

# THE WALDORF WEEKLY

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE WALDORF SCHOOL OF PHILADELPHIA

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### August

- 20 Volunteer Work Day, 9 a.m.-1p.m.
- 26 Registration Forms Due
- 28 Volunteer Work Day, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

### September

- 7 First day of school, Grades
- 8 First day of school, 5-day Early Childhood Programs
- 12 First day of school, 3-day Early Childhood Programs
- 12 Boo Hoo Breakfast, Early Childhood and First Grade Parent Coffee Hour, 8:30 a.m.
- 13 Back to School Night, 6:30 p.m.
- 23 Welcome Picnic, 4-6 p.m.
- 28 Michaelmas (in-school festival)
- 29 Rosh Hashanah, NO SCHOOL

## Welcome New Families and Students

We warmly welcome the following new students and their families to The Waldorf School of Philadelphia community:

### *Early Childhood*

Hazel Briger, Snowdrop  
River Carangi, Snowdrop  
Lily Commons, Oak Tree  
Dot Connors, Snowdrop  
Phoebe Crowe, Lilac  
Analiese D'Aiello, Snowdrop  
Lark Harbeson, Sunflower  
Hendrix Johnson, Snowdrop  
Naima Johnson, Sunflower  
Farrah Johnstone, Lilac  
Rosie Klym, Lilac  
Mischa Kujawa, Sunflower  
Matthew Lee, Lilac  
Anais Melzer-Surkan, Snowdrop  
Carmiya Morris-Lincoln, Sun-

flower

Emilia Owen, Lilac  
Cade Stone, Lilac  
Hank Wagner, Snowdrop  
Layla Williams, Snowdrop  
Bailey Zihar, Snowdrop

### *Grade School*

Alexander Kelsh, 1st Grade  
Meg Matsukawa, 1st Grade  
Joshua Overton, 1st Grade  
Lucien Dalseth, 3rd Grade  
Dexter Giglio, 3rd Grade  
Hanna Matsukawa, 3rd Grade  
Kade Motley, 3rd Grade

## HOW DO YOU DO? MY NAME IS...

Beginnings can be tough, yet delightful. A new house, a new job, a new school can all cause a great deal of excitement (and a little anxiety) in a person, even if the change is welcome. Who hasn't wondered, "Did I make the right choice", after a life-changing decision? For families new to The Waldorf School of Philadelphia community there are likely to be a few butterflies in the stomach and some second-guessing. We want you to know that you are definitely not alone with these feelings. To help you meet other families and to become acclimated to our community, a couple of events have been planned to ease your transition.

On Tuesday, September 13th at 6:30 p.m., all families are invited to "Back to School Night". Please join us for an opportunity to meet new and returning families, key community members, staff and faculty as you learn a few pointers about navigating the first weeks at our school.

One of the things you will learn quickly is that Waldorf families love to party or picnic! Clear your calendars for the Parents Association's annual Welcome Back Picnic on Friday, **September 23rd, from 4-6 p.m.** Bring food to share and a picnic basket with beverages and serving ware for your family.

Lots of fun and friendship are promised!

## CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF WALDORF EDUCATION IN PHILADELPHIA

Back in September 1998 who would have guessed that a two year-old school with 40 kindergarten and first grade children would blossom into The Waldorf School of Philadelphia – a school with over 175 students in nursery through eighth grade?

WSP has come a long way since its birth as a play group organized by a small group of parents and a couple teachers who were looking for a different approach to education for their children. Today the school offers a full Waldorf curriculum based on the insights of Austrian philosopher and natural scientist, Rudolf Steiner, who founded the first Waldorf school in Stuttgart, Germany in 1919, and whose 150th birthday this year is being celebrated all over the world.

Waldorf Education was a radical concept in 1919, offering a human-centered education to both boys and girls who were the children of factory workers, not the elite classes in Germany. The curriculum was designed to lift up human beings who, it was hoped, would become future leaders of a better society. Academic subjects, as well as the arts, foreign languages, and movement education comprised the curriculum just as they do now, creating a Renaissance-like learning environment that emphasized creative and critical thinking,

analysis and problem-solving and practical skills.

With so many discussions going on about how children learn and what they should learn, Waldorf Education continues to offer a time-tested approach that is increasingly supported by research. Waldorf graduates go on to success in all fields—the sciences, the arts, academia, business, education and anywhere else non- Waldorf graduates succeed.

