

Messenger

Summerfield | WALDORF SCHOOL AND FARM

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Volume 26, Issue 4

Ashley Ramsden and the Art of Storytelling

*Interview by Adam MacKinnon,
Editor*

The Messenger caught up with Ashley Ramsden after his performances of Tistou of the Green Thumbs for students and parents in November at Summerfield. Tistou tells the story of a young boy who finds he cannot pay attention at school, and so his parents decide to give him an education in life, starting in the garden. Ashley, father of our Farm Assistant Teacher, Kaelyn, is the founder of the International School of Storytelling based at Emerson College, England. He tours the world giving workshops and one-man performances, and espousing the art and healing power of story.



Messenger: Why is storytelling so compelling?

Ashley: We're wired for story. Science shows that stories make the pathways in our brain and that, since the earliest times around the campfire, stories are what make us who we are.

Moreover, it's a necessity to speak our stories. It's the best medium, and that's how the patterning of our brain matter really happens.

When we enter into a story, we find the self in ourselves. We meet it with our own life experiences, as a single story means different things to each listener.

Messenger: How do you choose your stories?

Ashley: They must speak to something inside me, something that touches my life themes, as well as universal themes. For example, with *Tistou*, I started as a gardener (Kaelyn did too!). The theme of death and dying fascinates me also. There's a quote from Rumi that I love: "My soul is from elsewhere." I'm intrigued by how ephemeral our existence is. So, I've always looked for stories that are transformational, and for a profession that spans the spiritual and physical worlds: in many ways, the storyteller is a midwife between both worlds.

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Important Dates:

**Shepherds Play and
Community Potluck**

Friday, Dec 20, 6pm, Sophia Hall

**The Fifth Annual Alumni
Event**

Thursday, Dec 26, 3pm-6pm

Epiphany Bonfire

Monday, Jan 6, 5:30pm-7pm



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Jaki's Crossing ...

By Saskia Pothof, Fourth Grade teacher

On Tuesday, November 26, Jaki McAuliffe, our handwork teacher of many years, peacefully crossed the threshold. In the past two years, as Jaki opened herself up to healing, and especially in the last few months when Jaki prepared herself for the journey across with such grace and poise, she inspired us and taught us, her family, friends, and colleagues, invaluable lessons about life and death.

Jaki grew up in the Netherlands, and worked as a teacher in special education. After she moved to California, and while raising her two boys Keegan and Rye with her husband Mark, she continued her studies and pursued her interests in education and the arts. Jaki studied Waldorf education with the Center for Educational Renewal, and Nurturing Arts with Mary Bowen. At first as a handwork assistant, and later as handwork teacher and art teacher at Summerfield, Jaki has inspired many students with her deep love for and understanding of fiber arts. Her sense of color, beauty, her gentle presence in the classroom combined with a healthy dose of Dutch common sense, wove threads of connection with the students and made it possible to transfer her love for fiber arts to them.

Her gift to us, her family, colleagues and friends, has been that she allowed us to truly witness that this process of dying is no ending, but a mere transformation—a butterfly unfolding its wings, leaving behind the cocoon, but poised to take flight. Bon voyage, dear Jaki.



A Sense of Place

By Laurie Hartsook, Fifth Grade teacher

By Fifth Grade, our students have gained a strong sense of place. After having studied local geography in Fourth Grade, the fifth graders are now eagerly learning about our country and continent.

On Grandparents' Day, their enthusiasm was contagious. Donned in red, white and blue, the children proudly held up their handmade state pieces while singing about them.



After their performance they returned to the classroom, relieved and rosy-cheeked, and set to work putting the individual states into one whole. This social exercise clearly showed how important it is to work together, and how strong we are when we are united.

Thank you Grandparents and Friends for giving us this opportunity to shine.

2014-2015 Financial Assistance Process Starts Now! The process must be completed by FEBRUARY 11, 2014

TO APPLY, go to our website www.summerfieldwaldorf.org, click on *Tuition* and *Financial Assistance* under *Quicklinks* and follow the instructions. You must print the Summerfield application and return the completed form to the Finance Office—make a copy for your records.

You must also 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 2013 W-2's.

ALL supporting documentation (Tax returns, W-2s, 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.

A Christmas Perspective

"She isn't a real queen at all," answered Lucy, "She's a horrible witch, the white witch. Everyone – all the wood people – hate her. She has made an enchantment over the whole country so that it's always winter here and never Christmas."

—The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

By Don Basmajian, First Grade Teacher

Perhaps the word Christmas may disturb or offend you. It can conjure up thoughts of churches filled with a lust for power and dominance over people, corruption, abusive behavior and dogma. We sometimes choose a euphemism instead, a more politically correct term.

