

Messenger

Summerfield

WALDORF SCHOOL AND FARM

DECEMBER 14, 2017

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 4

Winter Greetings

THE GOVERNANCE COUNCIL WRITES TO THE SUMMERFIELD COMMUNITY

We reflected recently that it almost seems as if there have been *two* school years since September: one before the fires and another after. Our community was shaken to the core during the month of October, 2017, experiencing a crisis we had never imagined possible, and yet, through that crisis we found the strength to do what needed to be done: to help one another and receive help from others. That work continues, and we are changed. At this time of the year, as in the image of the advent spiral, we work to ignite the flame of light within us and strive to transform it through the will into good deeds that can ray back out into the world.

Now as this first half of the year comes to a close, we on the Governance Council would like to express our gratitude for the living, breathing and growing that we do together as a school. We are grateful for the many festivals we celebrate together, and to the parents, staff, faculty and students who make them possible. We are grateful for this winter season, cold and dark, and for the Holy Nights of December 24-January 6, which give us the chance to create a place in ourselves for wisdom to come. We hope that amidst all the hurry and flurry of the holidays, each one of us can find a way to the inner shrine of peace and warmth. There we can strive to find, in this dark time, the awakening that will bring joy to us all.

Sincerely,
Governance Council: Ignacio Garat,
Jason Gross, Kibby MacKinnon
Andrea Jolicoeur, *Secretary*



ADVENT APPLE BY FAEWYN WHEALDON (2ND GRADE)



SNOWMAN BY GIGI TURKALJ (5TH GRADE)



SKATERS BY AMIRA LEUZINGER (5TH GRADE)



WINTER SCENE BY JASMINE KUD-DAHROUCH (8TH)

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Important Dates:

The Shepherds' Play

Thursday, Dec 21, 6pm, Sophia Hall

Ninth Annual Alumni Event

Tuesday, Dec 26, 3-6pm, Sophia Hall

Epiphany Bonfire

Saturday, Jan 6, 5:30-7pm

[Rain or No-Burn Day cancels]

Dr. Steegmans Lecture

Saturday, Jan 13, 10am, Sophia Hall

Walk through the Grades, Campus Tour

Wednesday, Jan 17, 9am, Sophia Hall

High School Music Concert

Thursday, Jan 18, 7pm, Sophia Hall

The Oberufer Shepherds' Play

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 6PM,
SOPHIA HALL

In observance of this blessed season of the year, the 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, where 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 reverence and devotion with ones of coarse, rural humor. It presents a picture of the Holy Child's birth, but the images apply to all of humanity.

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 seniors have been practicing this play for the past six weeks 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, then please come to see our play and join us in holiday celebration on Thursday, December 21, at 6pm in Sophia Hall. There will be a finger-food reception following the performance. Please bring easy-to-eat items, savory or sweet, to share (nothing involving a plate!). Willing helpers for set-up and clean-up would be much appreciated! Please contact Donna Stusser to volunteer: rootsandshoots@summerfieldwaldorf.org.



Calling All Alumni and Alumni Parents!



Please join us for the 9th Annual Alumni Bash on December 26, 3-6pm in Sophia Hall.

We look forward to welcoming you for a casual celebration of sharing memories, laughter and reconnecting with old friends and teachers. Guests will enjoy live music again this year by Romany! Alumni Kyle and Kai will play—come on out and join them! We welcome instruments from home and having you jump on stage, even for one song.

Check out our Facebook page for event details: www.facebook.com/events/699318143600939/ And please spread the word to classmates and friends. This event is open to alumni 21+ years of age (no children please) and everyone is welcome to bring a guest.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with day-of-event set-up, check-in, general event help and clean-up. To volunteer for this fun event contact development@summerfieldwaldorf.org.

~ Cyndi Yoxall,
Development Director



The Night Before Christmas

On a cold, starry night long ago, the friendly beasts opened their hearts so a Holy Child could be born in their stable and find comfort on hay in a manger. Simple shepherds brought gifts as the Angels sang. The Child of Love must be born anew in the stable of the human heart every year.

You are welcome to join us on **Christmas Eve, December 24, at 5pm on Summerfield Waldorf School's Farm**, next to the Red Barn, to sing to the friendly beasts. Adults may bring a candle to hold while we sing to the animals and listen to a Christmas story.



We will not have a potluck as in the past, so we will be finished no later than 6pm. For safety reasons, please keep your children with you at all times during this event.

