

# Messenger

## Summerfield | WALDORF SCHOOL AND FARM

December 18, 2014

Volume 27, Issue 4

### Annual Giving: We Did It!

*By Cyndi Yoxall, Development Director*

We hit 100% participation by all classes, faculty, staff and board!

As we head towards the end of the year, I want to thank the group of dedicated class representatives, along with Annual Giving Campaign Chair, Suzi Redlich, who worked hard to ensure we raised critical funds for our general fund. To date we have raised \$242,000, and our goal is \$250,000.

Why do we have Annual Giving? Simply put, tuition does not cover the cost of a Summerfield education. The budget is a careful balancing act each year that requires extensive analysis and planning. A planned gap that remains between income and expenses allows us to keep tuition at a modest level, while allowing tax-deductible donations to cover the



PHOTO BY MIGUEL SALMERON

deficit as a community. Our Annual Giving goal is factored into our yearly budget. It's a sacrifice we all make to ensure we cover operating expenses and thrive. It takes all of us.

The campaign will continue throughout the school year—we expect to receive additional support from outside our parent body and will keep on working to raise as much as we can through donations and events.

#### Inside this Issue:

Fourth Grade Play	2
New Infant Class	3
Epiphany Bonfire	3
Farm Greetings	4
Founders' Dinner	5
Marketplace	7

#### Important Dates:

**Shepherds Play**  
Friday, Dec 19, 6pm

**Annual Alumni Event**  
Friday, Dec 26

**NOW SCHEDULING: HS Shadow Visits**  
appointments available now-mid Jan  
contact: [amelia@summerfieldwaldorf.org](mailto:amelia@summerfieldwaldorf.org)

### MONEY MATTERS: 2014-2015 Financial Assistance Process Starts Now!

Financial assistance applications for entering ninth graders must be completed by **January 30, 2015**.  
Financial assistance applications for all other grades must be completed by **February 11, 2015**.

TO APPLY, go to our website [www.summerfieldwaldorf.org](http://www.summerfieldwaldorf.org), click on Tuition and Financial Assistance under Quicklinks and follow the instructions.

You must complete the FACTS online application by clicking the link on the instructions to the Summerfield application. You may begin completing the FACTS Tuition Aid application process now, but we ask that you not finalize the FACTS portion until you receive your 2014 W-2's. All supporting documentation (Tax returns, W-2's, etc.) are to be sent directly to FACTS Tuition Aid.

*Summerfield financial assistance grants are confidential agreements between you and the school and we ask that you not share this agreement with others.*

# Recipe for a Class Play

By Annemarie Goslow,  
Fourth Grade Teacher

## Ingredients:

1 Class of Fourth Graders, finely sliced into 26 child-sized pieces

1 Kalevala story, chopped and mixed to desired texture—with no less than Three Heroes, one thoughtful Maiden and one cunning Crone, enough to fill one stage for about half an hour

3 teaspoons of Singing

1 large Dance

4-6 Musicians

## Dressing:

2-5 Tireless Parent Helpers

2 cups Ingenuity

4 bins Costumes, Leftovers from previous plays and Fort Ross trips

## Directions:

1. In Medium Classroom, combine children, story and enthusiasm, stirring for two weeks, until all children have been well-blended with each character. Fold in listening and encouragement and taste often, allowing ingredients to enliven flavor freely.
2. In separate bowl, practice song and dance. Combine musicians in measuring cup, and pour into music-dance mixture, stirring constantly. Sprinkle patience liberally.
3. Gradually whisk the music-dance mixture into the story mixture. Add more patience as necessary, one pinch at a time, to reach performance-ready consistency.
4. Marinate play mixture for one week. Look for bubbles of chaos to know when fully marinated.
5. Lightly oil one Eurythmy Barn and warm over medium heat. Sauté play for three days, increasing heat gradually, yet taking care not to scorch any children.
6. Toss with dressing and your favorite props, and serve immediately.
7. Sit back and marvel at the alchemy, noting how the finished play allows each individual flavor to shine, and brings the class together in new ways. Enjoy!



