

The Waldorf Weekly for November 16, 2011

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION
OF THE WALDORF SCHOOL
OF PHILADELPHIA

Holiday Fair This Friday and Saturday

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

- 18 Early Dismissal, 1 p.m.
- 18 Holiday Fair, 6 p.m.—10 p.m.
- 19 Holiday Fair, 10 a.m.—5 p.m.
- 23 Thanksgiving Recess, 1 p.m. dismissal
- 28 School re-opens

December

- 1 Observation Morning, 8:30—10:00 a.m.
- 8 Observation Morning, 8:30—10:00 a.m.
- 15 Observation Morning, 8:30—10:00 a.m.
- 21-30 Winter Break, **NO SCHOOL**

January

- 2 Winter Break, **NO SCHOOL**
- 3 School re-opens

Dear Waldorf Community,

Some years ago, I went with my family to a small fair in Phoenixville. I had read about it in the newspaper but didn't know the school, the area or anyone connected with this little fair. For some reason, the description must have called to me and, it being a beautiful day and my having a 3 year-old in tow, I drove out to see what was what. The preschool that sponsored it had everything a fair and fundraiser should have: activities for children, food, and some crafts. *But, somehow, I began to get a sense early on that something was very different here.* Hmmmm... the fabulous "castle maze" for the kids was intriguingly built out of cardboard boxes. The children were able to decorate a homemade ginger bread man as a craft. The food was homemade and not the usual fair standbys. My curiosity was piqued. My "gut" was telling me that something was very different... *in a good way.*

When I asked the director about the preschool, she explained that it was "Waldorf-inspired". I explained that I loved what I saw but, since I was from Philadelphia, I couldn't commute to that dreamy little preschool. That's when she told me there was a Waldorf school right in Mt. Airy! This past September, my family celebrated it's 11th year as part of this community. My son, after 10 years here, graduated last year and will be back to help with the children's craft room along with his alumni friends. My daughter is now in 6th grade and will sing with the chorus and shop with friends on Saturday after helping to set up the Fair on Friday afternoon. In part, I think that little fair that I went to on a whim as the reason our family landed here in this amazing community that has supported and continues to support us.

I still have the felt craft that my son made that day in Phoenixville hanging in our playroom. It occurs to me that what I now take for granted each year at our Holiday Fair—homemade food, wonderful crafts, inspired children's activities and volunteers working together in a supportive community—was what I had seen that day 11 years ago. I do know that in the larger world today, the Fair's gift of magic is quite extraordinary. So when you're working or playing this weekend at the Fair, take a look around with fresh eyes. What you'll see is extraordinary!

~ Pat Fiorella, Holiday Fair Co-Chairperson



So Noted...

LAST CHANCE TO FIND YOUR CHILD'S FAVORITE SWEATER!

Tomorrow will be the last opportunity to find that favorite sweater, shirt, boot or shoes that your child will love at the Parent's Resource Room. A selection of warm winter children's clothing is still available from the Clothing Exchange. Come over and have a look and find something for the little ones and your grade schoolers too! Remaining items will be donated to a local charity. Thank you for your participation.

Pies, Cheerful Ornaments, Pies, Gorgeous Cards, Pies, WSP Logo Shopping Bags, Pies, Organic Cotton Indigo-Dyed Shirts, and PIES!

This past Friday, the 8th grade added "peeling and paring with Leslie McLaughlin" to the list of their Holiday Fair preparation activities. Thanks to everyone who has reserved apple and pumpkin pies and pat yourself on the back for making a great deal (local bakeries are charging \$40 for pies the same size!). Keep the reservations coming, and bring home a holiday delicacy for just \$25. Each pie serves 8-10 and will keep in your refrigerator until you can no longer resist it or serve it proudly at your Thanksgiving table. Pick your pie up in the 8th Grade Holiday Shoppe (the meeting room on the lower grades floor) Friday or Saturday of the Fair. If you don't manage to get a pie reservation in by Friday morning, we'll have some extras on hand.

Thanks from the Class of 2012!

WEEKLY PARENT STUDY

Parent Study meets every Wednesday from 3:30–5 p.m. in the Parents' Resource Room in Eagles I (near the Snowdrop Nursery). Join us in reading together about Waldorf Education, parenting, and other topics of mutual interest. Aftercare services are available to participating parents without charge; however, you must register your child in the school office.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 215-226-3688. See you after school!

~ Donna DiStefano



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, November 23, 2011**

Submissions for the next week are due on **Monday, November 21st at 12 p.m.** 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.

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.



THE FAIRY'S WING

The Fairy's Wing is your school store and a great source for beeswax, crayons, and Waldorf-inspired playthings.

