

Messenger

Summerfield | WALDORF SCHOOL AND FARM

November 20, 2014

Volume 27, Issue 3

Summerfield Wall Calendar Goes National!

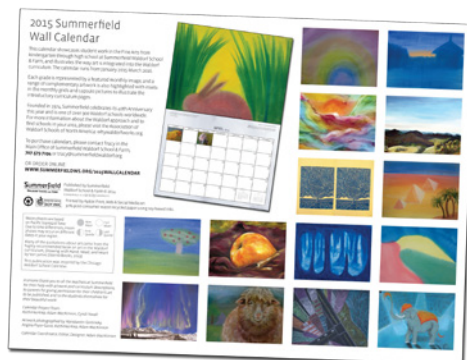
By Adam MacKinnon, Editor

Over 30 schools, from Maine to Oregon, have enthusiastically ordered more than 600 copies of Summerfield's 2015 Waldorf Wall Calendar... and more orders are still coming in.

When we learned that the Chicago Waldorf School, which has produced a national Waldorf calendar for many years, was taking a hiatus this year, we stepped into the breach and took our calendar national!

We have heard high praise for the quality and interest of the artwork selected. The calendar shows the singular importance of art in the curriculum and the progression through the grades, and seems to have struck a chord with Waldorf staff and faculty far and wide.

The 15-month fine arts calendar, produced from student artwork from the 2013-14 school year, will come back from the printers any day now. Every grade from kindergarten through twelfth is represented by a featured monthly image, and artwork from no less than 50 Summerfield students is highlighted through additional insets in the monthly grids and capsule pictures that illustrate introductory pages outlining the



Waldorf art curriculum.

Here is an excerpt from the introduction to the Calendar:

Waldorf schools emphasize the importance of teaching in an artistic way, not so much to educate children to become fine artists or musicians, but to feed the imagination, to deepen empathy, and to develop freedom in thinking. The practice of art awakens our intelligence to the full experience of being human.

Rudolf Steiner, founder of the Waldorf schools, suggested that teachers begin the first day of school by introducing children to their hands, saying "You have two hands... These are for working."

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Important Dates:

Scenes from *Hamlet*
Thursday, Nov 20 & Friday, Nov 21, 7pm

Eighth Grade Biography Night
Tuesday, Nov 25, 6:30-8pm

Grandparents & Special Friends Day
Wednesday, Nov 26, 8:15am-12:30pm

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

Annual Winter Faire
ADULT-ONLY SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA:
Friday, Dec 5, 5:30-8:30pm

THE WINTER FAIRE:
Saturday, Dec 6, 11am-3pm

CIRCUS WALDISSIMA PERFORMANCE:
Saturday, Dec 6, 3:30pm

Annual Alumni Event
Friday, Dec 26

NOW SCHEDULING: HS Shadow Visits
appointments available now-mid Jan
contact: amelia@summerfieldwaldorf.org

Quarterly Update from the Governance Council

By Bob Flagg, for the Governance Council

The Governance Council has been working with Administration on reviewing our Emergency Operations Plans in relation to such occurrences as natural disasters and intruders on campus. In addition we are reviewing our Media Policy statement in the Parent Handbook. Look for an update in *The Messenger* soon.

We are excited to have two inspiring visitors this November: Anthroposophical doctor Johanna Steegmans and Cultural Renewal activist Orland Bishop, both of whom will be speaking to the community at evening events. Other inspiring events we are scheduling in relation to the upcoming holidays are the multi-cultural Festival of Lights presentations, and The Shepherds Play, as facilitated by Skeydrit Bähr.

In the faculty realm, we are in the process of confirming the February conferences for faculty renewal

and development, as we also monitor teacher-staff reviews.

Another area of review is that of committee restructuring and documentation of committee tasks and mandates, which is happening in conjunction with the Board.

Lastly, the whole school is conducting a self-study towards our Accreditation renewal with the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA) and with Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

We thank you for entrusting your children to Summerfield and wish you all a very happy Thanksgiving holiday!

The Governance Council: *Thalia Baril, Early Childhood representative; Jamie Lloyd, Lower School representative; Bob Flagg, High School representative; Ignacio Garat, Business Manager, consultant; Cathy Torres, secretarial support*

COMMUNITY INVITED TO WALK ADVENT SPIRAL SUNDAY, NOV 30–6:30PM

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, November 30th 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, December 1. This year, all Kindergarten classes will be walking a spiral during the school day in their classes (and without parents).