As the only Waldorf school in the city, The Waldorf School of Philadelphia is proud to carry on a 92-year-old legacy with a hip, smart, urban flair that supports the development of little ones into self-assured, competent and well-rounded young people who are ready for the world. We expect to keep doing what we do best for at least another fifteen years.



### More Events to Welcome You

Take advantage of all of the opportunities to become acquainted or re-acquainted with other families in the first few weeks of school. Social events are the order of the day, and important aspects of our school community. For parents of Early Childhood and first grade students, the Administration offers the “Boo Hoo” breakfast, a chance to meet and commiserate with others who are seeing their children off for the first time or for a new adventure. Meet at 8:30 a.m. outside the fenced playground at the back of the building for coffee, tea, home-baked goodies and conversation that will make dropping off your youngster a little easier.

Make room on your calendars for class potlucks and picnics that are often scheduled just before or after school opens. Check to see if your child’s teacher has included a letter in your registration packet that lets you know what to expect this term, including the dates of class meetings and get-togethers.

Grab a shovel or a pair of gloves and roll up your sleeves and join us on one of the Work Days later this month. Your child’s teacher can probably use a hand getting the classroom ready, and we can always use help tidying up the overgrown gardens. The first Work Day is scheduled for Saturday, August 20th from 9 a.m.–1 p.m., with a second one on Sunday, August 28th from 1–5 p.m. Drop by for an hour or stay the whole time. And don’t forget to bring a picnic lunch. Children are welcome to help out, too. See you there!

## Past, Present, Future

Over ninety parents and friends turned out for an early summer tour of the former St. Peter's Episcopal Church complex in Germantown, the proposed future site of The Waldorf School of Philadelphia.

In late spring the school's trustees entered an agreement of sale with the Episcopal Diocese for the property, which has been vacant for a number of years. Members of the St. Peter's Committee, comprised of board members, teachers, parents, and administrators, were on hand to lead guests on a "visioning tour" to help them imagine the school occupying the buildings at Wayne Avenue and Harvey Street. A presentation and social followed the tour at the former Pennsylvania Governor's Mansion a half block away on Walnut Lane. Guests had an opportunity to see architectural renderings developed by Waldorf parents Ilka and Jim Cassidy of C2 Architecture, and to ask questions. Most left the event excited about the possibilities that St. Peter's presents for housing our lively and vibrant school in the not-too-distant future.

The board is presently exploring the feasibility of completing the purchase of St. Peter's. Over the next few weeks the property will undergo a series of inspections while fundraising possibilities are explored and financing secured.

## Children and Parents Enjoy Ice Cream and Puppet Play on Big Field

Earlier in the day on June 25th, the same day as the St. Peter's tour, a group of about 100 parents and children enjoyed ice cream and a puppet play on the Big Field performed by Saturday Parent-Toddler Program Lead Teacher, Gwyn Linsalata. Miss Gwyn and her band of merry puppeteers performed vignettes from "Strawberry Shy and Raspberry Wild" and "A Little Child Went Sailing" while guests enjoyed strawberries and ice cream. The event was organized by Director of Admissions, Alex Borders, and was open to current and prospective families as well as residents of the surrounding neighborhoods.



ABOVE: Aerial view of guests touring one of the buildings at the St. Peter's complex in Germantown on June 25th.

BELOW: "Miss Gwyn" entertains children and grown-ups on the Big Field on June 25th. It was a busy day!



## New Faces

The Waldorf School of Philadelphia welcomes Hiroko Matsukawa, Tracy Jenish, Hillary Burdette, and Shannon Stevens to the staff this fall.

Hiroko Matsukawa will join Miss Jill in Sunflower Kindergarten as her assistant. Ms. Matsukawa, who is the parent of daughters Hanna (3rd Grade) and Meg (1st Grade) graduated from a Waldorf school in Germany. She is also an accomplished professional violinist who has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra and chamber groups in the region.

Fundraising professional Tracy Jenish has joined the staff as Director of Development. Ms. Jenish has worked for several years as a successful fundraiser for non-profit organizations including Soroptimist International. Ms. Jenish has most recently reorganized and re-invigorated the Haddonfield Educational Trust, a non-profit that supports public schools in Haddonfield, NJ.