~ Don & Sieglinde Basmajian

The Season of Epiphany

By Andrea Trinei, Office Manager

January 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany, also known as Three Kings' Day. It follows Twelfth Night, which is the last of the Twelve Days and Holy Nights of Christmas. It may also be embraced as a four week season balancing the season of Advent, with the Twelve Days of Christmas in the center. Four weeks of anticipation, moving towards, and four weeks of awakening, digesting and assimilating that which has come to us. At Summerfield, we celebrate Epiphany with a grand bonfire and potato bake (although potatoes are no longer baked in the bonfire).

The word "epiphany" means "to reveal, to appear, to manifest from above." It was the great star in the sky that brought the Three Kings from afar in search of the Child of Light. For this reason, stars are a symbol of this celebration. The deeper meaning of Epiphany encompasses the arrival of the Three Kings who travelled from Africa, Europe and Asia, bearing gold (symbolizing wisdom and intelligence), frankincense (symbolizing intuition and union) and myrrh (representing the dying of the lower life and the resurrection to the higher life).

For some, the Epiphany bonfire symbolizes erasing the negative aspects of the past year which has just ended, and it is a time to seek auspices for the new year by looking at the direction of the sparks. In England, villages would come together on Epiphany, with their holiday evergreens and holly and burn them in a community bonfire, creating the time and space to come out and be together after having experienced the inward focus of Advent.

For me, Epiphany at Summerfield draws a little bit from each of these—now, more than ever, we need to arise anew as a school and look forward with positivity and hope, wisdom and union, into the fresh new year. With our experience of the winter holidays and festivals living brightly within us, we can turn back to daily life, ourselves enlightened, our community made stronger.



Epiphany Bonfire

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 5:30–7PM

RAIN OR NON-BURN DAY CANCELS



Epiphany is nearing! Bring your Christmas trees to burn in an awe-inspiring bonfire, partake in eating baked potatoes and Three-Kings Cake, drink hot apple cider, and spend time with friends! Whoever finds the golden coin in their slice of cake becomes a king for the year!

Though the baked potatoes will be provided, **we ask for donated potato toppings** (green onions, sour cream, butter, salsa, etc.) **and warm apple cider. We're also looking for bakers to bring cake** (spice cake is traditional, but any cake will be appreciated). We will provide the gold coins, however we do need bakers in order to have cake. Volunteers are needed to help with clean-up. Please email Michelle Bovard at michelle@summerfieldwaldorf.org with what you plan to bring or if you can lend a hand.

Be sure to bring your own plates and utensils, and please note: trees will not be accepted into the blaze after 6:30pm, so come early!

The Perfect Gift!

The best outreach and enrollment work in a Waldorf school is done by us, the parent community.

Do you have a friend or work colleague you could introduce to Summerfield with the gift of **our beautiful 2018-19 Waldorf Wall Calendar?**

Purchase calendars as gifts from the office or online at our website: summerfieldws.org/2018WallCalendar.



PARENT EDUCATION

Save the Date ...

LECTURE BY DR. STEEGMANS
SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 10AM

We're delighted to announce that our anthroposophic doctor, Dr. Johanna Steegmans, will give a Saturday morning lecture on January 13 as part of her next visit to Summerfield. Please see the mini-Messenger for more details.

A Sense of Place

SUMMER WORKSHOP AWAKENS THE SENSES TO THE BEING OF SUMMERFIELD!

By America Worden, MFT., alumna, former LS/HS Counselor, and guest HS Teacher

Back in June, Summerfield played host to a fascinating three-day workshop run by nature educator Robin Bliss-Wagner, who led participants in an experiential encounter with the environment of the Summerfield campus. For the faculty and parents that were able to take part, it was an eye-opening experience to discover the treasures surrounding us in our daily lives at Summerfield! The Messenger asked alumna and teacher America Worden to share her reflections on the experience with the wider community...

If you had ventured onto campus all the way on the other side of the year late last June, you would have found the wild plum trees were bowing with heavy clusters of red and gold fruit while crickets chirped in the shady hollows. You might also have caught sight of a group of faculty members and parents in the lower pasture: barefoot, blindfolded, and aiming our balled-up socks at each other.



Mr. Allen invited Robin Bliss Wagner—an outdoor educator who teaches deep connection with nature—to campus for a three-day workshop exploring

sense of place. How can we experience our belonging in the infinite web of relationships that make a place? How can we create space for students to really experience the truth, beauty and goodness of nature so that they develop a feeling and an understanding for the world and themselves? How is the deep human need for this kind of experience challenged by the allure of the virtual world?