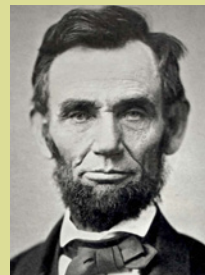
“To know ourselves we must know our past...”

EIGHTH GRADE BIOGRAPHY NIGHT

The eighth grade class will celebrate their study of Early American History and the French Revolution with *Biography Night*, **Tuesday, Nov 25 at 6:30–8pm**, Sophia Hall.

This is the culmination of the study of such important historical figures as Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Tubman, Napoleon Bonaparte, Clara Barton, Thomas Jefferson and so many more that we studied in our two History main lesson blocks so far this year. Each student has thoroughly researched one important historical figure chosen from the many we studied in class, and will present a two minute speech revealing this person's personality, accomplishments and her or his place in history. It will be a fun and educational night. Come and experience the men and women who shaped our history!

~Patricia Walker, Eighth Grade teacher



Alumni news

Jonathan Beard, (class of 1999) just had his incidental music for a production of *Driving Miss Daisy* nominated for a NAACP Theater Award. Congratulations, Jonathan!



(Continued from Page One)

You can do all kinds of things with them." He explained that this could form an introduction into their very first drawing lesson, a chance to demonstrate how skillful their hands can be.

The project, initially conceived as a way to celebrate our 40th anniversary, has taken on a new impetus and now will spread the name and reputation of Summerfield far and wide.

Thank you to all of you who have already ordered—our total preorders exceeded 850 calendars. If you haven't ordered your copy yet, it's not too late! It makes the perfect holiday gift for family, friends, work colleagues, and anyone else you think might like to learn more about our wonderful school.

Purchase calendars from the school office, at forthcoming school events, and online at www.summerfieldws.org/2015WallCalendar.

Please collect pre-ordered calendars from the office starting Monday 11/24.



\$\$ Saving Money \$\$

By choosing to utilize cash, check or money order in the 2013-14 school year, YOU saved SWSF \$16,000 in credit card processing fees compared to the prior year.

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

Thank you so much!

~ The Finance Department



Snowflake Shoppe

Winter Faire crafting is in the works... the Snowflake Fairies are already busy making all the goodies for the shop.

We are looking for some donations to help us along: Beeswax | Yarn | Fabric | Mason Jars | Wool Felt | Roving Wool | any wonderful Handmade Item in keeping with Waldorf style | used Waldorf Toys or Board Games.

If you have any of these items, please place them in the donation box outside the main office. With thanks, the Snowflake Shoppe.

Any questions, please contact: Holly Hollinger, 707-280-9543, or leave a note in the main office.

WINTER FAIRE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

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, staff and students. Treasures include jewelry, dolls, books, toys, wooden crafts, candles, soaps and body products, clothes, and of course our new 15-month student 2015 Wall Calendar!

Saturday: Faire – 11am-3pm

The whole family is invited to enjoy the Summerfield campus in its full splendor of evergreens and twinkling lights while carolers sing beloved holiday music and hot drinks warm

hands between crafting and shopping. Highlights include a visit by King and Queen Winter, puppet shows and storytelling, children's crafts in the kindergarten village and grades, gingerbread and cookie decorating, beeswax candle dipping, the Snowflake Gift Shoppe for the children, a raffle, vendors, carolers and musicians. Warm and tasty food, drinks and treats will be available in Sophia Hall.

Saturday: Circus – 3:30pm

Stick around after the Faire for a performance of *The Nutcracker*, Circus Waldissima style!

Contact Event Coordinator Kosima Grundy, kosimagrundy@yahoo.com, 542-6221, or LS Secretary Andrea Jolicoeur, andreaoli@summerfieldwaldorf.org, ext. 101, for any questions or offers of help.



Being Prepared in an Emergency

By Andrea Trinei, for the Emergency Preparedness Team

As a reminder, Summerfield has an official Emergency Plan, based on the structure provided by the Sonoma County Office of Education. Though every emergency plan is ever-evolving, Summerfield staff and faculty are ready in case of an emergency and will continue to keep the safety and wellbeing of the children in the forefront of their minds. The school's plan as a whole is reliable and effective.