A cold winter wind blows through our modern technological world giving us the illusion of being connected but inwardly hardening our hearts and separating us from others and ourselves. How many times a day do we say and hear the word "cool" as an expression of positivity. The White Witch has spread a layer of snow over our culture, and it is the lion who can give us the courage to warm our thoughts to melt this ice age that is upon us.

Rudolf Steiner tells us to let go of our fixed ideas of Christ and to form an image of Him as the Being of Love who gives us the power of imagination to melt the intellectual "ice" of the world. Cold, hardened thoughts stand in the way of our being open to imaginations that bring life and meaning. Concepts are becoming more rigid, lifeless and fixed, and children in many schools are trained not to think but to "find the right answer."

The Being of Love works through all religions. He was in the burning bush. He spoke to Moses and said, "I am the one who gives human beings the power to say I am." He was the Sun Spirit of the ancients, from the Persians' Ahura Mazda to the Great Spirit of Native Americans. Love is inclusive and does not belong exclusively to one culture or religion. Love unites.

We have chosen to educate our children in a Waldorf school, a school where it is Christmas every day! Every lesson is filled with gifts from under the Tree

of Knowledge. From the letters of the alphabet that are introduced with pictures out of the spiritual wisdom of the Fairy Tales, to the Chemistry lesson in which students learn how to observe phenomena and, after a night of sleep, are ready to form their own thoughts and concepts about a given experiment so that human hearts and minds are opened and the "winter of learning only the right information to pass the test" is over.

With the hustle and bustle of this holiday season, the anxiety of shopping for the right gifts, and the flashing colored electric lights that cover our houses and malls, it is important to kindle the inner light during this darkest time of the year.

In our Waldorf School, we strive to enliven this Winter Festival. One of the many images of the Advent Garden is a picture of the green snake, and the children walk into his darkness in order to take up the apple, a symbol of our Fall from Paradise, and spread the light of the spirit so that we and the snake may become whole again. The story of Hanukkah is told in Third Grade, and the candles of the Menorah are lit during the festival of lights. In this class the children are also nurtured and prepared for the "9-Year Change" by the stories of the Old Testament that tell of the Israelites' 40-year search in the wilderness for a home in which the "I Am" might dwell.

In the Lower School, St. Nicholas visits the classes and reads the deeds of the children from his Golden Book. It is a moment for each child to stand before her higher being and listen to its guidance. The Shepherds Play is performed by teachers, staff, and high-school students who attempt to create a space in which Sophia Hall becomes the stable, so that Spirit Child of Love might be born in the hearts of our community. Every Christmas Eve, a small group gathers together on the Farm to sing to the animals that sacrificed their stable for the birth of the Child. And, as adults, we could prepare for the Holy Nights, from Christmas Eve to Epiphany, by creating a sacred space before sleep so that we can receive the wisdom of our higher self during the night. This is a path from the birth of a physical child at Christmas, through the Mid-Night Hour of the year on January 1, to the spiritual birth of Love on January 6.

So, in the Waldorf School, every day is Christmas! Every day we strive to overcome the fixed concepts we have about the world, others and ourselves. Our school is not the paradise that Siddhartha experienced during his youth before he achieved Buddhahood. It is a community that is committed to respecting our differences so that we might better understand each other. If we actively try to listen as much as we speak, we just might find that everyone's light shines a little brighter.

Peace on Earth to All People of Good Will!

[This is a reprint of an article which first appeared in The Messenger, December, 2009]

TRANSPARENCIES BY ANDREAS GEIGER, FROM HIS PRODUCTION OF SELMA LAGERLOF'S THE HOLY NIGHT



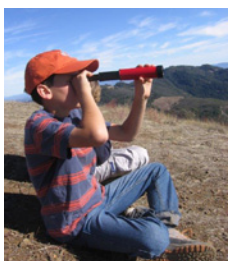
The Fourth Grade Climb Bald Mountain

By Saskia Pothof, Fourth Grade teacher & Jen Houser, Fourth Grade Parent

The Fourth Grade year is the time to study the world around us from a different perspective, now that the children feel themselves more separate from their surroundings. Our study of geography started very close to home: the physical body and the relationship to the space around it. After we explored the four directions, the students were introduced to the bird's eye perspective. The children created maps of the classroom, the campus, and the road from home to school. At the end of this first geography block, we hiked up to the top of Bald Mountain and found ourselves at eye level with soaring birds, and the County stretched itself below us. Back at school we painted a map of Sonoma County. The children also built a picture in words, describing the experience of the hike as visually as possible. Jen Houser, a Fourth Grade parent who accompanied us, described the experience for us in her own words.