Store hours are :

**Monday– Friday , 8:15–9:30 a.m.,
Tuesday and Wednesday , 12:45–1:30 p.m.
& Wednesday–Friday, 2:45–3:30 p.m.**



**Have you heard about the new circus items in the school store?
Start your holiday shopping early. Come in and check it out!**

PARENT EDUCATION

The Why and How of Waldorf

Supporting Parents in Digestible Bites

This issue's question from Wade B. Holland's *The Waldorf Schools: 32 Questions and Answers* is ...

Is Parent Participation Encouraged?

An active, involved parent body is a cornerstone of the success of any Waldorf school. There are myriad roles parents can play, from simply providing a supportive home environment, to assisting in the classroom, to (need we say it?) helping with fundraising.

However, the Waldorf schools are not parent co-ops, at least not in the sense that the parents are expected to make basic decisions about the curriculum and the pedagogy. Parents do have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the educational approach of the Waldorf schools, at least to the extent necessary to assure themselves that it is what they want for their children.

SAVE THE DATE:

PA MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 3RD

Dear Parents,

Our 2nd Parents' Association meeting will take place on **December 3rd** from 1-3 p.m. Among the topics to be discussed will be how our Parent Reps can best represent their class parents so that we can find a true consensus of what the parent body actually feels on a given issue. *All Parent Reps are required to attend* and all parents are welcome. Anyone with other agenda ideas may bring them to their Parent Rep, Ania or me before the Thanksgiving break. Child care will be provided at a cost of \$2 per child payable to the caregivers at the time of drop off. Thank You. ~ Jim Brannon Co-Convener

Neighborhood News

ENCHANTING INSTALLATION AT ART GARAGE

Mt. Airy's own community arts organization, the Mt. Airy Art Garage, has transformed its new space at 11 W. Mt. Airy Avenue into an enchanting nature preserve with an installation of works by one of its founding members, Meei-Ling Ng.

Meei-Ling Ng, known for her bird and nature paintings, brings the same command of her two-dimensional work to a three-dimensional art installation. "Recapturing Memories" shows her love of nature while evoking memories of both her childhood and the present. Using mostly recycled and raw materials, her interactive art installation invites you to participate. Don't miss this bold and unusual approach to the first one-woman show at the Mt. Airy Art Garage. Gallery hours are Thursday from noon–6 p.m. The exhibit will close on November 18th.

JOIN US FOR A PHILADELPHIA NUTCRACKER!

If you are around during the Thanksgiving Holiday, please plan to attend a new version of this perennial holiday favorite, presented in our own neighborhood! Philadelphia Dance Theatre will be presenting a new version of their annual Nutcracker. Artistic Director, Joy Delaney Capponi,

conceived a production of The Nutcracker that captures our own historic community and neighborhood. Germantown, Mt. Airy and Chestnut Hill have a rich history to be shared and celebrated: the opening scenes of A Philadelphia Nutcracker are set in Fairmount Park's Thomas Mansion, the snow scene takes place on our neighborhood's favorite sledding spot "Tommy's Hill," and Germantown's Historic Business District is transformed into the Land of Sweets. Current WSP students Annika Gartner, Aidan McLaughlin, Ellianna McLaughlin and Lily Schwartz are dancing in the show, and many former WSP students are participating as well (and if you are able to attend the Saturday show at 4pm, Annika will be dancing the part of Clara!). For more information or tickets visit www.philadancetheatre.org or <https://www.ticketturtle.com/index.php?ticketing=pdt> to purchase tickets.

Time: Friday, Nov. 25th at 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 26th at 1 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 26th at 4 p.m.

Location: The Kurtz Center for the Performing Arts, William Penn Charter School, 3000 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19144

TEN SECOND ELEVATOR SPEECH

Looking for something to say when you talk to others about our school? Make it short and succinct with a ten-second elevator speech. This week's speech:

"The pedagogy at The Waldorf School of Philadelphia is more richly artistic than traditional academic schools and more richly academic than progressive schools. We use science to inspire artistic thinking, and art to inspire scientific thinking."

HOLIDAY FAIR AND CRAFT BAZAAR

A GLIMPSE AT THE 2011 WALDORF HOLIDAY FAIR

We will have delicious home-cooked meals, 30 artisan vendors and the following activities that you might like to plan your visit around.