We discussed these questions, but mostly we experimented with actual practices that opened new possibilities in our thinking and being. We sat silently by Santa Rosa creek until all the birds forgot we were there and kingfishers flew past our faces. We played blindfolded in the field, using our senses of hearing and touch to try to locate each other, stay

undetected, and survive our make-believe ordeal as still-blind baby squirrels. We hid as camouflaged as we could in leaves and bushes, pretending to be scentless fawns detectable by a hungry wolf only if we moved. We explored the vernal pond at the end of the field and discovered millions of red worms working to create a plush velvet layer of aerated mud, perfect for finding the tracks of raccoon and deer, heron and egret. We went for a night walk, encountering unfamiliar sounds and scents, and tracked unseen but present owls.

Robin invited us to think about our circles of awareness as we moved through the land—normally we move largely unaware of our surroundings, making noise that goes out ahead of us and causes the animals to hide or run or fly away. We tried walking very slowly, stopping often, our eyes open to include our peripheral vision, noticing how far our awareness could reach through our eyes. Then we added hearing: in silence, still moving slowly, what could we hear beyond our seeing? Robin encouraged us to hold our hearts open as well, to send kindness and gratitude out to our surroundings. In this way, when we stopped walking, we were



TOP & BOTTOM PHOTO BY BETH WEISSBURN

open to a huge place around us, a place less disturbed by our presence, more filled with life. The shift from just hurrying along in our own world to this careful participation in our shared world was profound.

After three days, the silky dried grass on the pasture, certain trees and vistas, birdcalls and bones had all become familiar—in the original sense of the word: we were related. Related through the soles of our feet, our noticing of tiny temperature and pressure changes on our skin, and the landscape of scents that weaves over the landscape of sight. That these experiences were not in some remote untouched wilderness, but just off of the parking lot in a place we have spent years brought delight and astonishment both. The idea of sense of place grew roots and branches: sensing our place, placing our senses, creating a place of awareness within that replaced us into the world. Our last day, we ended—mud under our finger and toe nails, a lot wilder than when we had started—by sharing our most vivid impressions and the questions we were living with in response... opening further still to possibilities for teaching, learning and wonder.

2018-2019 Financial Assistance Process Starts Now!

Learn more on our website:
www.summerfieldws.org/financialassistance.

Appreciations for a Wonderful Winter Faire!

We would like to extend a big heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make Winter Faire a warm and magical event!

It was incredibly heartwarming to see so many parents, teachers and students create a faire where our community could come together in warmth and light to make crafts, shop with local, artisan vendors, and enjoy a warm meal, warm drinks and sweet treats while holiday music with musicians and caroling filled the air. The day was rounded off by a fabulous circus performance!

First and foremost, a special thank you to our wonderful, positive and energetic Winter Faire planning team: Derek Huntington, Skye Dakin, Jennifer McCracken, Delisa Wood, Holly Trivan, Elizabeth Kaiser, Mary Leveque, Jennifer Sicha and Georgianna Fox—we couldn't have done it without you and thoroughly enjoyed working with you all!



Thank you to those who came on Friday to deliver greens, Christmas trees and decorate the campus. Thank you to everyone who put in extra effort to host a craft or activity, be our King and Queen Winter and especially to our amazing Snowflake Shoppe Fairies, Holly Hollinger and the Tenth Grade students and parents.

Thank you to our dear Early Childhood teachers for yet another sweet and special Puppet Show that delighted children of all ages. A very special thank you goes to Ms. Sternik, Mrs. MacKinnon, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Pothof, Ms. Siedemann, Mr. Loosli and AnneMarie Goslow for their beautiful caroling!

Of course once the faire is over, the campus must be restored to its former self which is the job no one wants to do, therefore a big round of applause goes out to the clean-up crew!



To our vendors who set up magical shops selling books, clothing, jewelry, olive oil, almonds, handmade crafts, beauty products and more—we love you! (If you didn't get a chance to shop our vendors, follow our Facebook page to find out what you missed and where you can buy these things now).

Every corner of our school community was represented and celebrated. We look forward to creating this special event with and for you again next year!

