves upon the soft sand.  
The earth shook with silence as nothing happened.  
The pianist and the speaker intertwined stars and sky  
as they tried to embrace the turning of the tide  
washing up to the sandy shore.

I felt the sensation of mystery as I sat watching the undone fingers of  
the pianist.  
They were strong and bold, somehow quiet, then loud, then sad,  
then proud.  
Beyond the glow of music, clouds are tangible.  
The sound of the piano rang through my ears.  
The pianist's hands trickled down the keys  
like raindrops dancing on wet pavement, pounding like thunder in  
the dark sky.  
All the music sang by the cry of light raindrops falling on a far-away lake.  
And as she spoke with her arms like a whisper on a warm spring night,  
I was left to imagine the rest of the story, letting the untamed  
motions roam free.

# News From the Frosty Farmyard

By Farmer Dan

Just a newsletter ago we were talking about one hundred degree harvesting weather and now the early mornings find a chilly layer of frost on the High School roof... And there might be frost on the pumpkins if they were not already all chopped up after a festive and successful Sprite's Night celebration and nestled into the compost piles with all the corn stalks and oak leaves raked up from the farmyard by eager, rambunctious first and second graders, and covered with a tarp after the recent rains to "cook" over the winter once the biodynamic preparations have inoculated them. After harvesting the last of the broomcorn with the fifth graders and laying it out to dry on the greenhouse shelves for winter broom making, the third graders hand-sowed a rich, nitrogen-fixing mixture of fava beans, oats, peas, barley and vetch and then, harnessed up eight at a time, pulled a harrow over the scattered seeds in the freshly harvested fields to cover them up lightly to protect them from the marauding crows. Then we moved on to a mountain of nitrogen-rich straw laced with chicken droppings from a long spring and summer's worth of chicken house cleaning by fourth and fifth graders. With six garden carts, thirty-three bellowing third graders, their youthful class teacher and helpers from the Summerfield farm team, the huge pile was loaded and hauled in cart-



loads out to the

wind rows along the playing fields over two double class periods to continue the compost pile building process. Finally, we will move on to the manure-rich barns with the "farmer's gold" to be hand-loaded by the lucky third grade farmers into our newly acquired, very large-sized, old, well-built manure spreader to also be added to our nutritious gold mine of nutrients for spring planting enrichment.

It takes a lot of juggling and sometimes coaxing and often even the ability to be louder than a mass of chattering students to keep every task on track; sometimes it's kind of like trying to shout a wave back into the ocean, but somehow it all gets done and there is time for swinging on the tree swings under the old walnut tree, and of course snacking on dried apples and fresh cold cider and, once in a great while, a popsicle might appear after the most demanding tasks on an especially warm autumn day. When the children speak of it being too hot, or too cold, or too wet, or they are too thirsty, or it smells bad, then it feels good to know they have stretched out of their comfort zone to achieve something very worthwhile for their/our school farm together. Even the kindergardeners, huffing and puffing after making three trips carrying butternut squash from the screen house where they have been curing to the root cellar for sales for holiday tables, enter the harvest celebration.

Then, too, there are always the parent helpers, like Addie, Jenny and Kristien, three amazingly dedicated eighth grade moms who faithfully every Friday join me in the Farm kitchen to can fresh jam, make

fragrant loaves  
of farm grown  
zucchini bread and  
fresh sheet pans of  
organic granola,  
prepare  
home-made  
cake mixes,



all with cheerful,  
focused, enthusiastic eighth grade  
student helpers, to sell at the  
Thursday market as a fundraiser for  
the students' class trip. What is the  
message we give our children when  
we all work together with them  
preparing nutritious food, canning  
what we grow and pick freshly, with  
moms and their teenage daughters  
and sons and teachers and farmers  
working together, and marketing  
with additional dedicated parents,  
instead of handing them a check to  
go on their class trip. These thoughts  
rest behind "the head, the heart,  
and the hands" mantra of Waldorf  
education as we work together daily  
on the gift of Summerfield Farm.

