

# The Waldorf Weekly for January 4, 2012

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION  
OF THE WALDORF SCHOOL  
OF PHILADELPHIA

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- Courtesy of the Month
- The Classifieds
- Pizza & Sushi Lunch Order Forms

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### January

- 2 Winter Break, **NO SCHOOL**
- 3 School re-opens
- 13 Eighth Grade Coffee House, 7 p.m.
- 16 MLK Day, **NO SCHOOL**
- 18 "Bridge to First Grade", TBA
- 19 Observation Morning, 8:30– 10:00 a.m.
- 21 Coffee & Conversation, 11 a.m.
- 25 "Organizational Integrity: Leadership for the Future ", TBA
- 28 Winter Open House, 2–4 p.m.

### ONE PERSON'S PERSPECTIVE

## A FRESH START

By Brenda Ridley

The celebration of New Year's is all about renewal and change, possibility and hope. We close the door on the old year with its disappointments, problems, and crises, and look forward to the possibility of a better year ahead. This is the time of year when we often make promises to ourselves (aka "New Year's Resolutions") to eat better, to get more sleep and exercise regularly, or to find more time for ... [you fill in the blank]. Our intentions are always good, but we don't always manage to stick to our promises.

So, this year instead of making resolutions, plan to take one action step. When faced with a decision, ask yourself these three questions: 1) Is this a good decision for me and my family? 2) What impact will this decision have on my neighbors and community? 3) How does my one step or decision impact the wider world? Asking these questions requires taking a moment to breathe and reflect before we do or say something. We don't often take that moment, but it's a good habit to cultivate. Imagine the good will generated for humankind by each individual moment of reflection! If you get into the practice of taking a moment, you'll soon realize that your energy shifts in that brief interval between thought and action. This is a practice with so many benefits and little beating up on oneself when you don't fulfill your resolutions. Why not start the year with a fresh perspective? Happy New Year!

### SAVE THE DATE!

## NOTED WALDORF EDUCATOR TO DISCUSS LEADERSHIP AND SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

Waldorf educator, trainer, and organizational consultant, Torin Finser, will visit our school for three days this month in an effort to aid the faculty, Board of Trustees and staff in an exploration of organizational change in school leadership and management for the future.

- Dr. Finser, who chairs the Education Department at Antioch University New England, is the author of six books, including *Organizational Integrity*, which uses the human body as a lens for looking at organizations. Dr. Finser has written extensively on leadership and organizational change. His talk at WSP, tentatively titled, "Organizational Integrity: Leadership for the Future", is designed to help parents better understand "Waldorf type" organizations. The talk is scheduled for Wednesday, January 25th. See upcoming issues of *The Weekly* for further details.



## So Noted...



### The Whispering Wood We're newly-decorated and open!

Now in the old Fairy's Wing —Kindergarten play stands, silks and play clips, swords, shields and other Good Sir Knightly attire; wooden play kitchens, plates, forks, and an abundance of play food for your little chef; Circus Arts for your grade school child, including unicycles and Rola Bolas for the most daring and adventurous. And don't forget your beeswax!

### "Waldorf's Got Talent" Coffee House on January 13

You're invited to join the 8th grade for "Waldorf's Got Talent"—a showcase of the best of the best of the best singing, playing, and reciting our school community has to offer. If you're in grades 4 and up, please use a sign up sheet from the 8th grade bulletin board to enter your act. Adults and alumni are welcome to email Mrs. Shiffman to sign up: [cbshiffman@gmail.com](mailto:cbshiffman@gmail.com). Doors open at 7PM for refreshments and acts start at 7:30PM. Children in grades 1, 2, and 3 and their parents who stay for the first act only will be admitted at the "Save Endangered Bedtimes" rate of \$1.50. All others pay \$3.

THANKS FROM THE 8TH GRADE!!!



**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, January 11, 2012.**

Submissions for the next week are due by **Monday, January 9, 2012.** 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.

### Pizza Order Deadline TOMORROW

Please see the flyer in this Weekly for details and place your child's pizza order and payment in the collection envelope on the 8th grade bulletin board by tomorrow afternoon. Happy New Year and thanks from the Class of 2012!