Special Thanks: Stephanie Tebbutt, Lisa and David Pratt, Michael Woods, Robert Howard, Kathleen Brown, Laura Kuo, Alessandra Sanguinetti, Sarah Brinkman, Sharon Fitzgerald, Lance Hensley, Rebecca Fenton, Michelle Fitzgerald, Addie Mullennix, Claire Reid, Heather Mutz, Julie Milcoff, Tom Lanphar, Jason Gross, the Felton's, Uma Baker and Ella Berger, Stav Redlich, Rachel Hazlett, Brian Adam, Jennifer Durham-Pool, Cami and Zach Lewton, Dave Held, Diana VanBlaricum, Marie-Michelle Tassé and the parents and students of the 10th grade!



With warmth and gratitude,
Lisa Hensley & Kristi Hruzewicz
Winter Faire Coordinators



Not a Creature Was Stirring, Not Even...

By Farmer Dan

Having just returned from the farm kitchen, late on this chilly, early December night where I was shutting off the water valves to the sinks so the pipes wouldn't freeze, there actually were quite a few creatures stirring, including lots of mice. Foxes, bobcats, raccoons, mice and rats, possum, and the occasional coyote all like to check out the security of our fencing systems under the watchful eyes of the owls that inhabit the owl nesting boxes we have placed high in the trees over the years to keep our gopher population in check. So when the classes exit the farmyard, it doesn't exactly mean the space has been vacated, but rather simply a new set of creatures has moved in under the waning moon.

Farm life often seems to me as essential as oxygen—everyone seems to love to eat, especially as I now observe fourth and fifth graders hauling heaping plates full of food from the new farm kitchen over to their classrooms. At our lower school faculty meeting, one of the items on the agenda was how many helpings are enough for growing children whose eyes can be bigger than their stomachs. Tales of a four-serving lunch, followed by an afternoon stomach ache, were addressed, so we agreed to a two-helpings serving limit. It is especially gratifying to see plates heaped high with an abundance of freshly harvested greens, in addition to a healthy variety of organic and Biodynamic meats and carbs for those so inclined. Over the holidays my mother used to say about her food choices that "I'll eat anything as long as I feel guilty about it." Now, when I watch the majority of the students eating, it feels good to see that they will eat almost anything, and they,

and we, do not have to feel guilty about it. Afternoon classes are so much



stronger now when the children are eating food fortified with life forces that are so essential to their physical, mental and spiritual development and well-being.

The poet Mary Oliver wrote that "Maybe our world will grow kinder eventually. Maybe the desire to make something beautiful is the piece of God that is inside each of us." It made me think of a little tour many parents and grandparents, teachers and students were fortunate to take through the third grade classroom recently, where the students gently rendered, in wood and clay and various other mediums, different shelters that people of the world live in. There was a huge waterwheel—imagine sleeping as a seemingly endless stream of cool, fresh water powered a rumbling waterwheel while you dreamt. Or living on the edge of a continent in a tall, elegant, somewhat forlorn lighthouse with the often empty sea spread out before you to an endless horizon. Then, too, there were the colorful cupolas of the orthodox churches that dominate the central skyline of Moscow, as well as various, more earthy cave dwellings, including homes sculpted from translucent or iridescent blocks of ice. Each was a child's effort to make something beautiful as they imagined how another child in another land might live in what they called their "home". Thank you parents for your enthusiastic support in such an extraordinary display that will live in your children throughout their budding lives.

Now, as I write, it is a chilly 40-ish degrees, and another project the seventh grade students have been helping with is wood splitting. So here is a little free advice for those of you who, like me, might love to have a warm fire in a fireplace or wood stove during these chilly, pre-holiday evenings. The students, outfitted with very classy safety glasses donated by Google, were set loose on a considerable pile of moderate rounds of oak and huge eucalyptus slabs from trees cut on our

school property during recent construction. With wedges, splitting mauls, and axes, and a few safety guidelines, they were turned loose as I observed and let them for the most part, figure out their own strategies. An old Swedish way is to fell your trees with its leaves on—especially directly after leafing-out—and put off limbing until the leaves have withered. Then much of the water has evaporated through the leaves and the wood dries quickly after splitting. Once logs are cut to suitable lengths with a chain or bow saw, split the rounds at once if possible—the more it dries, the tougher and more difficult it is to split. It is rather easy to split newly felled thick rounds, yet very difficult to split after a year. Split the wood on a chopping block that is quite low, not higher than your knees. Stand the round of wood upright on the far side of a big chopping block. If you miss hitting the round, the axe will normally hit the chopping block rather than your leg.