On this cool, late November  
evening while snacking on Mom's  
Gravenstein apple pie cooked in  
the apple's own juices along with a  
dollop of blood orange sorbet and  
hot peppermint tea and trying to stay  
focused enough to finish this article,  
geese fly over in the dark, honking  
their way south. When one thinks  
of how hard they might work over  
any given twenty-four hour day,  
the geese bring to mind the spoon  
billed sandpiper who flies 7,200  
miles nonstop from Alaska to New  
Zealand and Australia every fall, and  
returns every spring. After two days  
of gorging, the birds fly seven to  
nine days, all day and all night, with  
no food, water or rest, sometimes  
on round-trip routes that cover over  
18,000 miles, flying in never more  
than 4 minute miles, and they often  
do this "commute" for 25 years of

# WINTER FAIRE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

## Friday: Evening Shopping Event – 5:30-8:30pm

We are pleased to bring back our adult-only shopping evening! This is your chance to shop for **local, quality, unique, natural and hand-made items** for all those on your holiday gift list. You will find a fabulous collection of vendors, including many Summerfield families. Treasures include jewelry, dolls, books, toys, wooden crafts, candles, soaps and body products, clothes, and much more.

Entrance is free! Warm drinks and treats will be available for purchase and, of course, our 2016 Arts Wall Calendar!

## Saturday: Faire – 11am-3pm

The whole family is invited to enjoy the Summerfield campus in its full splendor of evergreens and holiday spirit. Shop our artisan vendors and enjoy our children's crafts and activities while holiday music fills the air and hot drinks warm hands. Highlights include a visit by King & Queen Winter, puppet shows and storytelling, various children's crafts including gingerbread cookie-decorating, beeswax candle-dipping, wool angels and more. The Snowflake Gift Shoppe will be open for children to do their holiday shopping for loved ones. There will be a raffle of wonderful items, musicians, the SWSF Farm Stand and, of course, all the vendors will be there. Warm

and tasty food, drinks and treats will be available for purchase in the Polar Bear Café (Sophia Hall). Entrance is \$2 per person and activities range from \$2-\$7 each.

## Saturday: Circus – 3:30pm

Stick around after the Faire to see Circus Waldissima perform *Wishing for a White Christmas!* Tickets are \$7 for the Circus and will be sold at the Faire entrance on the day, and by presale the week of the faire at drop-off time.

## Volunteers and Supplies Needed!

It takes a village to make this magical event happen every year! Please sign up for your class event or on the Main Office door. Volunteer positions for the event include: set-up & decoration, parking, craft support, King & Queen Winter, bonfire attendant, clean-up and more. Greenery, Christmas trees, strand lights, wooden rounds for candle holder making, and more greenery are all needed! Please let us know if you can offer any items and leave them outside the Main Office the week before the Faire.

Any questions, or offers of help, please contact Event Coordinators Lisa Hensley ([lisa@summerfieldwaldorf.org](mailto:lisa@summerfieldwaldorf.org)), Kristi Hruzewicz ([kristi.grotting@gmail.com](mailto:kristi.grotting@gmail.com)) or LS Secretary Andrea Jolicoeur ([andreajoli@summerfieldwaldorf.org/x101](mailto:andreajoli@summerfieldwaldorf.org/x101)).



## FAMILY BIKE RIDE TO WINTER FAIRE SAT, DEC 5

Come join other families and the Bicycle Coalition and ride your bikes to the Winter Faire! We'll meet up at two locations: the fish fountain (on the corner of Santa Rosa Ave and Sonoma Ave) at 10am, and the parking lot on Stony Point Rd (153 Stony Circle) at 10:30am, then ride along the Creek Trail to Summerfield. Return will be around 12:30 or 1pm. Families can also feel free to stay at Summerfield longer and pedal back on their own. We have four Yuba Cargo bikes that can be loaned out if requested in advance of the ride. Participating families should bring bikes in good riding condition and helmets. Questions: Sarah Hadler [sarah@bikesonoma.org](mailto:sarah@bikesonoma.org) or 545-0153.

their lives... And they don't even have Bernie Sanders to tell them "It's better to show up than to give up," as I had to suggest to one of my struggling tenth grade woodworking students recently.

Time to close with gentle words of wisdom from Mahatma Gandhi:

*Keep your thoughts positive because your thoughts become your WORDS.*

*Keep your words positive because your words become your BEHAVIOR.*

*Keep your behavior positive because your behavior becomes your HABITS.*

*Keep your habits positive because your habits become your VALUES.*

*Keep your values positive because your values become your DESTINY.*

— MAHATMA GANDHI

Thanksgiving blessings to all from Summerfield Farm.

Warmly, Farmer Dan

## Wishing for a White Christmas!

Circus Waldissima's Winter Faire performance, *Wishing for a White Christmas!*, will be at 3:30pm following the Winter Faire on Saturday, December 5, under the Big Top!