CHALKBOARD DRAWING BY  
ANNEMARIE GOSLOW

## Flavorings:

3 cups Listening

4 cups Encouragement

1 heaping Tablespoon of Enthusiasm

5-10 generous Pinches of Patience, to taste

## 'Twas The Night Before Christmas

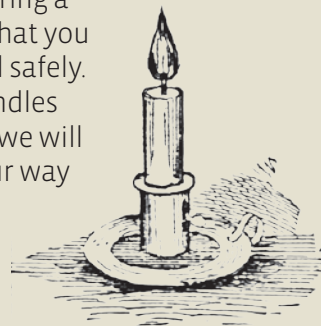
by Don and Sieglinde Basmajian

As the “Mid-night Hour” of the year approaches, inwardly we long to be touched by the Spirit Light of the world. It came to pass in those days that the animals made a warm, humble space for the Spirit-Child’s birth. On Christmas Eve, December 24, we will gather together on the school Farm at 5pm and sing to the animals that opened their hearts to heaven’s child.

Please bring a candle that you can hold safely.

With candles in hand we will make our way into the Horse Shed next

to the Red Barn and sing Christmas carols, songs from other traditions and hear a story. A potluck dinner will follow in the Farm Kitchen. Please bring your own plates and utensils to minimize clean-up.



The Horse Shed is small so space is limited. If it rains we will meet in the Farm Kitchen. In order to hold the mood we ask that you keep your children close to you at all times. They should not run about in the darkness or play with flashlights. The potluck should end no later than 6:30pm so young children can be home in time for bed and visions of sugar plums can dance in their heads.

Peace on earth to all people of good will!

## FAREWELL, MAT *By Ronni Sands, Lunch Program Supervisor*

We say goodbye to Mathew Petersen, our high school lunch chef for the past 3.5 years. Mat has served us well in developing a consistent lunch program for the school. We wish him well in his new endeavors as a chef at a local winery.

We welcome Carrie Osborn, who has experience both as a school chef and as manager and chef in professional catering endeavors. Tom Van Gorden will continue as snack chef and lunch support, and Carrie will be our new lunch chef beginning January 5, 2015.

Thank you for supporting our high school snack/lunch program!

## NEW OFFERING FOR NEWBORNS AND PREGNANT FAMILIES

# A World Filled With Love

By Donna Stusser, Roots and Shoots Teacher

*Lullaby and goodnight, may your dreams be of roses  
May your angels gather round, whispering heavenly sweet sounds  
Day will break, may you wake, to a world filled with roses  
Day will break, may you wake, to a world filled with love.*

Each year at Winter Faire, Summerfield's own Early Childhood teachers have the opportunity to form a chorus and whisper heavenly sweet sounds to our guests ranging in age from babes-in-arms to grandfathers who return every year with or without their grandchildren to our annual Marionette Show.

As we are singing the lullaby, our wish is for every child to be surrounded by "a world filled with love."

We are fortunate here in this very special place at Summerfield Waldorf School to be able to remind one another of the importance of this mood and gesture, as the world around us can sometime crush our efforts and spirit. We are tasked with remaining calm and light especially around our children. We truly need these reminders and opportunities to share our trials and frustrations with one another, as well as celebrate our joys.



We have a very special offering this coming year in the Roots and Shoots Program: We are combining the Pregnancy Class and the Newborn Infant Class. That's right... your child may begin their Waldorf journey in utero, plus you get to be in a Waldorf class designed for adults *and* children.



We meet monthly in the smallest, coziest, rosiest room on campus. Well, maybe not the rosiest, as all of our classrooms are very rosy! But we do have the only day-bed on campus just in case you need a nap yourself. And after singing lullabies, we may all take a rest.

I have been offering parent-infant classes since returning after the birth of my now 11th grader. Parents gain valuable insights from the teachings of Dr. Rudolf Steiner, Dr. Emmi Pikler from The Pikler Institute in

Hungary, and Magda Gerber, infant specialist who started the R.I.E. Foundation in Santa Monica, as well as all the latest research in early childhood development.

This class guarantees you will feel more relaxed when you leave than when you came. It's the next best thing to a spa day! You will feel closer to your baby, more ready to receive your newborn and make some new friends.

Please spread the word to your expectant friends and family ... and consider giving this class as a Baby Shower present!