Large rounds require a wedge. Use two. Wedge number two will help to knock the first wedge out if stuck. The best axes and wedges most agree are made by Gränsfors Bruks in Sweden, hand-forged and initialed by the smith in a gorgeous mill since 1902. Somewhat pricey, but worth every penny safety- and quality-wise. Firewood should be dry before use. Wood should be split before Easter: then it

can dry during spring and summer, before winter's wood heating begins. Always stack split wood with the bark side down. Otherwise the bark will function like a lid and prevent moisture from evaporating and the wood will mold. Stack the wood



ALL CLIPART COURTESY FCT



a little scattered
and it will dry more
quickly—enough
so a mouse is able
to get through, as
they said in the
old days. Then put

something on top to protect from rain but
don't cover the sides—the stack must allow
air to circulate.

Finally, ashes after wood fires can be
saved to spread in the garden (but not in
the potato patch—the potatoes become
shriveled). Wood ashes contain some
useful salts, above all potassium carbonate,
so-called potash, and heightens the pH
value in acidified soil. You may mix some
wood ashes into your compost as well...

Now, back to the seventh graders. After
three classes and thousands of blows, a
neatly stacked pile of wood adorns the
fence in the upper sheep pasture... and
no-one is injured! As I watch, a *huge* round
of eucalyptus some forty inches across,
has two thick wedges driven carefully in a
line down the center of the round. Four of
the students stand around it. Each student
takes 10 or 15 hard strikes onto either
wedge as the others watch and urge their
classmates on. From deep inside the thick,
sinewy log we all hear a distant splitting
and popping. The students are relentless

and continue, blow after sharp blow.
Finally, we all watch as the wood splits
cleanly in two as the wedges get driven all
the way through. We all cheer, and I think
of that moment now as a piece of that log
crackles in my fireplace. And smile as I
remember 22 kindergarteners carrying
all those chunks of wood, piece by piece,
across the farmyard over to the covered
wood rack, smiling and laughing as they
stream along like a gigantic centipede at
work.

Again, my poet friend Mary Oliver says
that, "Sometimes I need only to stand
wherever I am to be blessed." So often that
seems to be in the proximity of a class of
students at work out in the natural world
out on Summerfield farm. The children of
a younger class were working with me and
talking together about Santa Claus. Most
were fervent believers. One child spoke up
and said, "I know there is a Santa Claus
but my parents don't want me to know
that there is," to whom Mary Oliver might
say "Only if there are angels in your head
will you ever, possibly, see one." Have a
wonder-full holiday season, however you
might celebrate.

Deepest peace from Summerfield Farm
to all!

Warmly, Farmer Dan

Poetry Corner

FROM THE HS ROMANTICISM CLASS

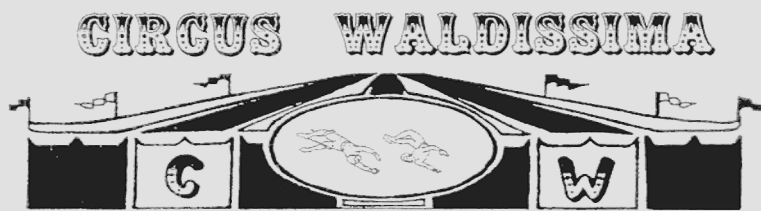
A canyon wide, a bird so high,
A new-formed nest, a drop of dew,
O'er the trees and soaring sky,
A blade of grass, lime-green in hue,
Even flowers and flowing cotton,
Are dreams of nature now forgotten.

Gone are questions of belief,
With memories and mysteries,
Why does the beetle cross the leaf?
How does the sun shine blistery?
No more we wonder
"What? Where? Why?"
But stay inside our own mind's eye.

The cracks and rocks of thunder loud,
A tumble, rumble, crashing wave,
A roaring river, storming cloud,
The scorching sun, a misty cave,
Gone is our fear of nature's power,
In surest safety is spent an hour.

But what if we remembered fear,
And found a question to be asked,
The sounds of nature, we would hear,
And the face of fear
would be unmasked.
The mysteries we once dismembered,
Are dreams of nature
now remembered.

—Daniel Aughenbaugh, Twelfth Grade



Spring Circus Club Registration

Join all us clowns at **Circus Waldissima** for our Spring semester of after-school Circus Club classes! We have lots of exciting and fun things planned, including preparing for our BIG SPRING circus show!