We recognize how important it is to hold regular drills, including fire, earthquake and lock-down, and we will continue to do so again this year. In addition, the school has emergency supplies, including a supply of food and water, as well as first aid supplies, rescue equipment, and other basic necessities that, should it ever be necessary, would enable all students, faculty and staff to reside on campus for up to three days. These supplies are inspected regularly and used during drills as appropriate. Also, it goes without saying that faculty and most staff are regularly certified in First Aid and CPR. In addition, the final pieces are currently being put into place on a school-wide PA system that will allow announcements to be made across the entire campus and farm.

The parents' role in the Plan is to be patient and informed. Depending on the emergency, you may not be able to get close to the school and may be asked to wait in a safe area near the school. If it is hazardous for students to be released, everyone will be kept inside the school until notified by the authorities that it is safe outside. We will act with the safety of students in mind, and those in charge will always follow the directives of the police, sheriff and/or the fire department. In any instance where an unscheduled pick-up is necessary, you will be asked to follow the direction of our Student Release team which will be located at both the upper and lower pick-up spots. We are researching the best way to inform parents should an incident occur, be that via email, phone or text message.

We are pledged to making sure that we have the most effective procedures in place to keep us all as safe as possible. Please rest assured that the faculty and staff at Summerfield will do their very best to be prepared for any emergency situation, and that the security and welfare of our students is our highest priority.

The Bard is in the Yard!

SCENES FROM HAMLET PERFORMED BY THE ELEVENTH GRADE

By Kevin Simmons

The word "question" occurs 17 times in *Hamlet*,



Shakespeare's exhaustive and unique study of modern consciousness. Two recurring ones are "why?" and "who?" Once he knows his uncle has murdered his father, why doesn't Hamlet keep his graveyard promise to "sweep to his revenge"? The Danish prince has seven famous monologues, but can we make definitive statements about his identity, or is that a moving target?

The eleventh grade's *Hamlet* main lesson culminates with two performances of scenes from the play. Join us in Sophia Hall at **7pm on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 November**, as your intrepid children and friends bring Hamlet, Ophelia, Claudius, Polonius, Gertrude, and others alive to "speak the speech" once again.

Yes, the Bard is in the Yard. Not to be missed!

Runs about 75 minutes. Suitable for sixth grade and up.

ARTWORK BY AMY FREEMAN

Grandparents' & Special Friends' Day

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 8:15AM-12:30PM

One of our truly favorite events of the school year is when we extend an **exclusive** invitation to Grandparents and Special Friends to join us on **Wednesday, November 26**.

The day will include student performances, classroom visits, and a farm tour, as well as a swag table with items available for sale (calendars, t-shirts, mugs and bags) and a Giving Tree for those looking for ways to give. We look forward to meeting the grandparents of our students and educating them about our school.

Thank you to Charmaine Stainbrook, volunteers, faculty, and staff for their care and dedication to this special event.



Mud Runners!

Some of our young cross country runners joined the Sonoma County community to run in the mud!

A 5K Mud Run at Shone Farm attracted hundreds of participants, among them our intrepid sixth graders Petal, Gabriel, Oscar and Hannah!



GABRIEL AND HANNAH

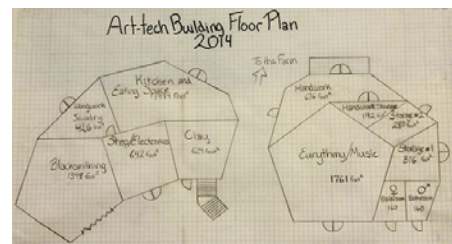
Architecture Immersion for Summerfield Seniors

By Beth Weisburn, High School Teacher

If you visited the high school lately, you might have noticed the clay building models and architectural drawings that the twelfth grade created as part of their *History through Architecture* course. Students began by sketching various classrooms on campus—kindergartens, farm kitchen, eurythmy barn—learning to sense how spaces affect them. After an introduction given by local architect Jon Worden, students worked in groups to design structures appropriate for the Summerfield campus. They began by interviewing their teachers, examining the building sites, and considering the existing buildings as preparation for their projects.