LIVE MUSIC

Friday, 6-9 p.m. in our Fair Café

First Floor-Room One (*instrumental*)

6:00–7:00 Yumi Kendall, cellist, classical-of the Philadelphia Orchestra

7:00–8:00 Amir Gollan, accordionist, traditional

8:00–9:00 Patrick de Caumette, guitarist, jazz/funk/blues/original

First Floor-Room Two (*vocals*)

6:30–7:00 Colleen Egan, singer/guitarist, rock and folk covers

7:00–8:00 David Updike and Janet Benton, guitarist and singer, folk rock originals and covers

8:00–9:00 Jason Fifield, Alicia Abrams, and Sam Briger, multi-instrumentalist, violinist, and singer/guitarist

HOLIDAY CONCERT

Saturday, 12:30 and 2:30 p.m., 3rd floor Auditorium, Eagles II

Students in grades 4 through 8 sing in the holidays joined by Eliza Cho's Holiday Orchestra conducted by Amanda Rogers-Petro. Please be prompt. **Admission is free.**

PARENT AND STUDENT CRAFTS

Parent Handwork Table

For months, parents have been knitting and crafting under the leadership of our chair, Nina Letherer, to stock the parent handwork table. All proceeds benefit The Waldorf School of Philadelphia scholarship programs.

8th Grade Handcrafts

Students in Ms. Shiffman's 8th Grade Class have been working diligently to create unique hand-crafted gifts for you to exchange with loved ones. Shop their booth and support the eighth grades efforts to raise funds for their class trip.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Holiday Puppet Play: *Feather Light*

Show times at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., 3rd floor Auditorium

Admission is 1 snowflake per person*

A story of a very little boy and his courage shows the power of love. Presented by our Waldorf School of Phila-

(Continued on page 5)

2011 Snowflake Prices:

Four snowflakes: \$10

Eight snowflakes: \$20

A GLIMPSE AT THE 2011 HOLIDAY FAIR (Continued from page 4)

delphia Puppet Troupe led by Ms. Gwyn Linsalata.

Please be prompt – NO ADMITTANCE ONCE SHOW HAS STARTED.

****Please note that admission is required for both adults and children. We ask that children <5 must be accompanied by an adult. Thank you for your attention to this request.***

Children's Craft Room - Eagles I, 1st floor Applied Arts Room

Last entry at 4:15 p.m. Admission: 1 snowflake per craft.

A selection of three natural material crafts for children to make with gentle assistance from our adult volunteers and *this year, our alumni.*

Jump Rope Making - Outdoors near the front entrance to Eagles II (beginning at 11 a.m.)

Last turn at 4:00 p.m. Admission: 3 snowflakes per jump rope.

Select your own beautiful yarn colors and make a unique and sturdy jump rope to take home.

Children's Shopping Room - Eagles I, 1st floor Parent's Resource Room

For children only!! Admission: 1 snowflake per gift.

Children are invited to enter a magical shopping world where they can select gifts for their family and friends with help from our parent volunteers.

Face Painting, 1–4 p.m. - Outdoors by the Applied Arts Room

Admission: 1 snowflake per person.

Back by popular demand, we are offering face painting outside the applied arts room. Children can enjoy the festivities decorated as a fairy or a dragon.

Candle-dipping—This year, we will not have beeswax candle-dipping, but hope to have it next year.

(Continued on page 6)

**GRAND
PRIZE RAFFLE
DRAWING**



Raffle tickets are now available on-line at www.phillywaldorf.com/holiday-fair.

The winner of our exquisite handcrafted quilt will be announced on Saturday, November 19 at 4 p.m. Tickets will continue to be on sale throughout the Fair before the drawing.

FOOD

Come enjoy an evening of dinner, shopping and live entertainment to support WSP. It is the WSP tradition to make Friday evening an adult only event, allowing parents some time to shop and dine in a more relaxed and sophisticated atmosphere.

Menu: Friday dinner features fig and black olive chicken with Madeira; vegan stuffed baked acorn squash from *Food for All Market* in Mt. Airy; spinach and cheese lasagna; Le Bus bread; mixed greens with herb vinaigrette, and assorted luscious desserts like pumpkin flan, flourless chocolate cake and tres leche rice pudding. Saturday's lunch will include the usual goodies like tomato pie, homemade sandwiches (vegan and vegetarian, too), soup, veggie and turkey chili, homemade mac and cheese for kids and more, plus yummy items from the bakery and Philly soft pretzels. *And don't forget Merrymede chocolate milk and hot cider!*

AN IMPORTANT HOLIDAY FAIR REMINDER CONCERNING AFTERCARE

School will close at 1 p.m. on Friday, November 18th so that the classrooms can be prepared for the Fair, which opens at 6 p.m. To help us in our preparations during those frantic 5 hours, please pick up your child *promptly* at 1:00 p.m.

Special Aftercare arrangements are available for those of you who...

...leave your children in Aftercare on a regular basis on Friday afternoons. If this is the case, you will be able to pick up your children at your usual time, OR

... are a volunteer who is helping with set-up on Friday afternoon. If this is the case, Aftercare will be available to you at no charge for your kindergarten through 3rd grade child. **YOU MUST CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE TODAY AT (215) 248-1662 NO LATER THAN 3:30 P.M. TO LET US KNOW THAT YOU WILL NEED THIS SERVICE.**

Children in 4th grade and up who are participating in the Holiday Chorus will be in the care of Mandy Rogers-Petro, and will have rehearsal until 3:15 p.m. If you are helping with set-up, your child is in 4th grade and up and **NOT** participating in the Holiday Chorus, please try your best to arrange a play date for him or her, or plan to have her help you.