I was giddy with anticipation at being able to chaperone the Fourth Grade on their trip up Bald Mountain. For a mid-November day, the weather was a dream: beautiful, clear, and crisp, with a gentle breeze and the faint scent of a New England fall in the air.

The car ride was full of chatter of hiking and camping adventures from



their past and planned trips for the future. We arrived at Sugarloaf, found our hiking groups, and up



and away we went. The hike was not an easy one. There was little shade and a very direct route: up, up, up and then down, down, down. Nonetheless, the children were all eager with a bounce in their step as we began.

We stopped to look back down the mountain at our tiny cars in the parking lot, as well as the hills and valleys beyond. As we hiked on, the questions came: "How far have we gone?" "How much farther do we have to go?" "When will we be at the top?" Through their observation of geography as we plodded along, all the answers came. When we began the trip, we could only see tree and trails when we looked up. Finally we were able to look up and only see blue sky!

All arrived at the top a bit tired but with big smiles of accomplishment on their faces. It was a clear day, as had been Ms. Pothof's hope. We could see all of Sonoma County, Napa Valley, Point Reyes, and Bodega. Tiny San Francisco in the distance looked like a castle with a fog moat protecting it. The children all explored the panoramic signs at the top, recognizing the landmarks miles and miles away.

Down, down, down we went, discovering new muscles we didn't know we had, but encouraged by the prospect of a picnic lunch at the bottom. And, after lunch and a rigorous day of hiking, what did the kids do next? Play tag!

Epiphany Bonfire

Monday, January 6, 5:30-7pm
(Rain 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! Those who find the golden coin in their slice of cake become 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!** Please contact Dawn Ross with what you can bring, dross@cmprlaw.com, by Friday, Jan 3.

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

High School Applications: Due Thursday, Jan 16, 2014

Contact Admissions Director, Sallie Miller, at sallie@summerfieldwaldorf.org or 575-7194, ext.102 with any questions about the High School application and transition process.



Bully Nation

By America Worden, LS/HS Counselor

On Wednesday, December 11, Dr. Susan Porter, a lifelong educator and the author of *Bully Nation*, gave a parent education lecture in Sophia Hall. She brought a studied critique of the widespread adoption of no-tolerance anti-bullying policies over the last 15 years in the United States. She stressed that the goal of all teachers, administrators and lawmakers working with the issue of bullying is to keep children safe, but that the way we think about the issue is placing children in danger.

Children today are not different than children were a few generations ago. What has changed is our cultural attitude toward aggression. She cited the tragedy at Columbine as the beginning of the media's relentless association of extreme violence with bullying, creating a culture of intense fear and vigilance that makes it difficult to respond to conflict and aggression between children in a way that helps them develop resilience.

Dr. Porter demonstrated that the definition of bullying, which used to be reserved for intentional, coercive and cruel behavior has expanded to include childhood aggression that is developmentally normal, such as meanness, poor impulse control, and exclusivity. In describing normal developmental challenges of middle school children—impulsivity, self-consciousness, complex emotions, etc.—she noted the need to learn how to manage emotions and responses in difficult social situations, not to regard those experiences as dangerous.

Dr. Porter explored the language we use to describe bullying (e.g. bully, victim, bystander, ally) and how such labeling ignores the complexity of each unique interaction. As soon as one child is labeled bully and the other victim, there is only one story being told, and the players in it are pitted against each other in a fixed way that makes working for change and

growth difficult. If we lose the context surrounding an event, we lose our ability to be compassionate with each person involved.

Before she went on to solutions, Dr. Porter discussed how “Zero Tolerance” policies being widely adopted build on the current definition of bullying and the fixed mindset of labeling and set children up to fail. Children don't yet have the ability for making sophisticated social decisions in tense moments all of the time (a challenge for most adults!), and are bound to make mistakes. If the response to their mistakes is no tolerance, they will not learn how to process their feelings and make different choices next time. Instead, they will experience that they are bad or wrong or, in the case of victims, that they are powerless and damaged. Zero tolerance also makes truth-telling and advocating more difficult because children are worried they will be misunderstood or punished if they come forward.

For the second half of the lecture, Dr. Porter introduced her ideas about solutions that create resilience when dealing with childhood aggression. She used the acronym GRIT to explain that good solutions: have a Growth mindset; are Responsive but not reactive to the situation; involve appropriate Interventions; and are aimed at Teaching children.

A growth mindset allows the children (and adults) to change and learn, promoting compassion, patience and strength in the face of adversity.