What forms are conducive to teaching the creative arts? How could a building help to “heal” a site? Which rooms require north facing light, ventilation for smoke, water and sinks? Are there quieter and louder activities? After considering these aspects, as well as their favorite objects, shapes and colors for inspiration, student groups began to model their ideas in clay. For two weeks, they moved between clay work and sketching to find the forms of their buildings. Many groups focused on a building that would house Fine and Practical Art courses and would be located where the Blacksmithing tent is presently situated.

One group chose to make a Japanese-inspired “village” of small interconnected spaces. The buildings, including a kitchen, surround a courtyard for outdoor activities. Another group massed spherical and rectangular shapes to form a balanced two-story structure which offered areas on the roofs for painting and drawing, and the possibility of an observatory. A third group’s two-story, flat roofed structure, which spans the walking path to the farm, was designed to be a bridge between the campus and farm activities. In a contest among the students, the winning entry was a design by Zoe Hunt, Rose Lee and Sabrina Mann which had irregular-shaped rooms, with a covered path between two buildings. They also included a new space for eurythmy in a five-sided movement room. The class felt that this building would best fit into the existing campus.



ABOVE: FLOOR PLAN, ARTISTS IMPRESSION AND CLAY MODEL BY ZOE HUNT, ROSE LEE AND SABRINA MANN



ART-TECH WITH OBSERVATORY BY JENNER GLESSNER AND ERIC MARQUETTE



JAPANESE-INFLUENCED 'VILLAGE' BY MERCEDES BÄHR AND ALEXIA CHRISTE



LIBRARY INTERIOR BY ASHLYN DEAN AND ELIANA LANPHAR



FLAT-ROOFED STRUCTURE BY DELEK MILLER AND MILES STAPP

In this month-long course, taught by Bob Flagg, students examined architecture from the Stone Ages through present times, sketching buildings and composing essays for each time period. They considered what the predominant architecture of a culture—Roman, Gothic, Moorish, Chinese, for example—reveals about the consciousness of humans alive at that time.

Led by Jon Worden, the class spent two days on foot and public transportation exploring San Francisco and Berkeley. Students sketched Grace Cathedral, a Bernard Maybeck Church, and skyscrapers surrounding the Galleria. They saw sculptures, murals, alleyways, courtyards, neighborhoods, construction projects... tall, imposing spaces and tiny parks tucked between buildings. They recognized building styles from Art Deco to Modern. Mostly, they learned that San Francisco is a city on a very human scale, and that the mix of buildings there represents the diversity of human activity.

This year, our work was a collaborative effort involving many teachers: Bob, Konstantin, guest Jon Worden, and myself. We worked during main lesson time but also at least one period a day after main lesson. This was an effort to explore the possibilities of integrating the activities of creative design and field trip exploration with the reflective thinking classroom experience to help students develop a feeling for the role of architecture in our lives.

Architecture is studied in twelfth grade at Waldorf schools because it is a culmination or synthesis of the arts: it combines form, texture and color in the design of structures that house and reflect the human being. Rudolf Steiner emphasized the importance of architecture in a difficult excerpt that we worked to experience and understand:

"It is not a matter of indifference if future forms, proportions, and measurements are dictated by the purely utilitarian principles of present day civilization, which means hindrance upon hindrance for what should come, or if corporeal forms are created that are in harmony with what ought to arise in the future.

We know that we stand at a turning point in time that requires something exceptional of us. The destiny of whole worlds depends upon what we do in terms of creating future forms."

Thanksgiving Reflections from the Summerfield Farmyard

By Farmer Dan

On this wind-softened night smelling sweetly of freshly fallen rain after another day on the Farm with the children, an awareness of what has been called by some “the yoga of the sensory or real world” refreshes my thought process as I try to collect my thoughts to bring a picture to the Summerfield community of your children at work and play out on the farm. To act without exercising power, to eschew curiosity, to listen and wait, to act with patience and humility, and to take deep interest in each child takes a deep trust not only in life, but in one’s own capacities. It is such striving that I see and admire so much in my Summerfield colleagues—their embodied deep humanity that moves our students so deeply in so many special ways.

The children see tons of apples up on the trees and, inwardly, Nature asks them to ask themselves, “How did the apples get up on the tree?” Steiner wrote: “If you would know self, look into the world: If you would know the world, look into your self’s own being.” A Waldorf teacher asks his own daughter, “What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom?”