Class dates are Mondays from 1-2:30pm: January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, and May 18. Please check our website for more details, and call Miss Donna at 575-7194 at ext. 129 to confirm your interest. To register, call Sallie Miller at ext. 102.

## Epiphany Bonfire

Monday, 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!** A sign-up sheet link will be distributed via the *mini* before Jan 2, or simply contact Andrea Trinei, [andrea@summerfieldwaldorf.org](mailto:andrea@summerfieldwaldorf.org).

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

## APPLICATION DATES DRAWING NEAR...

High School applications  
due Jan 15

Preschool & Kindergarten  
applications due Jan 30

Please contact Admissions  
Director Sallie  
Miller, at  
[sallie@](mailto:sallie@summerfieldwaldorf.org)

[summerfieldwaldorf.org](http://summerfieldwaldorf.org)

or 575-7194  
ext.102 with  
any questions.





# Season's Greetings From Summerfield Farm

By Farmer Dan

It was a dark and stormy night... well, actually it *is* a dark and stormy night and it is so refreshingly lovely to be out walking under a large umbrella smelling and soaking up the prayed- and longed-for rain. Rain has such a curious way of lubricating and enlivening the senses that it is hard to sit inside and listen to it and not be outside in it as it soothes one's being and prepares the way for peaceful sleep. It has been a couple of years now since the colorful Christmas lights were able to reflect in pre-holiday rainwater washing clean the neighborhood streets. While walking it's easy for the mind to wander over the gardens, farm fields and wild spaces in between and to inwardly celebrate how the land must be ecstatic as it drinks ever so deeply of this gift from the heavens. Even my tiny puppy, soaked to the skin, seems to savor the sweet and cool deluge as it comes down over us in waves in our night wandering.

All week the skies have been heavy and ominous over to the west of the Summerfield farm, with dark clouds coming in from the ocean, while the students have been busy readying the farm for the storm. Most all of

a late crop of beans came in to be shelled, dried, and bagged up for holiday sales, both "Tiger's Eyes" and "Hutterites", by the younger students while other classmates did a third and final raking of the leaf-strewn farmyard. Broom corn also came in to be cleaned and prepared for fifth grade broom makers and, this morning, the wee little Rosebuds were amazed to find a tiny forest of bean sprouts under the picnic tables and broom corn beginning to sprout in the cracks of the old, well worn tables. As we sat at the tables and shared tea and roasted seeds together, a weekly ritual, the tiniest chickadees once again came visiting, perching inches from the good-willed small children who were as delighted as the little birds seem to be when so close to the children.

All the rows of sunflowers and zinnias that steadfastly lasted all the way until Grandparent's Day for a few final bouquets, finally succumbed to recent rains, so the diligent third graders pulled everything out to lay down a layer of compost and a blanket of straw on the long beds. Now the land will rest and prepare for spring, inwardly building up new life

forces for a vibrant, pre-Farm-to-Feast planting. Farmer Dana has worked hard and quickly to run all the freshly shoveled sheep and cow manure through the spreader into long, fragrant, steaming rows of compost, and the



third graders struggled through the deep mud to bring goodies from the student gardens out to the piles to be included in the compost row too. They layered them and then returned again and again with their muddy carts, one student with shoes and socks in hand instead of on his feet, to finish the job in the gardens... "Nothing like fresh mud and manure between the toes," he observed.

Meanwhile, out in the soggy pasture, robust sixth graders showed me their mettle as they continued to split the huge, ancient oak rounds from a tree felled two years ago that had stood for a couple hundred years in the center of the pasture. This wood warmed the bodies and hearts of visitors at our wonderful recent Winter Faire! At first what seemed utterly impossible, then with a carefully selected set of old axe heads and wedges, strategically placed, along with many, many focused blows, became wonderfully possible, and soon competing groups of students began piling cleanly-split chunks of oak to boast to each other and celebrate their amazing prowess and newly realized and exercised strength. A few blisters later, and a couple of slices of warm pizza that a classmate deliciously made in the farm kitchen while the others chopped away, and the whole group seemed more ready and perhaps also more willing and able to sit still



at a desk for the afternoon and take in a few more lessons.