Parents and teachers who can model and teach a response to what is happening rather than an emotionally-charged reaction help to bring the perspective, choices and thoughtfulness necessary for making good decisions. Dr. Porter stressed the importance of breathing, slowing down, describing rather than labeling, and focusing on the power each person

has to change the situation. When adults react from their “child brain” in emotionally-charged ways, it fosters alarm and learned helplessness in our

children, rather than encouraging their ability to grow through painful experiences.

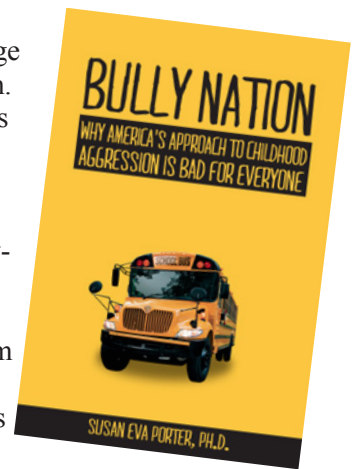
In her discussion of interventions, Dr. Porter focused on interventions that respond to the unique situation at hand rather than fixed policies that might miss the nuances of a particular event. She recommended interventions that direct all of the students involved into greater self-awareness and choice, while protecting them from harm.

Dr. Porter encouraged adults to stop teaching children that their peers are potentially dangerous and either good or bad, and instead help them to navigate the complexity of real life. She focused on the opportunity to teach children about resilience, how to seek support, and how to work with adversity (for example, to give ourselves and our children the space to experience strong feelings, then calm down and ask for help if needed, and choose a response that feels right).

Questions from the audience focused on responding to times when intense bullying is actually occurring (rather than developmentally normal aggression) and someone is getting hurt. She made it clear that firm action has to be taken to make sure each child is safe and can learn from the situation.

Dr. Porter commended the Waldorf philosophy for already being focused on teaching social skills and self-awareness along with academics. Here at Summerfield we work with childhood aggression first by teaching

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A Midnight Clear ...

CHRISTMAS MUSINGS FROM THE FARMYARD

By Farmer Dan

Now, after dark, the stars glitter in the icy sky above the student gardens snuggled under a fresh bed of straw laid down by bustling third graders, encouraged onward by the prospect of bellies full of warm apple cider. Deer prints in the hard frost this morning give clear evidence of deer standing on legs like reeds, drinking in the cold wind under the emerging moon while all the students were lying in their beds with visions of sugar plums dancing in their heads. Even the faucets in the farm kitchen sinks appear to be taking a little rest as, when they are turned on, nothing comes out.

Growing up in the Midwest, children loved snow days when the world took a little breather before the holi-daze and the quiet snow blanketed the farm fields and the small, rural towns. Today is such a day, as the School is quiet, no power, no lights, no peals of laughter or playground shenanigans. Teachers are home preparing for the final days and celebrations before school is out for the Holidays and a hush falls momentarily to ponder the deeper meaning of the days ahead with family and friends. We breathe out for a day and take time from our busy schedules to hold the sacred memory of our dear friend and colleague, Ms. McAuliffe, closer to our hearts. A Japanese poet, Basho, wrote: "The temple bell stops / but the sound keeps coming out of the flowers," as we realize that Jaki's light continues to shine out of her life on all of us she touched so deeply.

Meanwhile, back on the farm the kindergardeners walk around crunching on freshly dug carrots, sweetened by the chilly weather that raises the sugar content in the winter vegetables on Summerfield farm... not that our little ones could possibly get much sweeter. Hammers are at the ready to begin mining the nutmeats out of the gallons upon gallons of fresh walnuts gathered and dried from the farmyard walnut tree that the children have shaken down by the vigor of their swinging and climbing and further aided by sweeping winds a week ago... the same winds that sent oodles of golden oak and walnut leaves tumbling down. Now those same leaves lay in heaped up compost mounds out on the farm and along the duck pond fence, thanks to thorough raking by aggressive third and fifth graders.

After a bountiful harvest of deep red and saffron yellow broom corn fronds in late October, the lively and skillful fifth graders have begun crafting their hand-made brooms. The handles have been cut, the bark whittled off, a thorough sanding and oiling done, and now we are lashing two layers around the handles and preparing to weave a decorative double line of waxed cord across the upper face to flatten the broom out. This is an unusually skillful group of broom designers, so stay tuned for some exquisite results. The seventh graders, also, have finished their toolbox crafting and painting projects

and have them home in time for the holidays with uniquely refined and creative results. And, in between the crafting projects, time is

always taken weekly to thoroughly clean the chicken and duck houses as well as to scrub out the duck pond, and clean up under the angora rabbit hutch, and brush the bunny.