‘LEAF PATH’ © KRISTINA SWARNER. REPRODUCED WITH THE KIND PERMISSION OF THE ARTIST. KRISTINASWARNER.COM

and taking an image from her experience on the Farm she replies, “Knowledge is knowing the tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in the fruit salad.” It is sort of the difference between a philosophical/theoretical/egotistical or “thinking” way of solving the problems of the world verses a moral, concrete or being-in-the-world way of, through action, solving the problems of the world. Children have an inner urgency to do this when they are young. But how does the child begin, anthroposophically speaking?

Johanna Steegmans, our visiting Anthroposophical doctor, gave a few pictures during her recent lecture of the emerging child that were shaped to help better understand the nature of the child’s unfolding, beginning with “something that is eternal enters the temporal” ... a tiny human body becomes an instrument for the “Spirit Soul” or “Soul Spirit”. The child in her/his first three years is an instrument working from the inside out, forgetting what they know unconsciously so well, coming freshly from the Spiritual world, and as the “sounding together” of Spirit and matter merge, the child begins the process of coming to know consciously where he or she has come from. At first there is no separation between self and world, the world is only good, and gradually the child’s inner world takes shape through moving and touching, hence “I exist.” As the world imprints more, there is more separation from the world. “World, show me what you can imprint in me through the senses,” the child

is inwardly asking, and our job as parents is to make sure the child is exposed to a world worthy of imitation. During the first seven years the child works to overcome the inherited body and to make the body solely his/her own. Fevers help facilitate the “burning out” and making way for the emerging ego, and the mother’s life and feelings that are passed on through her milk, as well as feelings of what the mother wants for her child, give way to the child’s emerging self as the child grows up.

Years 7 to 14 cultivate what makes for strong little beings through breathing and feelings and a healthy rhythmical life. Nature, seasons, festivals, and weekly rhythms all promote a healthy inner feeling life: “Life is not a metronome, but I am actually a living substance,” is the way Johanna expressed it. Whereas for the younger child living is pictures; for the 7- to 14-year-old, reading, writing and math pictures die into letters, and hence into concepts. When pictures move to concepts, lights go on as personalities are born. Johanna asks a spunky little second grader, “What do you do in eurythmy?” and she is able to answer simply and confidently, “I speak with my body.” So movement is the lubricant for these strong little beings, inwardly as well as outwardly.

By ninth grade, providing the scaffolding of the “Good and Beautiful” world has been erected and fortified, the students are on fire, and the teachers have to bring lots of food, for example science, humanities, etc. Yet even though the



LANTERN WALK DRAWING BY SASKIA POTHOF

student may have made his/her own boat or vessel, the captain is not quite there yet. Johanna asks a ninth grader, "What is your dream?" and the reply is, "I can feel it, but I do not know what it is." That is yet to come.

Anthroposophy is a "profound change of our way of thinking and a way of understanding better" our relationship with, or to, the world we live in every day. Even in modern Germany after many discussions about Alzheimer's, it was discovered by Anthroposophical physicians that a most potent therapy was walking, especially walking in the forest where there are so many sense perceptions.

Back to the Farm in closing. On a recent cold, dark night while sitting at the picnic tables in the dark on the Farm, the singing of children's voices lit up the darkness, and down the apple row came the warm candlelight of handmade lanterns as the band of second graders came merrily along with their teacher and families celebrating their annual lantern walk. Fortunately they found warm apple cider and freshly made apple muffins waiting for them in the cozy farm kitchen before heading homeward with warmed hearts and bellies. Yet another mini-festival to give thanks for as the cows and sheep joined in on the evening chorus.

And now on to Thanksgiving break with dear families and friends! A few words of wisdom to end from Rudolf Steiner, and with best wishes from all your friendly farmers for a richly blessed holiday to our entire community from Summerfield Farm, your source for the healthiest holiday produce on the planet.

*Create for yourself a new indomitable perception of faithfulness.
What is usually called faithfulness passes so quickly.*

Let this be your faithfulness: you will experience moments, with the other person. The human being will appear to you then as filled, irradiated with his/her spirit.

And then there may be, indeed will be, other moments, long periods of time when human beings are darkened.

At such times, you will learn to say to yourself, "The spirit makes me strong. I remember the archetype. I saw it once. No illusion, no deception shall rob me of it."