More detailed descriptions of classes and registration forms can be found in the main office or on our website at summerfieldws.org/circus.

We start Club classes the week we return from Winter Break, so be sure to register now!

All School Meeting

Summerfield's Governance Council warmly invites our entire parent community to an All-School Meeting on **Thursday, February 8, from 7-8:30pm**, in Sophia Hall (*rescheduled from October 12 because of the fires*).

This All-School Parent Meeting will begin promptly at 7pm, and will give an overview of the school structure and a chance to put faces to names of faculty, staff, Board, College and Governance Council.

There will be refreshments and time for socializing. We hope to see you there!

DEVELOPMENT CORNER

Fire Relief SUPPORT FROM SURROUNDING WALDORF SCHOOLS

As we recover from the Northern California fires, we would like to thank those outside our Summerfield community who wholeheartedly showed up to support us, offering gifts in so many ways. Thank you to the many surrounding Waldorf schools: Sebastopol Charter, Marin Waldorf, SF Waldorf, East Bay Waldorf, Waldorf School of the Peninsula, Westside Waldorf, and more. They lifted our spirits and inspired us with messages, clothing donations, handmade cards and donations of gift cards for families in need and money towards Emergency Tuition Assistance. Parents from many schools showed up with carloads of donations personally delivered for our Donation Drive.



And just last week, we received a stack of beautiful handmade cards from fifth graders at one school, and then shortly after learned a sixth grade class at a different school held a fundraiser for our families in need. The children sold "Gratitude Grams," chocolate-covered graham crackers, which they made in their classroom, and packaged with hand-painted notes that said, "I am grateful to you because..." People bought the Grams for \$3, then completed the sentence and gave it to someone they were thankful for. This initiative raised \$739 for Summerfield's Fire Relief Fund!

All this kindness and generosity means so much and is just another example of how *The Love in the Air is Thicker Than the Smoke!*

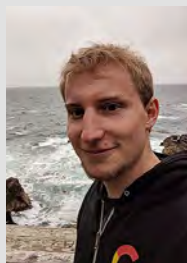
~ Cyndi Yoxall, Development Director

Alumni Profile

SAM ROSSIN, SWSF ALUMNUS, CLASS OF 2012 • SOFTWARE ENGINEER AT GOOGLE

Interview by Caryn Stone, Development Associate

After graduating from SWSF, Sam Rossin studied math and computer science at Oberlin College. He chose Oberlin College because of its great math and music programs.



Sam felt very prepared for Oberlin College after graduating from Summerfield. He says that the biggest benefit to him was the ability to think for himself. He noticed that his college friends would spend a lot of time reading textbooks and studying material, but not take class time very seriously. But Sam would go to class and be engaged. By the end of his junior year at Oberlin he was contacted by a recruiter from Google. Initially he was part of the Engineering Residency, a one-year program at Google where candidates receive two months of in-depth training and then do rotations on different teams. At the end of the one-year term, candidates can convert to a full-time position as long as it's a good fit. Sam liked his first rotation so much that he quit the program and converted early. Sam has now been working at Google for a year, and is currently working on an internal app called Google Express.



Sam enjoys working for Google as he likes his team members, the company culture, and the resources available that make work efficient. Sam also plays violin in an orchestra at Google! They meet once a week and perform three free concerts a year.

A graduate degree in Computer Science is possible in the future, but for now, Sam is happy at Google and enjoys his life in San Francisco.

THANK YOU

DINE & DONATE at Handline

Thanks to Chef/ Owners Lowell Sheldon and Natalie Goble of *Handline*, our Dine and Donate Night was a great success! We appreciate all who came out that night for dinner, where 30% of proceeds went to Summerfield's Fire Relief Fund. In just four short hours, *Handline* raised \$1,200 for our school!



And a special thank you to The College of Teachers, who showed support by holding their weekly meeting at *Handline* that night! It was nice to see so many families, some of whom had lost their own homes, gather and eat together for such an important cause.

~ Cyndi Yoxall,
Development Director

GRANDPARENTS' and SPECIAL FRIENDS' DAY

This year's Grandparents' Day was a warm and beautiful day! We welcomed grandparents and special friends from pre-school through high school and fully enjoyed every minute of it. The students and teachers shared their gifts of song, poetry, music, chemistry, eurythmy, art and more. The day ended with a wonderful Class Eight choral performance of *Amazing Grace*.

Thank you to lead volunteer, Charmaine Stainbrook, and our team of volunteers for helping us organize another beautiful day for our guests!