### Parent Handwork Meets on Friday Mornings

Parent Handwork continues to meet right after drop-off until about 10:30 a.m. in the Parent Resource Room. Come join your fellow WSP parents in crafting and conversation, coffee or tea. All are welcome. Children not yet in school are welcome to come along, but please be sure to bring quiet activities and snacks for them. Ms. Nicola has once again generously offered to teach a 4-6 week workshop on knitting mittens and/or socks beginning January 13. If you are interested in participating in this workshop, please talk to either Gretchen Wright or Ms. Nicola so that we can make sure there are supplies for all.

### PARENT STUDY MEETS TODAY

Parent Study meets every Wednesday from 3:30–5 p.m. in the Parents' Resource Room in Eagles I (near the Snowdrop Nursery). Come join us as we discuss Waldorf Education, parenting, and other topics of mutual interest. Complementary aftercare services are available for participating parents; however, please register with the school office. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 215-226-3688. See you after school!  
~ Donna DiStefano

### Recycle Your Old Bike and Help Support The Seventh Grade!

The Seventh Grade is collecting any used or outgrown bikes to raise money for their senior class trip. These bikes will be given to the Bicycle Coalition in exchange for funds. What a great way to also support the community! Drop off any bikes that you can spare on Wednesdays between 3:30–5 p.m. We'll even do pick-ups; just call Donna. Feel free to cut this notice out to give to a friend! Any questions, please call Donna DiStefano at 215-226-3688. Thanks for your help.



## WINTER CHALLENGE 2011 IS A HUGE SUCCESS!

What better way to end 2011 than with a successful Winter Challenge! Thank you to everyone who helped us reach our goal of raising \$10,000 in the month of December. We exceeded our goal (*total numbers coming soon!*) and will be the recipients of a \$10,000 matching gift from a very generous family. To all our donors who were able to give \$100 or more, keep an eye out next week for information about how to pick up your WSP water bottle.

Thank you so much for your continued support and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

~ Alexandria Dilks Pandola, Director of Development

### 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:

*"Waldorf education is interdisciplinary in its approach, meaning that all areas of study are approached in an integrated manner, so that what is being studied in main lesson work is synchronized with related and relevant instruction in music, art and movement. In this way, music art, drama and eurythmy are as integral to the curriculum as math, science and language arts. Each given subject is approached from a multitude of vantage points that draw upon different ways of learning."*



### MLK DAY

A day of service, reflection, and community.

Make it a day ON, not a day OFF.

See the next page for details.

January 16, 2012

### LOTTERY APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND PHILADELPHIA

Applications are being accepted for one of the 2,000 new 4-year scholarships available through the Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia, a private scholarship source funded by area businesses. CSFP seeks to offer Philadelphia families more educational options by providing financial access to quality tuition-based schools for children in kindergarten through grade 8. For information about the fund and eligibility requirements, go to [www.csphiladelphia.org](http://www.csphiladelphia.org).

### SOCIAL INCLUSION CORNER

### COURTESY OF THE MONTH

*"Courage becomes the power of redemption."*

~ Rudolf Steiner

*Steadfastness: follow through with our commitments and duties*

*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.*

# PIZZA FRIDAYS!

The Class of 2012 offers pizza for lunch with a side of organic, raw, baby-cut carrots to students in grades 2–8.

*Place your orders using the information and order forms below.*

12 weeks of Pizza Fridays (January 6–March 30)

One slice—\$35

Two slices—\$60

Three slices—\$80



The order deadline is Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Place your order and payment in the collection envelope on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade bulletin board.

**THANKS FROM THE 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE!**

Child's Name and Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enclose your check made payable to WSP Class of 2012.**

Child's Name and Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enclose your check made payable to WSP Class of 2012.**

Child's Name and Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enclose your check made payable to WSP Class of 2012.**



## Coffee & Conversation

THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION  
presents an informal parent education opportunity  
**ART IN WALDORF EDUCATION**  
with Susan Braccia, M.Ed.  
a founding parent of WSP, artist,  
and current faculty member at The Academy in Manayunk

Saturday, January 21, 2012, 11 a.m. ♦ Child care will be available

## Neighborhood News

### ART BY WSP MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ON DISPLAY AT WOODMERE

Drawings by WSP middle school students will be exhibited in The Helen Millard Children's Gallery in the Woodmere Art Museum beginning this Sunday, January 8th.