There is much to be said for biodynamics and children actually still doing physical work on farms. Interesting to note that biodynamic practices not only cultivate and nurture the deeper spiritual wisdom and holistic practices that underlie and sustain the wider food movement, but also that biodynamics incubates many of the ideas and practices that later become the norm... the Biodynamic Association notes the following: "Think of the way that community-supported agriculture was first developed and nurtured within the biodynamic movement and how pervasive it is today. That is a beautiful example of incubating the future. The same could be said of recent trends in farm-to-table restaurants, lacto-fermented vegetables and farm-based education of children. These were all incubated in the deep, pioneering soul of the biodynamic community."

Steiner realized early on that logic would get a person from A to B, but that imagination could get you everywhere. In the being of childhood, the eternal is subtly reflected as imagination blossoms when the kindergardeners visit the farm, day after day, week after week, like flowers interweaving their fragrances as their little personalities intermingle and produce the smell of a promising future. Sometimes, curiously, Waldorf teaching in its creative and artistic way seems to trump conventional mainstream materialistic thinking as it forms a foundation for a life based on the following choices observed by Albert Einstein: "There are basically two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."

Now it is time to close, in this wet late hour, with the Holiday season upon our special community. The Summerfield farm teachers and staff hope everyone finds not only many moments of comfort and joy, but also hearts that are touched with all that is calm and all that is bright. Waldorf is, above all, a Spirit-based education, and may the fruits of that Spirit grace your families throughout this holiday season with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.

Warmly, Farmer Dan

## CALLING ALL ALUMNI! *from Class of 2010 or older (21+ years of age)!*

We look forward to hosting another *fun* event at our **40th Anniversary** (6th Annual) **Alumni Bash on December 26 in Sophia Hall**. This holiday afternoon event offers music, food, beverages, and a chance to share stories and memories for our alumni, faculty and staff. This year we have also invited parents of alumni to celebrate 40 years!

We expect 150-200 guests and our hope is to stay connected with past, current and future families, celebrating community, growth, and our common support and care for Summerfield. With help from board members and volunteers, we will throw a celebration to remember. We will also have a professional photographer here to help capture the evening. Interested in helping? Contact [cyndi@summerfieldwaldorf.org](mailto:cyndi@summerfieldwaldorf.org).



## Summerfield Founders' Gathering



*By Cyndi Yoxall, Development Director*

To celebrate 40 years, a group of eight founders, who started the school in 1974, gathered for a dinner to reconnect and share their stories.

Hosted by the Development Office and board members, the group enjoyed a Summerfield farm-sourced meal with wine by our family vintners, and talked about the school's conception, the early years, their memories of Summerfield preschool and kindergarten, which started in church rooms, finding a home on Willowside Road, and all the obstacles along the way.

The deep connection they share with each other, their children who were like siblings, the school and a passion for Waldorf education are inspiring. The group started their meal by holding hands, singing a song from kindergarten years and reciting a blessing in unison.

They hope to meet again this year and attend Farm to Feast to celebrate with our community.

We felt blessed to share this special evening with those who paved the way for all of us.





## Boys & Girls See Their First-Ever Circus

By Vicki Ghaoui

Imagine seeing a circus for the first time! The jumps, twirls and trapeze skills were all so perfectly demonstrated with ease and a smile by our very own Circus Waldissiima performers.

Children from our lower school and high school came together in November and performed before an excited group of children from one of the local Boy's and Girl's Clubs in Santa Rosa. With percussion beats hitting every landing of the performer and the feel of the big top in a smaller atmosphere; what a joy and pleasure it was for our talented circus troupe to give an outstanding performance that left the audience feeling entertained and thankful. Our circus family brought laughs and excitement to the faces and hearts of many children who have merely dreamed of such a thrill. As I watched the audience during the show I could hear, "Wow, how did they do that" and "That's so amazing!"

Our amazing Circus Waldissiima performers should be very proud of their performance and look forward to the next opportunity to bring joy and laughter to those children who may not otherwise have a chance to experience the circus. Circus Waldissiima plans to do many more performances, like this one, throughout the Bay Area. How fortunate we are to have Sieglinde Basmajian as our circus director and the circus family here at Summerfield.