Tickets are \$7 per person and will only be sold at the Winter Faire and by presale the week of the faire at drop-off at the Lower Bus Stop. Come celebrate the season with Circus Waldissima!





## DEVELOPMENT CORNER

*By Cyndi Yoxall, Development Director*

Sometimes giving to CHARITY means... giving to a school and farm that helps develop responsible individuals who will make a difference in the world. Our students will be leading the efforts of change that we want to support.

As the Development Director and Summerfield parent, I am always trying to understand the nature and behavior around giving to charities of choice. The question continually arises, why would we give to other nonprofits, when the need is right here? It has become apparent to me that so many of us are seeking to give in a way that makes a big difference in the world – to create change in society, help a group of people in need, solve community and world problems, and show empathy, love and responsibility for others. That concept is beautiful, giving and generous. And I have a perspective to share, with all due respect...

Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm is a community that fosters, develops, guides and supports both individual students and families with the purpose of developing confident, free thinkers who will go out into the world to create change in society, help others in need, problem solve, show empathy, feel love and take responsibility to care for themselves and others. It's the true purpose of our education—to develop whole, healthy, free-thinking, educated individuals who are surrounded and supported by mindful, conscious, healthy families. We are basically developing individuals who will go out into the world and DO things, run the nonprofits and businesses, create the solutions for the things that matter. WE ARE THE CHARITY.

This all might sound a bit optimistic and romantic, but let me say it again... we are that nonprofit that is trying hard to raise the money to do the things that change the world. We are teaching our students to grow food and feed themselves and others, think intelligently about current world issues and problems, work hard together to care for our community, reach out into the world with community service and service-oriented thinking, give, create, communicate, change, grow and most of all, have HOPE. Our students are fostered and encouraged to take risks, make individual, hard choices, give to others, and think responsibly with every choice they make. Sometimes it's hard to see in lower school, but as we get into the middle school and high school years, this strong will truly emerges. And it slowly becomes very clear that what we are investing in, supporting and living every day is the solution. We are that place, that organization, that charity. This clear picture is what keeps my passion for my job and our school alive everyday.

Why would you invest somewhere else when the need, desire, and passion is right here? It may be time for us to rethink giving. If it's not you, then who do you know who might need to know about us?

## Annual Giving Campaign (AGC)

*By Cyndi Yoxall,  
Development Director*

The Annual Giving Campaign inspires us! As usual, we are loving each envelope that arrives in our office—it truly continues to be exciting and heartwarming. We ask you all to contribute, but I wish there was a way we could share the feeling of receiving with all of you. We are amazed that those with the least financial means sometimes find a way to make a big difference however they can. And we are equally amazed at how those who can afford to give more often do, for all of us! The whole spectrum is what's beautiful, each one counts. It reminds me how important it is to find a way for every family to give, be a part of it... even when we may think we can't. Everyone wants to give; I believe they do. We all do. Sometimes this campaign helps us remember and realize that. Together we all make a radical difference.

Every donation and every pledge that is made allows us to stop and take a moment—to reflect on what it all means. The Annual Giving Campaign is one of the most important ways we can directly impact the future. With our investment, we can make a difference in Sonoma County, surrounding counties, and ultimately in the world. With our dollars we have a voice, which says our children matter, education matters, and the future matters.

It takes all of us to sustain the future of Summerfield and the future of our children – all of our support is critical. If you have not already done so, please join us in making a pledge or donation, giving what you can to preserve this unique place that has brought us all together for a common purpose. Thank you, again, for your generosity and spirit and for living a giving life.

### GRANDPARENTS' AND SPECIAL FRIENDS' DAY

We look forward each year to welcoming our grandparents and special friends! This is one of our favorite days of the school year. Plans are underway for this very important day exclusively for Grandparents and Special Friends on Wednesday, November 25th. The day will include student performances, classroom visits, and farm tour, as well as a swag table with items available for sale (calendars, t-shirts, mugs & bags) and a giving tree for those looking for ways to give. We can't wait to meet the grandparents of our students and educate them about our school. THANK YOU to lead volunteer coordinator, Charmaine Stainbrook, along with volunteers, faculty, and staff for their care and dedication to this wonderful event. Enjoy!