The exhibit, entitled *True Nature & Possibilities*, will cover subjects such as still life, landscape, and portraiture using color and form as vehicles for personal expression, and will run through Sunday, February 26th. An artists' reception is scheduled for Sunday, January 22nd from 2-4 p.m.

The Woodmere Art Museum, located at 9201 Germantown Avenue, showcases the works of important regional artists. The Millard Children's Gallery features exhibits throughout the year created by students in Philadelphia schools. For museum hours and other information, please visit [www.woodmereartmuseum.org](http://www.woodmereartmuseum.org), or call (215) 247-0476.

## MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY AT WSP

### FAMILY MLK DAY PROGRAM PLANNED THIS YEAR

In a break with our tradition of the past 6 years of observing MLK Day as a community, this year WSP will offer families an opportunity to observe the holiday at home, but with community benefits.

This year we are asking families and children to do an at-home lesson on the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., create a drawing or card based on Dr. King's ideas, and then bring the drawing along with a non-perishable food item for the food cupboard at Germantown Crisis Ministry.

*"Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."*

*~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Germantown Crisis Ministry serves anyone in need in northwest Philadelphia. In addition to the food cupboard, the organization offers financial and energy assistance, information and referrals for low to moderate income residents in our community. Germantown Crisis Ministry is based at Germantown Presbyterian Church at 35 West Cheltenham Avenue.

The next issue of the *Weekly* will offer suggestions for at-home activities as well as ideas for food donations.

*"...let's be honest, some problems are so big, so stubborn, that even your best efforts will only help just a little. They might just help one person. But those are the efforts that matter the most."*

*~ President Barack Obama*

## THE CLASSIFIEDS

### ***Doll-Making Workshop***

***Make a unique and beautiful doll for a special child or yourself!***

Classes meet weekly on Thursday evenings from 7-9 in the Applied Arts Studio at the Waldorf School of Philadelphia, **beginning February 9<sup>th</sup>**

**All materials included - \$150**

*Enjoy the camaraderie of fellow parents, learn more about Waldorf Education, and create a keepsake you and your child will cherish.*

Minimum enrollment required for class to start.

Call or e-mail Nicole Nicola at 215-850-2657 or nicolenicola@comcast.net for more information.



**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 University of Pennsylvania Program for Mindfulness, the Jefferson Mindfulness Institute and at other educational and community organizations. For registration and Information regarding her programs, please contact Wendy at [wend53@gmail.com](mailto:wend53@gmail.com) or 267-471-4821

### **Sparkle Stories**

*Sparkle* is an online resource for high-quality audio stories for children and families. Each week *Sparkle Stories* delivers delightful audio stories to subscribers around the world. We offer three original story series, plus an fourth series with classic stories, songs and games, all designed to entertain and inspire the whole family. We are a small, family-based business out of Vermont linked to Lake Champlain Waldorf School (and recently featured on Kim John Payne's *Simplicity Parenting* blog!) For more information, please contact Lisabeth Sewell McCann at [www.sparklestories.com](http://www.sparklestories.com).



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Thank you for reading *The Waldorf Weekly*, the newsletter of *The Waldorf School of Philadelphia*.  
Follow daily life at our school on our blog at [www.phillywaldorf.com](http://www.phillywaldorf.com)

# SUSHI IS BACK!

The seventh grade is happy to announce the return of  
**SUSHI THURSDAY**  
for lunch!

On Thursdays from **January 19 through March 15** (eight weeks; no school on February 23) sushi will be prepared fresh for us by Tokyo Sushi in the Chestnut Hill Farmers' Market.

Place your grade school child's order for carrot or avocado or cucumber roll with white or brown rice and we will deliver it to your child's classroom at lunchtime. **The cost of sushi lunch per child is \$34 for eight Thursdays.**

Sushi will include soy sauce, wasabi, and pickled ginger.

Use the order form below to place your child's lunch order and include payment with your completed form. A collection envelope can be found on the bulletin board outside the seventh-grade classroom.

**Orders and payments are due on/by Friday, January 13.**  
Please make your checks payable to **WSP Class of 2013.**

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## SUSHI LUNCH ORDER FORM (due with \$34 on/by Friday, January 13)

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:        carrot        cucumber        avocado

Circle one:        white rice        brown rice

**Thank you so much for supporting seventh grade!**