PHOTO BY MIGUEL SALMERON

## Grandparents and Special Friends' Day

By Cyndi Yoxall, Development Director

Thank you to the many volunteers, faculty and staff who helped us create another lovely Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day!

Our guests visited classrooms and enjoyed performances from second through twelfth grade. Students gave them a glimpse into the curriculum by performing songs, eurhythm, poems, skits, dances, games, scenes from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, high school technology presentations and hurdle demonstrations.

A panel of high school students (along with alumna, Dawn Barlow) also participated in a Q&A for our guests, answering questions about their SWSF experience and future plans.

The richness and passion of Summerfield's curriculum was shared and celebrated by all. Farmer Dana and Farmer Dan's tour, guided by Sallie Miller, gave an added touch to the day.

And a special thank you to long-time parent event coordinator, Charmaine Stainbrook, who worked with the Development Office to make the day a success for our guests.



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**FOR MORE INFORMATION & DATES OF UPCOMING EVENTS,  
SEE [WWW.ZMANIM-SEASONS.ORG](http://WWW.ZMANIM-SEASONS.ORG)**

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# 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

## Classes/Camps



### Classes at Circle of Hands

**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.circleofhandswaldorfshop.com](http://www.circleofhandswaldorfshop.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](http://marybeardmusicstudio.com). Contact me at [marymezzo@sonic.net](mailto: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, in the Yellow Rose Kindergarten classroom. Sliding scale donation. All ages welcome. RSVP [yeayunn@me.com](mailto:yeayunn@me.com).

## Community Enrichment/Events

### Abacus Wealth Partners Grand Opening

You are invited to attend the grand opening of Abacus' new office at 101 S. Main Street, Sebastopol, featuring NY Times "Your Money" personal finance columnist, Ron Lieber. Ron will talk about his new book, *The Opposite of Spoiled: Raising Kids Who Are Grounded, Generous, and Smart About Money*. Tuesday, Feb 10, from 4pm to 9pm. Talk at 5pm. RSVP 829-6190.

## Services

### Now Accepting New Clients in Sebastopol

Allie A. McCann, MFT, ATR-BC, Phone: (707) 219-8484, email: [mccannmft@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## For Sale/Rent/Needed

### Come to Attico!

Attico consignment store in Sebastopol has gift items for friends and family. One of a kind gifts at great prices. Come see what we have. We have a 30-40% sale now on most art work.

### 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.



## FAMILY PRACTICE ACUPUNCTURE

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### Housing Needed

Oregon family of 3 seeks housing for *one month only*—March 2015 so wife/mama can do teacher training practicum at Summerfield. they're open to alternative housing. 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!

### House for Sale

Custom built home, 2 mi. from SWSF. Built with low maintenance & sustainability in mind, 2712 sq ft, finished in 2014. 3 bdrms/3 baths, + full office, 3 car detached garage. Scroll through to learn more: [www.houzz.com/projects/567023/sustainable-new-home-project](http://www.houzz.com/projects/567023/sustainable-new-home-project) FSBO \$1,250,000. Frank 707-481-1397 or [frankt2003@sonic.net](mailto:frankt2003@sonic.net).





Visit us online at  
[www.summerfieldwaldorf.org](http://www.summerfieldwaldorf.org)



## Roots & Shoots

Parent and Child Classes  
at Summerfield Waldorf School & Farm

### OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR R&S and NEW OFFERING! A MONTHLY NEWBORN CLASS STARTING UP IN SPRING

Roots and Shoots has been a longstanding (20-year) tradition here at Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm. Parents and children, aged 0 - 36 months come together weekly in the school's beautiful Waldorf early childhood setting. Opportunities abound to discuss child development in-depth and make new connections. Each class is led by Summerfield's experienced Waldorf Early Childhood faculty member, Donna Stusser.

\*Just added for spring - A monthly Newborn Class, for pregnant moms and newborns (on up to 7 months old). \$175.00 / for 5 classes

To learn more: Visit Summerfield's website at [www.summerfieldws.org](http://www.summerfieldws.org)  
or contact the R&S lead teacher, Donna Stusser at 575-7194 ext. 129.  
To sign up: Contact the Admissions Office at 575-7194 ext. 102.