SORRY, WE ARE NOT ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE DROP-IN REQUESTS FOR AFTERCARE ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH. Thank you for understanding.

~ Pat Fiorella, Holiday Fair Chairperson



Holiday Fair Things to Do List

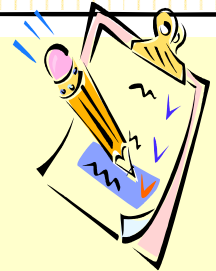
- Turn in my raffle tickets to the office and pick up more postcards.
- Sign up for my 2-hour shift for the Fair.
- Don't forget to remind friends and family to come.
- Make my holiday gift list and browse the website for vendors at www.phillywaldorf.com.

Still Needed!

- ⌘ Volunteers for the Bake and Craft rooms
- ⌘ Volunteers for Snowflake and Admissions tables
- ⌘ 36" x 36" Festive cotton tablecloths
- ⌘ Card tables for the café

General Guidelines for Fair Volunteers

- ⇒ Sign up today to do your 2 hours of work
- ⇒ Write down the time and location of your shift
(once decorating begins Friday the lists will be posted at the entrance to the school and on the applied arts wing door)
- ⇒ Arrive at your location/station 10 minutes before your shift
- ⇒ Familiarize yourself with your duties either by talking to the volunteer before you, training with the shift manager or seeking information before the Fair
- ⇒ Wait to leave at the end of your shift until your replacement has arrived. If for some reason, your replacement has not arrived, contact the room manager or Alexandria Dilks Pandola.
- ⇒ Leave all electronic devices at home, in your car, with your partner while you do your volunteer time!
- ⇒ Enjoy the experience of working in community with other parents and our children for a common goal.



Last call for contributions for the Parent Handwork Table

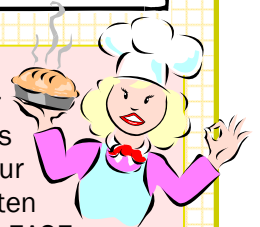
If anyone still has donations for the parent handwork table, please let me know. I still have yarn and wool stuffing for those of you who need to finish up your animals. I would love to have things no later than Thursday, so I can organize and tag them, but I will take items on Friday (and even Saturday) if they aren't ready quite yet. Also, if anyone has a good eye for merchandising, and wants to help me set up the table before the fair, I would welcome some help. Thanks to those of you who have already donated items and to those who signed up to volunteer at the table.



~ Nina Letherer, parent of Dillon (1st) and Maya (4th)

NOTE TO THE BAKERS:

Many thanks to all the volunteer bakers for the Holiday Faire this weekend. Please bring your goodies to the Daisy Kindergarten on either Thursday or Friday. PLEASE DO NOT CUT your cakes or loaves as I will do all that for you on Saturday morning. Also if any one has a cake stand, single or multiple tiered you could lend us for the day it would be greatly appreciated. Happy Baking!



~ Lucy Martinez-Zuviria (Café and Bake Sale Coordinator)



**SOCIAL INCLUSION
CORNER**

COURTESY OF THE MONTH

Patience becomes understanding. -Rudolf Steiner

Patience is the greatest of all virtues.

~ Cato the Elder, Roman orator and politician

The Social Inclusion is an on-going project designed to bring greater awareness to issues of social inclusion, courtesy and bullying in our school. Our school participates in, and supports, The Social Inclusion with the goal of creating a healthy social environment that nurtures children and adults, encourages open discussion, and provides ways of resolving disagreements and conflict that are beneficial to the school community.

THE CLASSIFIEDS

Wendy Weingarten, MSW, LSW, provides coaching and teaches classes using mindfulness for enhancing parenting skills, reducing stress and managing anger. Wendy has taught at the Penn Program for Mindfulness, the Jefferson Mindfulness Institute and at other educational and community organizations. Wednesdays: 11/9, 11/30, 12/14, 7:00–9:00 p.m. To register, or for more information please contact Wendy at wend53@gmail.com or 267-471-4821. Cost: \$90



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Thank you for reading *The Waldorf Weekly*

Reserve your holiday pie!!!

The 8th grade is teaming up with expert pie baker Leslie McLaughlin and making pumpkin pies and apple pies for pick-up at the Holiday Fair.

Use this form to reserve your pie(s) at \$25 each. Place your order form and deposit in the collection envelope outside the 8th grade classroom. And THANKS from the Class of 2012!

Name & e-mail: _____

How many? _____ apple _____ pumpkin

Please include deposit of \$10 per pie. Make check payable to *WSP Class of 2012*.