Everywhere, especially in the Lower School office of late as the holidays approach, there seems to be an abundance of sweet treats. To justify indulging, a student once wrote in a succinct little essay: "Chocolate comes from cocoa. Which comes out of a tree. That makes it a plant. Therefore, chocolate counts as a salad. The end." To which one might add that "stressed" is "desserts" spelled backwards. Over the holidays, swimming, walking, wood chopping, skiing, skating, and perhaps beachcombing seem like good exercise, or my mother's favorite one of all was "pushing away from the table."

Now it is dark and late and the heavens hold aloft a million candles as the cat slips out for his evening prow. An eleven-year-old



Syrian child wrote a holiday prayer that states simply: “Lord, make this lovely world to last as long as possible”... and it is lovely, as Summerfield Farm attests even at this chilly, frozen time of year. In closing, Shel Silverstein writes on the wonderful possibility of skating over the holidays:

Come Skating

*They said come skating;
They said its nice.
They said come skating:
I'd done it twice.
They said come skating
It sounded nice....
I wore roller--
They meant ice.*



Happy holidays from Summerfield Farm.
Warmly, Farmer Dan

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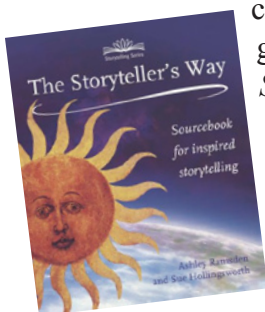
I choose stories that breathe... there must be lots of contrasts; moments of pure narration, as well as contraction and expansion. I have a background in spatial dynamics which I've found invaluable for storytelling. The language of space, gesture, and eurythmy are all integral to the craft, as is speech training and the power of sound... and, of course, the power of silence, too.

Messenger: Can you say a little more about silence? It was very striking how effectively you used it in the performance.

Ashley: Steiner said that talking is an anti-social activity. If it goes on too long, the listener goes to “sleep” (i.e. stops listening). With the right silence though, it gives space for the images to blossom. As you saw, I play with many types of silence, as well as musical interludes and interactions with the audience.

Messenger: Do you have advice for parents starting out with storytelling to their children?

Ashley: Begin with something small, for instance ‘The Story of the Day.’ Young children love to hear simple stories, and they can be very factual. For yourself, read lots of stories: make it a practice every day to read and see what you remember of a story. You’ll be surprised how much you can recall of a story’s skeleton. And, of course, see the good resources out there, including our new book, *The Storyteller’s Way*. The magic of storytelling is out there for all us, we just need to find it!



The Storyteller's Way: A Sourcebook for Inspired Storytelling by Ashley Ramsden & Sue Hollingsworth (2013)—available in the SWSF Office
Healing Stories for Challenging Behaviour by Susan Perrow (2008)

Acrobatics on a Unicycle!



PHOTO BY FLORIAN BASMAJIAN

At the Winter Faire, Circus Waldissima performed *The Night Before Christmas*. The last act was not only spectacular but it was also unusual by circus standards. Have you ever seen a unicyclist carry a flyer on his shoulders or head? Well, Wendy Allen and Nick Harden did just that!

Wendy (class of 2000) attended Summerfield Waldorf School & Farm from Kindergarten to 12th Grade, received a BA from UC Santa Cruz in Film and Digital Media, and returned to Summerfield to teach gymnastics in our circus. Wendy was a competitive gymnast as a child and, after two years with Circus Waldissima, she moved to Seattle in 2010 to do a formal circus training. There she met Nick who was an instructor. They put an act together and joined Zoppe, an Italian family circus, and toured the States in the fall. We were lucky to have their help putting the Christmas show together and their act was frosting on the cake. Wendy and Nick plan to marry in the near future.

Did you know that Wendy is the younger sister of Mr. Allen, our Second Grade teacher?!

Winter Faire Appreciations

We would like to extend a big heartfelt thank you to everyone who made Winter Faire a warm and magical event on such a frosty winter day! Little hands worked away happily in cozy crafting rooms, or rested on laps while listening to stories and puppet shows, and clapped with awe under the big top! Older students found purpose in leather working and silk dyeing, if they weren't busy selling their handmade wares or a homemade meal! Between shopping for crafty gifts and socializing with friends, adults were warmed by the bonfire or with soup and steaming drinks. One parent reflected, "As I sat enjoying the music, I realized how pretty and relaxed the day had been. It was, for me, a beautiful and creative pause in an otherwise hectic month."