Always struggle for the image which you saw. The struggle is faithfulness. Striving thus for faithfulness you shall be close to one another as if endowed with the protective power of angels.

RUDOLF STEINER

NEW! ADULT RECITAL (NIGHT OUT)

By Cyndi Yoxall, Development Director

Calling all parents, faculty and staff... dust off that guitar, warm up that voice, revisit those dance moves or circus tricks, and work on some new comedy lines or skits.

Plans are underway for a fun night of entertainment in Sophia Hall—performed by adults, for adult guests. Early next year we will be looking for talent... or just interest in doing a little something fun on stage. So, gather your new band members, rally your friends, start thinking of your "thing" and scheduling your practice. Let's experience for ourselves what it feels like when our children master a skill and perform for peers... and feel accomplished!

We are targeting late February or early March for a fun night out for parents. Perhaps even with food and beverages... date night! Ideas or questions? Contact Coordinator (and Performer) Glenn Berger at summerfieldadultrecital@gmail.com.

Thanksgiving at the Farm Stand



PHOTO BY MIGUEL SALMERÓN

We are harvesting extra during the week of Thanksgiving. We will have just about every vegetable you will need: carrots, beets, celery root, onions, garlic, leeks, cornmeal, dry beans, butternut squash, pie pumpkins and, as always, eggs and yogurt. On Wednesday we will also be selling vegetables near Sophia Hall from the back of the Farm Truck.

~ Farmer Dana

Bad Behavior Thrives on Results

By Rick Concoff, Parenting Educator and Coach

Your 6-year-old is demanding a cookie before dinner. It starts with a request and escalates to a demand and all the way to a temper tantrum and a fit, screaming, yelling, threatening, holding the entire family hostage to the tirade. Everyone is angry and upset because this situation disturbed dinner. A situation like this often leads to bedtime without resolution; the whole house is turned upside down.

It has worked before many times! And it will work again! The child has gotten his way.

Your 10-year-old makes everyone late for school or work every day. He dawdles, reads, teases his older sister and the dog intermittently, or goes back to bed instead of getting ready. When asked, told, ordered or threatened, he acts as if he doesn't hear and mumbles words non-stop or mimics back what you are saying, rolling his eyes. He gets in a car, forgets his lunch and homework, has to come back home to get it, and escalates to the point at which there is no choice but to give in. Everyone's late for school and work, upset, yelling and crying.

It has worked many times and it will work again!

Your 16-year-old is in that impossible moment where everything is dramatic and high level angst. Outbursts happen without warning. Attitudes wax and wane for no apparent reason. She has had a bad day. She will now inflict her bad day and mood on anyone who gets in her way. She is an emotional beast during dinner, and everyone is relieved when she stomps off to her room, slams her door and plays her music, loudly. No one is brave enough to confront her and tell her to turn it down and, furthermore, it is not worth it to anybody's well-being to call her back to do her after-dinner chores. It is easier for others just to do them. She has successfully guided the family into her nasty mood and, in effect, ruined the evening.

It has worked many times and it will work again!

What has happened in all three of these scenarios is that a child has acted badly. The child has taken up all or most of the space in the household and left everyone else cowering, huddling together in the small corner that is left. She has bullied the family into submission. He has intimidated the family into fear. The child has enacted an unpleasant, inappropriate behavior and actually been rewarded for it. She has gotten out of her dinner chores and was allowed to slam her door and play her music loudly. She disrupted the whole family dynamic and made everyone unhappy and late for school or work.

In order to sustain a bad behavior, the child needs to get the result he is looking for. Otherwise there is no energy, purpose or zeal to repeat the behavior. One proactive suggestion is for the parent, sibling or other caregiver to notice the behavior, figure out the desired result, and make sure that in spite of any and all escalation he does *not* get that result. Make sure, in fact, that she gets an appropriate, well-matched undesired result, or better yet no result or attention at all.

Next time your child performs a particular, repeated, habitual unpleasant behavior, identify the child's desired result, be it to derail the family, intimidate others, avoid chores, obtain the treat, avoid the bedtime, make everyone late for school, or just simply to push everyone so hard that they explode in meltdown themselves. Make sure you have anticipated it, named the desired result of the child, and then initiate your previously rehearsed result which does not reward the child's bad behavior.