## CITY-COUNTRY LEARNING GARDEN

Our partnership with the Roseland School District continues to grow as a volunteer group of our high school students work in the school garden at Sheppard Elementary. For the sixth year in a row, Summerfield HS students will work with 2nd grade students as teachers and mentors in their school garden. Volunteer hours are spent running centers (reading, art, nutrition & gardening), harvesting vegetables, cleaning up garden beds and replanting, as well as delivering donated rain boots, equipment and plant starts. This project allows first-hand mentoring/teaching, as well as a sharing of knowledge and culture.

Thank you to Ronni Sands (SWSF Gardening teacher) and Kerry Arredondo from Sheppard Elementary for coordinating this unique school garden project. For inquiries or to help, contact [development@summerfieldwaldorf.org](mailto:development@summerfieldwaldorf.org).

## BikeToSchool Program

Wednesday is ride-to-school day at Summerfield! We are working on coordinating meeting spots for student riders. Continue to make a difference in the community—cycle to school! The past couple of years, this program earned nearly \$2,000/yr. for SWSF. BikeToSchool Program punch cards are available in the Main Office and HS Office! Keep track of your rides to school and earn \$1 per day for Summerfield's Annual Giving Fund, thanks to an anonymous donor! Once full, cards can be turned into the main office. New this year: earn a prize when you reach 30 rides. Earn a t-shirt when you ride all year! Our goal is to encourage cycling at least once a week.

## LEAD HELP NEEDED!

We are looking for key people to help us with the coordination of our biggest fundraiser of the year: **Farm to Feast!**

If you have talent or interest in fundraisers, event coordination, auction, party planning, and/or working with volunteers, we need your help! Join our energetic and fun team. We need positive, organized, hardworking, people-oriented lead volunteers to work with us on this important (and super fun) event

If you are interested in lending a hand, please let us know. Contact [development@summerfieldwaldorf.org](mailto:development@summerfieldwaldorf.org).

## Alumni News

*An Interview with Jenny Kenyon,  
SWSF Alum and Parent by Caryn Stone,  
Development Associate*



### When did you graduate from Summerfield?

I graduated from Summerfield Waldorf High School in 1997, in the same graduating class as this year's Class 4 teacher, Tim Allen.

### What do you remember and appreciate about your education at Summerfield?

Wow, where do I begin? So many of my memories are around my time at Summerfield. I made friendships in kindergarten that remain some of my closest to this day. And we are always reminiscing about our history together. When I take time, I can remember the feeling of the wool when we were learning to card it in our spinning dying and weaving class. I remember being in 8th grade lying in a field writing poetry.

As we went up through the grades, we gained a lot of freedom. Our teachers trusted us. And this taught me to make good choices, be a responsible human being, and rise to the occasion. That defined my whole life. If you trust and respect your children, they are going to make good choices. I was motivated to do well in school, and this motivation, or internal expectation, was built in me. I wanted to do my best because everyone around me saw the best in me.

### I understand you have a first grader here at Summerfield now.

Yes, my daughter Peyton. Summerfield attaches spirit to education – it provides the entire foundation for childhood. And Peyton needed her school experience to hold her. She needed roots, somewhere to plant herself beyond just in her head. Summerfield supports not only learning and academics, but also the ability to connect, be compassionate and become a competent, capable human being.

### Do you feel that your education at Summerfield helped prepare you for your future/what you are doing now?

Yes, absolutely. Summerfield educates the whole person. I am who I am because of Summerfield. My parents also educated themselves through parent meetings at Summerfield and raised me according to those ideals. What happened at school also happened at home, meaning your entire community is bought in and supporting you on your path.

### What did you do after you graduated?

I went to Sarah Lawrence College and started out majoring in playwriting – I suppose my time at Summerfield engrained the theater in me. But after working in a group home for deaf children, I realized that education in the group setting was what I was meant to do. I graduated from Sarah Lawrence with a MA in education and went to work in a preschool in New York City. After moving back home to Sonoma County, I founded the Mark West Community Preschool, a Reggio-inspired pre-school located in Santa Rosa, CA.

### What does it mean to you to be an alumni and parent?

It gives me a warm, fuzzy feeling being in her classroom and knowing that I was once a student in that same room. When she recites poetry that she learned in class, I can recite it with her. I now have an opportunity to look at her education through a different lens. I can understand the value of each main lesson in a new light, and I am able now to connect more deeply with Peyton as she begins this journey in her education. It is very exciting to get to be on both sides of this amazing approach to teaching.

## SEPTIC SYSTEM UPGRADED ... ON TO ARTTECH!

By Lisa Yoshida, on behalf of the Site Development Committee of the Board


After many, many years of planning (and lots and lots of meetings!), the school's septic upgrade is finally complete! Thank you teachers, staff and community for enduring the inconveniences associated with the construction. A huge thank you to the Farm as well!