PHOTO BY MIGUEL SALMERON

First and foremost, a special thank you to our wonderful and tireless Winter Faire team: Michelle Bovard, Julie Milcoff, Heather Friedlander, Stephanie Everage, Sandra Mitchell and Amanda Crutcher—we couldn't have done it without you and thoroughly enjoyed working with you all! Thank you to everyone who put in extra effort to make a craft or activity happen, especially our amazing Snowflake Shoppe Fairies, Holly Hollinger and Viviana Vigilante, and to all the staff & faculty who put in extra time and care, especially our dear ECE teachers for yet another extraordinary Puppet Show!

Thank you to the countless others who helped to make this beautiful day run smoothly; it really does take a village to make it happen! And last but certainly not least- thank you Mark Holtz for performing, yet again, the amazing feat of parking the masses so efficiently!

Most sincerely, Andrea Jolicoeur & Kosima Grundy

The Night Before Christmas

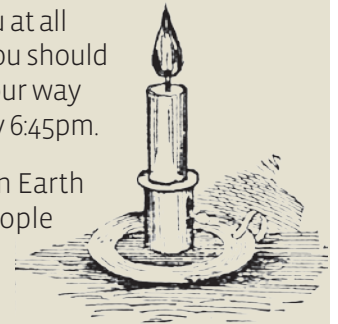
by Don and Sieglinde Basmajian

As we approach the darkest time of the year, the starry heavens remind us of our true home. The Spirit Child must be born anew! Our task during this Winter Festival is to open our hearts so that the Spirit Of Love may be born again in the "stable" of the human heart.

You are welcome to join us on Summerfield Waldorf School's Farm on December 24, next to the Red Barn at 5pm. Bring a candle to hold while we listen to a story and sing to the friendly beasts that gave their stable for the Spirit Child.

A potluck dinner will follow in the Farm Kitchen. Bring plates & utensils for your family and please keep your children with you at all times. You should be on your way home by 6:45pm.

Peace on Earth
to all people
of good
will.



From the Snowflake Shoppe

Big thanks to all the parents who donated materials and items... We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you to the parents who eagerly volunteered to knit, sew and felt for us or came up with their own projects and materials... many hands made light work.

We would also like to thank Heather Friedlander for her many contributions, Konstantin Gortinsky for firing our ceramics, Ronni Sands for the seeds, Jesse and Joanna Jacobs for the amazing tea from Samovar Tea Lounge, Angela Persinger for the Lavender Hydrosol and not to be forgotten, thank you to the lovely Summerfield High Schoolers (Jessie, Delek, Sophie, Sophia, Savannah, and honorary high-schooler Sydney!) who came over to be our "elves." They were excited to be there and greeted each of our dear children with love and patience.

Lastly, a big thank you to Andrea and Kosima for their overall dedicated guidance.

With gratitude and love, Holly, Lisa and Viviana (The Snow Flake Fairies)



Grandparents and Special Friends' Day

By Cyndi Yoxall,
Development Coordinator

We were blessed with a beautiful, clear and crisp Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day! *Thank you* to the many volunteers, faculty and staff who helped the Development Office create another lovely, warm event.

Our sweet guests visited classrooms and enjoyed performances in both English and Spanish from Class Two through 12th grade. Our students gave them a glimpse into the curriculum by performing songs, eurthymy, poems, marches, scenes from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, and the Gettysburg Address. A group of articulate Twelfth Grade students made guests laugh with a funny and charming skit on recycling, then cry with a moving talk about their community service in the school garden in the Roseland School District. Another panel of six 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 parent event coordinators, Charmaine Stainbrook and Kerry Yeary, who worked with the Development Office and put their hearts into making the day a success for our guests.



PHOTO BY MIGUEL SALMERÓN

CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

from Class of 2010 or older
(21+ years of age)!



We look forward to hosting another *fun* event at our **5th Annual Alumni Event on December 26th at 3pm in Sophia Hall**. This holiday afternoon event offers music, food, beverages, and a chance to share stories and memories for our alumni, faculty & staff. 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.

Alumni Update:

Ilan Zur (Class of 2013):

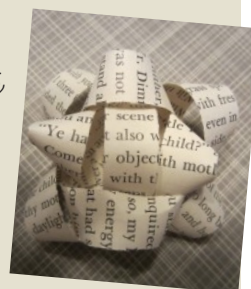
Recent Summerfield graduate Ilan Zur is studying Environmental Studies at UC Santa Cruz, and just made his first appearance for the College basketball team. Here he is standing tall and proud, with his name (and Summerfield's too!) up in lights on the scoreboard above.