Although neither Hillary Burdette nor Shannon Stevens are exactly “new” faces, they are taking on new roles this fall. Ms. Stevens, a long-time parent of two WSP graduates and a current 7th grader, will teach first grade. Ms. Stevens has been a past Convener of the Parents Association and discussion leader for the weekly Parent Study. She will complete her teaching certification in Waldorf Education within the year.

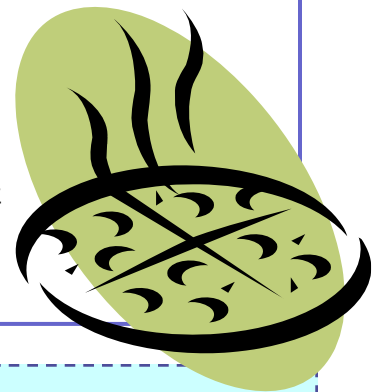
Hillary Burdette will join Ms. Stevens as her assistant in first grade. Ms. Burdette is the parent of Louella and recently started the Waldorf teacher certification program at Sunbridge Institute in Chestnut Ridge, NY. Ms. Burdette was Co-Convener of the Parents Association last school year.

Welcome, all! We're excited to have you on board.

### Lunch Break!

What parent doesn't need a little help with school day lunches? Thanks to the 8th Grade, there will be one less day of the week to make lunch.

Carrying on a tradition that started a few years ago, the Class of 2011 will offer pizza as a lunch option on Fridays. Students can sign up for a block of Fridays to insure that their pizza will be waiting for them at 1:05. Slices of cheese pizza are served with fresh fruit. For prices and other details about pizza lunches, see the insert in this issue of *The Weekly*.



### PhillyWaldorf.Com is Back!

When WSP launched its first website, it was called [phillywaldorf.com](http://phillywaldorf.com). A few years later we thought [philadelphia-waldorf.org](http://philadelphia-waldorf.org) better fit the image of a maturing school. Now [phillywaldorf.com](http://phillywaldorf.com) is back, the result of a new branding and marketing strategy to position WSP as the choice of smart and sophisticated urban parents who want a school that does more than “teach to the test.”

With the support and feedback of a multi-stakeholder marketing committee, Director of Admissions, Alex Borders, worked with Philadelphia's Agency M to create a fresh image for the school that will be seen online and in print on everything from advertisements to bumper stickers. Alex's letter about the project, as well as an excerpt from Agency M's creative brief is enclosed in the registration **packet**. Take and look and see why [phillywaldorf.com](http://phillywaldorf.com) does a better job of describing who we are now.



**THE WALDORF WEEKLY**  
Is published every Wednesday during the school year for the parents and friends of The Waldorf School of Philadelphia. The next newsletter will be published on **Wednesday, September 14, 2011**

Submissions for the above issue are due on **Monday, September 12, 2011 at 12 noon**. Submissions after the deadline will be included at the discretion of the editor.

Classified ads are published bi-weekly as a free service to the community. Publication in the classified section is available as space allows.

Please send all submissions to [office@phillywaldorf.com](mailto:office@phillywaldorf.com).

**Disclaimer:**  
Items and advertisements appearing in this newsletter may be the opinions or beliefs of their contributors, and may not necessarily reflect the policies or ideas of The Waldorf School of Philadelphia.

## Faculty, Staff, Trustees and Parent Representatives of The Waldorf School of Philadelphia

### FACULTY

#### SNOWDROP NURSERY

Kerry Hoffman, Lead Teacher  
Roxanne Anthony, Assistant  
Claire McConnell, Assistant

#### KINDERGARTENS AND KINDERGARTEN ASSISTANTS

Patricia Cornelius, Lead Teacher, Oak Tree  
Ariell Hughes, Assistant, Oak Tree  
Lucy Martinez-Zuviria, Lead Teacher, Daisy  
Kasea Myers, Assistant, Daisy  
Erin Şemin, Lead Teacher, Lilac  
Loretta Borko, Assistant, Lilac  
Jill Zihar, Lead Teacher, Sunflower  
Hiroko Matsukawa, Assistant, Sunflower

#### PARENT-TODDLER PROGRAM

##### Weekday Program:

Erin Şemin, Lead Teacher  
Jim Brannon, Assistant  
Gwyn Linsalata, Saturday Lead Teacher