The upgraded system is designed to accommodate higher enrollment and more staff in the event the School determines this to be its path. It also has capacity for a food program.

Our septic is state of the art; it has a pre-treatment system, and with some further infrastructure investment by the school, tertiary recycled water could be used for irrigation. Most importantly, the school's use permit required the system to be upgraded as a condition to the issuance of any further building permits. With the upgrade in place, the school is now able to move forward with the ArtTech building!

Towards that goal, after a speedy planning process with faculty, staff and governing bodies, Site Development has been overseeing the development of plans for the ArtTech building. Those plans were recently submitted to the County for review. It is anticipated that following approval, construction could begin in the late Winter/early Spring, weather permitting. Although ArtTech is envisioned as containing five studio/classrooms, the school will be building it in phases. The first phase will contain three studio/classrooms in 3,700 sf of space, along with a 2,100 sf of covered outdoor covered workspace. Although the studio/classrooms will be able to accommodate many uses, "AT1-3" will definitely hold woodworking, ceramics and metalsmithing classes. As a part of the ArtTech project, several pathways and the ADA parking spaces in the main parking lot will be upgraded to be ADA compliant. In the event funds can be raised for phase two, AT4-5 will more than double ArtTech's size by adding two 1,100sf studio/classrooms, an 1,800sf mezzanine, bathrooms and storage.

We are looking forward to a busy year of work at the school. This also means that we will need everyone's continued patience with construction activity. This means more dust, noise, trucks in the parking lot, and other inconveniences. Safety is the primary concern for the school during this period, and to ensure the safety of the community, we will continue to need everyone's compliance with directions that are provided throughout construction. That, and more patience!



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# The Messenger Marketplace

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## Classes/Camps

### *An Advent Celebration for Families*

On Sun., Dec. 13 from 2-3pm in the Eurythmy Barn, Theresa Melia will lead circle dances and activities with an Advent theme followed by simple crafts for children. For more information, call Theresa at 824-0645.

### *"Advent and our Children's Future"*

A talk by Sanford Miller on Fri., Dec. 11 at 7:30pm in the Eurythmy Barn. \$10 Donation (no one turned away for lack of funds). For more information, call Theresa at 824-0645.

*The Advent festival is not what it may seem, a pleasant, carol-filled, sentimental time of pre-Christmas revelry. It is more a powerful festival of evolution, change and becoming. Outer processes and invisible events in the interior of the earth make this time of the year one of the most difficult for many people. But it can also be an extraordinarily rich time for the inner life of human beings. The outer darkness has always been a time when the prophetic capacities of human beings were awakened.*

### *Nov. 28-Dec. 10 – Annual Holiday Open House at the Barlow*

Pick up a free Holiday Passport at select Barlow retail locations to enter to win 1 of 2 Grand Prize Baskets full of Barlow goodies. Many special events at individual shops and a food drive for F.I.S.H. (which ends on Dec. 10) will be ongoing locally. The Barlow Tree-Lighting & Celebration will be at dusk on Nov. 28—come one, come all!



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### *Singing and Piano Instruction with Mary Beard*

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

### *Now Accepting New Clients in Sebastopol!*

Allie A. McCann, MFT, ATR-BC ([mccannmft@gmail.com](mailto:mccannmft@gmail.com), 707.219.8484) is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Art Therapist, and specializes in anxiety, mood, behavioral and relational issues, life transitions, and grief and loss. Allie has a holistic view of health, tending to mind, body, and spirit. She incorporates both art and a connection with the natural world into her healing practices.

## For Sale/Rent/Needed

### *Puzzles for Sale*

I have several wooden puzzles from Decor in Switzerland for sale. They are hand-cut, hand-painted, each in a wooden tray with a sliding lid. I purchased them in the late 70's/early 80's. Fairy tale, holiday and nature themed. Call Christine, 707-823-6758, or email me at [ricorata@gmail.com](mailto:ricorata@gmail.com).

### *Looking for Housing*

My 6 year daughter and myself (previous Summerfield family) are looking for a small cottage/studio/granny unit in West County, with close proximity to nature. We are very conscientious and respectful people, and open to sharing a home. If you know of any possibilities, please let me know. I would greatly appreciate it. Felicia Channing, [zabeldy@gmail.com](mailto:zabeldy@gmail.com), 707.327.8287.

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