GREEN TIP The Green Team's thoughts on the impact of Christmas.

DECEMBER GREEN TIP:

"Consider wrapping your gifts in re-usable fabric, baskets, bags or newspaper. Avoid using foil wrapping paper or tissue paper, since they are not yet recyclable. Look for recycled or recyclable wrapping paper. Better yet, give gifts that don't need wrapping. After the holidays, recycle any wrapping paper you can."



(Continued from Page Five)

in stories, movement, games and through role-modeling the importance of kindness and respect. Beginning in Sixth Grade, students have Values and Virtues or Life Skills class, where relevant social issues are taken up each year in developmentally sensitive ways. Seventh and Eighth Grade students are trained to work with younger students who need a buddy, and to help with playground disputes. When specific harmful incidents take place, teachers, counselors and the core groups respond on a case-by-case basis. We incorporate much of Kim John Payne's Social Inclusion approach, including Ready for Change meetings and No Blame meetings for fostering meaningful repair. This year, high school students are beginning to participate as listeners and mentors for these meetings, as well as bringing presentations to the lower school on issues they remember being important when they were younger. Our evolving model takes more time than No Tolerance protocols, but we have confidence that it inspires students to feel and think through their interactions, learning through experience to act in the world with resilience, creativity and tolerance.

FARM TO FEAST BUY-IN PARTIES

Thank you to all Farm to Feast Buy-In Party hosts – the private parties are fun community-building events that bring us closer together while raising money for Summerfield. We appreciate your donated time, materials, food & venues!

• **Ladies' Night Out Bunco** Host Charmaine Stainbrook

• **Guys' Night Out Poker Palooza** at GrowKitchen: Hosts Jeffrey Westman, Larry Richmond & Isaiah Neff



• **Al Fresco Dining Experience** at GrowKitchen: Hosts Jeffrey & Line Westman (and boys)

• **Introduction to Woodworking**—Build a Cold-frame: Hosts Farmer Dan & Wendy Mardigian

• **Knitting Workshop**: Host Skeydrit Baehr (*rescheduled for February 8*)



• **Digital Photography**: Host Miguel Salmeron

• **Nuno Felting Workshop**: Host Tracy Saucier

• **Jam Making on The Farm**: Host Sallie Miller (*scheduled for May*)

Would you like to host a buy-in party next year or volunteer to help? We are always interested in new ideas! Contact cyndi@summerfieldwaldorf.org.

HOLISTIC FAMILY DENTISTRY

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Parent of
Rachel 4th Grade & Samantha 8th Grade



Looking for the perfect gift... ?

The Sixth Grade is delighted to offer these gorgeous full-color birthday calendars for sale from the Office & Bazaar for \$15 each.

Sales benefit the Eighth Grade end-of-year fundraising efforts.





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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/Training/Camps

Waldorf Teacher Training at Summerfield!



Center for Educational Renewal is now accepting applications for a new 4-year, part-time course beginning in June 2014.

The Waldorf Teacher Training program was founded in 1990 to enable Sonoma County residents to prepare to become Waldorf school teachers or to deepen their understanding of Waldorf Education. This course has been designed to enable people who cannot leave the area to take part in a full-time course and to meet the growing need for Waldorf Teachers at Kindergarten, Elementary and High School levels. Each year of the course begins with a 2-week, six hour a day intensive in late June. It then continues from September to May, meeting Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:30-6:30pm at Summerfield. For more info and to apply, visit our website: www.edrenew.org or contact Don Basmajian at (707) 575-7194 Ext. 301. Enrollment is Limited to 30 students!

Upcoming Simplicity Parenting Support Group:

SWSF on Wednesdays 6:30-8:30pm, Jan. 22-April 9. Create spaciousness for connection, cooperation, creativity & community. Build transformative changes in 7 Sessions. Pre-registration required by Jan 8. More info: Sue Gimpel, 322-6933, www.FamilyHomeCoach.org.

Village Grandmas

Need loving guidance in parenting? From out of our long background in Waldorf & other educational experiences, we'd like to share with the community of young families such themes such as family rhythms, age-appropriate stories, activities, and technology. Crafts & singing; open Q & A time. We meet the 1st Wed. of each month, 10-11am, Circle of Hands classroom, 6780 McKinley St. #120, in the Barlow, Sebastopol. Suggested donation of \$5 p/person. Young children not yet in school are welcome to accompany you. 707-634-6140, www.circleofhandswaldorfshop.com—Marcia Larkin, Sandy Smith, Carolyn Coyman and Melissa Baker

Art Afternoons at Circle of Hands

Mixed Media Art Time with Melissa Baker, \$10/class. This activity is expressive and free-form, so you can choose from supplies provided or bring your own project materials—whatever makes your heart soar: beads, cloth, tissue paper, cardboard, watercolor, pastel, glitter & glam. Let's create something fun together! All ages welcome (parents must accompany young children) on the 1st Wed. of each month, 3:30-5pm, Circle of Hands, 6780 McKinley St. #120, in the Barlow, 634-6140.