The first few times it may be necessary to remove all family members from the room and to deal with the child one-on-one. Simply provide a safe space, observe and witness the episode. (Dispassionately intervene only in the case of danger.) Bad behavior longs for and feeds on an audience, attention, center-stage, chaos, reactivity, engagement, impatience and verbally and physically abusive responses. Don't fall into the trap! It is full of emotional quicksand, sticky tar-like energy as well as being an incentive for further escalated bad behavior.

Once you have extinguished the motive for the behavior and a bit of time has passed, you can let the child know the positive alternatives, opportunities, treats, incentives, and rewards that would have been possible had the time not been spent on bad behaviors, meltdowns, tantrums, tirades, threats, rage and violence.

Try literally mapping out on a big piece of butcher paper with the child the trajectory of a selected behavior and where it will likely lead. Do it with pictures or words.

Good behavior warrants pleasant and rewarding results. Bad behavior loses its power when it is consistently denied the result it wants.

ALUMNI EVENT

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The 6th Annual Alumni Event (40th Anniversary Bash) will take place on **Friday, December 26th, 3-6pm** in Sophia Hall. This year the event will include alumni parents as a way to honor our 40th Anniversary.

This fun celebration draws up to 150 alumni, allowing them to gather and share stories. Every year, we find more of our past students, enabling us to honor them and stay connected. Their lives are inspiring and they remind us of the outstanding education that makes SWSF and so unique and important.

If you are interested in volunteering for this lively event, contact development@summerfieldwaldorf.org. You will have a great time!

~ Cyndi Yoxall, Development Director

Eleventh Grade Farming Curriculum

By Molly Lockwood, Eleventh Grade Student

This trimester in Plant Cultivation, the eleventh grade has been working on several different projects in the permaculture garden and on the Farm. These projects have ranged from harvesting perfectly ripe apples in the beginning of fall, to landscaping the hidden bench area by the stream and everything in between. We spruced up the garden beds by pulling weeds, especially bindweed, which wraps itself around other plants and stubbornly tries to choke them! We also pruned the raspberry bushes once the last of the delicious red morsels had been plucked. We refreshed the hay and woodchips on the pathways, and even beautified the compost pile by squaring up the shape of the pile and tidying up the surrounding area.

Even though we only visited the garden twice a week, there is a real sense of accomplishment. The garden looks very well-tended, especially in the areas where we placed most of our focus. I think that each one of us takes great satisfaction from putting our hands to work and getting to enjoy the fruits of our labor as a result. This is just one of the many reasons why the permaculture garden at Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm is one of our favorite spots on campus, and one that is very special to us all.



The Oberufer Shepherds Play

Friday, December 19, 6pm, Sophia Hall

In appreciation for your dedicated support through the year, Summerfield faculty cordially invites you to enjoy the free annual community performance of *The Oberufer Shepherds Play*. This play originated on the island of Oberufer in Austria. The inhabitants performed it annually, preserving and passing it on from generation to generation as a sacred treasure. Performances were traditionally given in country inns, and players as well as spectators entered the establishment in a heartfelt Christmas mood. The play alternates scenes of devotion with ones of coarse rural humor. It presents a picture of the Holy Child's birth, but the images could apply to any family who must courageously face injustice, poverty, and all the challenges of a difficult destiny.



Students will see the play during the school day, but everyone is welcome to attend the free evening performance. The play is a lot of fun and quite touching, and the content is appropriate for all ages. Summerfield faculty and high school students have been practicing this play for the past two months to present it to our community. The audience will be able to enjoy guessing, as do the students, which teachers and students play which characters in the cast.

Eat first at home and please come to see our play and join us in holiday celebration on Friday, December 19, at 6pm in Sophia Hall. There will be a tea-and-cookie reception following the performance. Please bring easy-to-eat cookies to share (nothing involving a plate!). We are looking for a parent coordinator to organize set up and clean up. Please contact Tracy to volunteer: tracy@summerfieldwaldorf.org

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN (AGC)

By Cyndi Yoxall, Development Director

I love my job. During Annual Giving I am always reminded why. Last week I opened an envelope to find a note from alumni grandparents, letting me know this was a special donation for our 40th anniversary. The \$1,000 gift and sweet handwritten note brought tears to my eyes. The same day, I received a generous donation from a new donor, who wanted to give in honor of Kimiko Cool-Ramos, a very special grandmother who passed away this year. With no children in the school, this donation came to let us know we mattered so much to Kimiko and the Ramos family, that we deserve their support and thanks. We receive many unexpected gifts during this time, in addition to the heartfelt contributions from all of you. The spirit of our community inspires me.