~ Cyndi Yoxall,
Development Director

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

Writing Opportunity

Sonoma County Wildfires Anthology – Call for Submissions

Each of us has a story to share. Tell yours here.

*two weeks since the fires
today I remember
to brush my hair*

*resilience—
a burnt magnolia
still blooms.*

Fire symbolizes danger and destruction, but also transformation and rebirth. How are these wildfires impacting your life? How have they come into your home, your relationships, or your community? Prospective submitters are asked to share their personal experiences through poetry or short story.

Local haiku poet, Jessica Malone Latham (mother in Rosebud class), along with community activist and environmental advocate Kristin Maharg Suarez are gathering various stories about the October 2017 Sonoma County wildfires as a way to process, heal, and come together.

This anthology aims to give all Sonoma County residents a forum to share their voice and create a breathing piece of history. **Youth of any age are highly encouraged to participate!** Though we are focusing on writing, photography and art will be considered as a way to incorporate imagery into the anthology.

For more details on how to submit, please visit www.jessicalatham.com and click on the link Wine Country Wildfires Anthology. We look forward to your submission!

Classes/Events/Workshops

The 8 Noble Qualities, a Yoga Workshop

Please join Paul Zehrer, Kristin Laak and Gillian Lerner (Summerfield parents) for an informative and nourishing experience. Two lectures on The 8 Noble Qualities, Asana, Pranayama, Meditation, and a delicious Ayurvedic meal. Jan 13th & 14th: Sat 8am-1pm, Sun 8am-11am, All welcome, by donation.

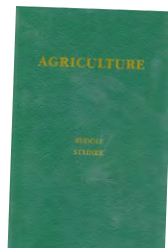
The Art of Handwork: Wednesday mornings in the Handwork Room

Our very own master handwork teacher, Lisa Wilde is offering a weekly handwork group from 8:30-10am for parents beginning Wednesday, Nov 1. Come and enjoy the magic our children experience as Ms. Wilde presents different handwork projects based on the interests of the participants, using a variety of materials and techniques; such as felting, plant dyeing and weaving. Classes are \$10. Drop-ins and all skill levels from beginner to expert are welcome. Participants may also bring their own handwork projects and get advice or just work with the group.



Biodynamic Study Group

The Farm Guild's annual Study Group is focusing this year on the Agriculture Course by Rudolf Steiner. Study sessions are under way and take place on Thursdays, from 9-10:15am in the Handwork Room, beginning on November 30 and going through January. Please email Dana at dana@summerfieldwaldorf.org if you are interested in attending.



Training

Center for Educational Renewal opened its program in 1990 on the beautiful, 40-acre campus of Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm, enjoying a setting that is integrated with nature and a vibrant Waldorf community! Director Don Basmajian brings his ever-growing love of teaching and the Waldorf curriculum to our teacher training students as deepen their understanding of Waldorf pedagogy, human development and Anthroposophy. An in-depth study of the arts and the curriculum serves as the foundation for our students' self-transformation. In addition to coursework, students complete annual classroom observations and student teaching. Graduates are prepared to become professional Waldorf teachers at the early childhood, lower school and high school levels.

New course begins June, 2018! ednew.org Four years, part-time, September - May, Wednesdays and Fridays, 3:30pm-6:30pm; Two-week Summer Intensive each June.

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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 learn more at marybeardmusicstudio.com. Contact me at marymezzo@sonic.net or 707-546-8782.

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**January 2-5
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**Registration Deadline: December 19
Grades 4 and up — \$250**

**To hold your space or for questions
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Presented by *Florian Osswald*

Wednesday, January 10, from 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Sebastopol Charter School
Assembly Room
200 S. Main Street, Sebastopol

Florian Osswald, who is a leader of the Pedagogical Section at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland, will be speaking on the best practices on parenting based on his work with Waldorf students and educators from around the world. Osswald will lead us through conversation focused on parenting styles, practices and impressions from real-life examples on how cultures throughout the world deal with the global phenomenon of parenting.

\$0 - \$10 Voluntary Donation
No RSVP Needed



Florian Osswald is a co-director of the Pedagogical Section at the Goetheanum, the international group responsible for the world-wide development of Waldorf education, in Switzerland. He works in various countries as a consultant to faculties and colleges of teachers as an international Waldorf educator. Formerly, he taught for 24 years in Waldorf schools abroad.

Messenger

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