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Personal Services

Massage Therapist

Thirty years after moving away from Hall Road, Don Klein has returned to Sonoma County. He is a seasoned massage therapist with 31 years of experience and extensive training within him. Living now in Graton and making home visits, he specializes in neuromuscular therapy and deep tissue techniques. Cranio-Sacral and myofascial release are also offered. Energy work and assisted stretching also on the menu. A session can be tailored to fit anyone's needs. Home visits at the introductory rate of \$80 are offered through December. Gift certificates are also available. Phone 301-693-3183 or email duckklein@gmail.com.

For Sale/Rent/Needed

Seeking Rental

Landscape / Naturalist / Writer couple (a former alumni parent) seeks peaceful, clean and sunny living space in the Santa Rosa area. Can pay about \$1,700. Open to offering caretaking, tutoring, pet loving or landscape gardening. Aiming to move March 2014, but open to a synergistic fit sooner. Catrina, 707.217.3611.

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.

Seeking Housing

Summerfield Teacher Cody Smout and family welcome a long term caretaking opportunity. Experience includes biodynamic agriculture, ecology, whole foods chef, flowforms, herbalism/natural healing, livestock, design/build and much more! We are also open to trade and For Sale By Owner opportunities. Please contact cody@summerfieldwaldorf.org. Thank you!

ADVERTISE IN THE MESSENGER! GO TO OUR WEBSITE, WWW.SUMMERFIELDWALDORF.ORG, FOR PRICES/SPECS, OR EMAIL, MESSENGER@SUMMERFIELDWALDORF.ORG.

TEXT ADS: MONTHLY, \$20; MINI, \$30; BOTH MINI AND MONTHLY, \$40. GRAPHIC ADS: MONTHLY, \$60; MINI ONLY, \$70; BOTH MINI AND MONTHLY, \$80.



Summerfield | WALDORF SCHOOL AND FARM

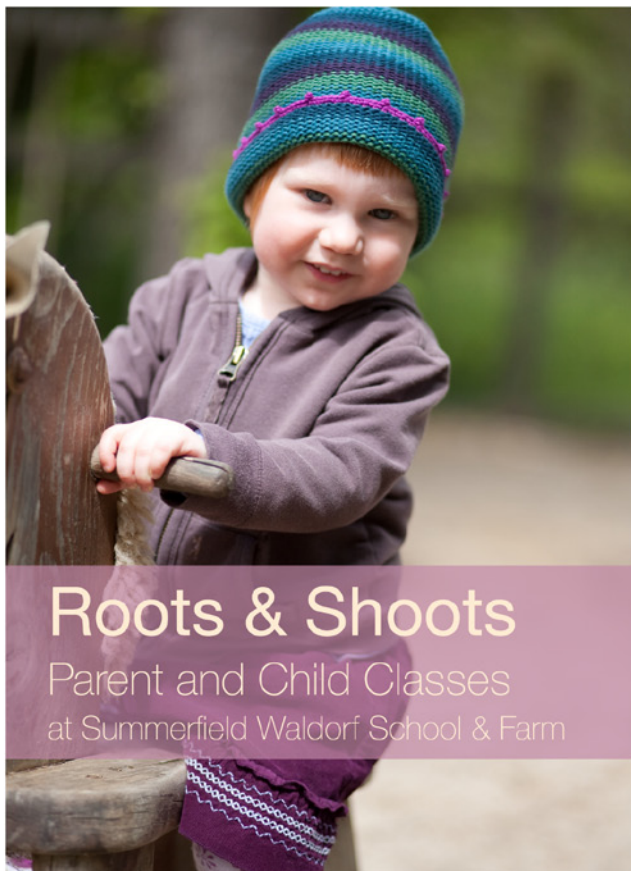
SAILS

the school store
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Roots & Shoots

Parent and Child Classes
at Summerfield Waldorf School & Farm

OPEN ENROLLMENT for the Spring Session Starts 12/9/13

Roots and Shoots has been a longstanding (19-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 classroom. Opportunities abound to learn songs and seasonal stories, discuss child development in-depth, and make new friends. Each class is led by Summerfield's experienced Waldorf Early Childhood faculty members.

To learn more, visit Summerfield's website at 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.