#### GRADE SCHOOL

Shannon Stevens, 1st Grade  
Hillary Burdette, 1st Grade Assistant  
Cynthia Way, 2nd Grade  
Dori Persinotti, 3rd Grade  
Karl Andrek, 4th Grade  
Susan Stevenson, 5th Grade  
Samantha Campo, 6th Grade  
Oleksandra Parashchuk, 7th Grade  
Cristina Shiffman, 8th Grade

#### SPECIAL SUBJECTS FACULTY

Isabel DeBeary, *Spanish*  
John Fiorella, *Woodworking*  
Treacy Gallagher, *Games and Movement Education*  
Nicole Nicola, *Handwork, Drawing and Sculpture*, Faculty Chair  
Eliza Cho, *Orchestra*  
Amanda Rogers-Petro, *Music and Chorus*  
Anna Ziegner, *Eurythmy*  
Aaron Irwin, *Recorder Instructor*

#### AFTERCARE PROGRAM

Jim Brannon, Program Coordinator  
Marci Lane, Assistant

#### ADMINISTRATION

Pam Benton, Business Manager  
Brenda Ridley, Administrator  
Carrie Harris, Administrative Assistant  
Alexandra Borders, Director of Admissions  
Tracy Jenish, Director of Development  
Eileen Apostolico, Bookkeeper  
Susan Duffy, School Nurse

#### PARENTS ASSOCIATION

TBA, Convener  
TBA, Co-Convener  
Anne-Marie Fore, Secretary  
Sophia Simpson, Treasurer

#### CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Snowdrop: J.J. Fox-Anderson  
Sunflower: Mercedes Duran  
Daisy: TBA  
Lilac: TBA  
Oak Tree: TBA  
1st: Anna Mazurkiewicz-Muñoz and Diane Versaw-Barnes  
2nd: Franky-Ann Carroza and Eric Greenberg  
3rd: Sophie Simpson  
4th: TBA  
7th: Karen Salvatori and Donna DiStefano  
8th: Amanda Rogers-Petro

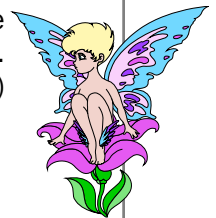
#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nathan Wright, President  
Jason King, Immediate Past President  
Vice President, Vacant  
Michael Abrams, Treasurer  
Amanda Mitchell-Boyask, Acting Secretary  
Jim Cassidy  
Pat Fiorella  
Daniel Hoffman  
William Mirsky

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### THE FAIRY'S WING

Your school store is seeking volunteers to staff the store during the school year. 10% discount on purchases available to store personnel. If interested, please contact Debra Basso, Store Manager, at (215) 842-1880.



## Faculty, Staff, Trustees and Parent Representatives, cont'd

*(Continued from page 5)*

Dori Persinotti, faculty Representative

Scott Seibert

David Siller

Lewis DuPont Smith

Janet Benton, Parents Association Liaison

Anthony Howard

Anna Mazurkiewicz-Muñoz

Rob Linsalata

Kirsten Carangi

Pamela Benton, Business Manager (ex-officio)

Alexandra J. Borders, Director of Admissions (ex-officio)

Brenda A. Ridley, Administrator (ex-officio)

Tracy Jenish, Director of Development (ex-officio)

## Join the WSP Blog and Yahoo Group

To keep up to date with the latest events at school, simply visit our website at [www.phillywaldorf.com](http://www.phillywaldorf.com), click on the "blog" tab and sign up to receive the latest postings.

And consider joining the Yahoo Group, a parent-moderated listserv where you can stay connected to fellow parents, teachers, and staff at WSP. It's easy to join. Just send an e-mail to Joe Walsh, the moderator, at [joewalsh1@gmail.com](mailto:joewalsh1@gmail.com) with "WSP Listserv" in the subject line to indicate you'd like to join the group. When you have been added to the group, you will receive a "welcome e-mail" along with information to help you get started.

## Summer Office Hours

The administrative office is open for the remainder of August through September 2nd from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Regular office hours (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.) will resume on September 6th. Staff can be reached by telephone at (215) 248-1662 or via e-mail.



SUMMER WORK: Ever wonder who puts together all of those registration packets? Administrative Assistant Carrie Harris (above right) got a hand this year from Class of 2011 alumna, Erin Phillips (left) and her mother, Lisa Phillips (center). Erin will enter Central High School in September. Thanks, Erin and Lisa!