Every envelope that comes through the Development Office and every pledge that is made allows us to stop and take a moment—to reflect on what it all means. I truly believe 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.

Angel Babies spreading love overseas

A Summerfield Roots & Shoots project to make 'angel baby' dolls has inspired work to help children in Africa.

When Miss Donna introduced her Roots & Shoots parents to a simple sewing project to make angel baby dolls of colorful flannel, with bonnets from donated cotton scraps, she little realized how far the idea would travel.

One grandmother of the class, Brenda Mahoney, seeing how much her grandsons loved their angel babies, decided to try and make more of them to send to orphaned children in Africa.

She enlisted the support of her church, and many enthusiastic volunteers came together to make over 50 angel babies for orphans at the Community of Hope Children's home in Kenya. She even involved her 84-year-old mother, making it a four-generation family project. A next batch of angel babies is already in production, this time headed for an orphanage for blind girls in Mexico.

Brenda says: "My desire is that every child have an angel to cuddle at night, to make them feel safe and loved. If you know of an organization that may be interested in this project, please pass my information along, and I will be happy to assist them in sharing the love of the angel babies."

Contact: Brenda Mahoney ~ brendapolack@comcast.net





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Thank you Rick Concoff!

This year the third grade are learning to play the violin. This has been made possible by a very generous donation from our dear Rick Concoff, who has donated twelve working violins in beautiful condition with bows and cases.



Thank you, Rick, for this wonderful gift to our school!

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The Messenger Marketplace

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Classes/Camps



A Community Holiday Evening!

Friday November 21st, 5:30-7:30pm
Free Entry | 10% off sale

Please join us for a preview of our festive winter showroom! Help us celebrate the season with a night of shopping, food, and friends! Cider, wine and cheese to be served.

Classes at Circle of Hands

Artisan Forever Wreath-Making: Sat 11/29, 10am-noon, \$20. Adults or older children (10+) will make a unique, beautiful wreath from upcycled materials like wool sweater scraps, felt and ribbon.

"Gingerbread"-Style House: Sun 12/7, 1-3pm, \$20. Ages 7+ will make this festive centerpiece from felt, sequins, buttons, ribbon (provided) or any other special trim you'd like to bring.

Felted Critters: Sat 12/13, 1-4pm, \$25. Adults will create a unique & heart-felt animal for that special stocking stuffer or St. Nicholas gift. Cider, crafting & conversation will make this a fun gathering!

Children's Crafting Afternoon: Sat 12/20, 1-4pm, \$15. Ages 5-12 (or younger w/accompanying adult). All materials to make felt apple herb sachets, friendship bracelets, wool angels, and beaded necklaces will be offered, holiday cards made, and gifts wrapped—all ready to put under the tree for loved ones.

www.circleofhandswaldorfschool.com, 634-6140. 6780 McKinley St. #120, Sebastopol, in the Barlow.

Singing and Piano Instruction

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

After-School Mandarin Language Class at Summerfield

Led by Mandarin teacher from Rudolf Steiner College, Mondays 3:30 - 4:30pm, beginning October 20th. Sliding scale donation. RSVP to Yea-Yunn, yeayunn@me.com.

For Sale/Rent/Needed

Wild Alaskan Sockeye Salmon is back and it is delicious!

\$12 a pound for a \$25lb box. Box splits can be arranged. Reserve yours ASAP to be sure you get some. Call Alyssum at (707) 480-0655.

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.

Housing Needed

Oregon family of 3 seeks housing for March 2015 so wife/mama can do teacher training practicum at Summerfield. Can offer work trade (gardening/child/pet care etc.) they are friends of a yellow rose family. good people. 707.829.2164.

Housing Needed

My mother is looking for a granny unit/studio situation in Sebastopol. Can do partial trade for childcare. Please contact Amelia Miller (HS Secretary) at 829-1022 / 575-7194 x108 if you have any leads. Thank you so much!



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Services

Now Accepting New Clients in Sebastopol

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

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