

The Waldorf Weekly for January 25, 2012

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION
OF THE WALDORF SCHOOL
OF PHILADELPHIA

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- Open House This Saturday
- Spring Auction Planned
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- Winter Weather Emergencies
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

- 25 Community Talk: Dr. Torin Finser on "Building a Healthy Waldorf School", 7:30 p.m., Auditorium
- 28 Winter Open House, 2–4 p.m.

February

- 2 First Grade Parent Evening, 7 p.m.
- 4 Coffee & Conversation, 11 a.m.
- 7 Seventh Grade Parent Evening, 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Observation Morning, 8:30–10:00 a.m.
- 12 Winter Choral and Recorder Concert, 4 p.m.
- 20 Winter Break Begins, **NO SCHOOL**
- 27 School Re-opens

March

- 2 Eighth Grade Coffee House, 7:30

Oops! We goofed! The left sidebar that appeared in last week's issue contained a number of misprints. We apologize for any confusion.

BUILDING A HEALTHY WALDORF SCHOOL

Noted Waldorf Educator to Discuss
Leadership and School Management

What makes a school healthy? "Many people experience organizations as inert, bureaucratic, inflexible obstacles to innovation and human initiative", according to Dr. Torin Finser, but it doesn't have to be that way. Dr. Finser makes the case that we need a new ecology of organizations, and that now is the time for a new revolution that creates dynamic, living organizations by the people for the people.

Dr. Finser, a well-known and regarded Waldorf educator, trainer, and organizational consultant, sees organizations as living systems that are supposed to serve, and their forms and structures should mirror the living systems "of those who have come together with common purpose." In Dr. Finser's view, then, schools are dynamic, living organizations that should function in ways that reflect that life force.



Dr. Torin Finser

Waldorf schools are designed to be living systems that reflect Rudolf Steiner's conception of the human being as a "three-fold organism". Rather than having a hierarchical structure as found in many schools, Waldorf schools are meant to be more fluid in form and function. As a school grows, though, it sometimes becomes necessary to take a fresh look at its form to see whether it still meets the needs of the people it serves. This is a question that Dr. Finser will focus on when he visits our school for three days next week in an effort to aid the

(Continued on page 5)

Visit or Volunteer at The Open House This Saturday, January 28th at 2:00 p.m.

We are still in much need of helping hands. Please visit or volunteer at this weekend's event. If you can help, please e-mail admissions@phillywaldorf.com or call 215-248-1662.

~ Alexandra Borders, Director of Admissions



**OPEN
HOUSE**



So Noted...



The Whispering Wood

your school store

Store Hours

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.– 9:30 a.m.

Monday and Wednesday,

12:45 p.m.–1:30 p.m.

Tuesday–Friday, 2:45 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

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, February 1, 2012.**

Submissions for the next week are due by **Monday, January 30, 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.

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.

DRIVING REMINDERS

For safety, reasons we are reminding drivers that:

- **At drop-off and pick-up please enter the school grounds via the drive between the church building and Eagles I (BEHIND EAGLES II). Exit via the Eagles II driveway.**
- **The speed in a school zone is 15 m.p.h.**

PLEASE HELP TO KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE!

Parent Handwork Meets Every Friday Morning

Parent Handwork meets right after drop-off on Fridays until about 10:30 a.m. in the Parent Resource Room. Come join your fellow WSP parents in craft-making and conversation, coffee or tea. All are welcome to come and join. Children who are not yet in school are welcome to come along, but please be sure to bring quiet activities and snacks for them.

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). We are currently discussing the book, *Non-Violent Communication* by Marshall B. Rosenberg. We would love to have you join us and share your perspective. Please remember, children of participating families are welcome to enjoy complimentary Aftercare services; 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, Parent Study Coordinator

Recycle Your Old Bike and Help Support The Seventh Grade!

The Seventh Grade is still collecting used or outgrown bikes to raise money for their 8th grade class trip. These bikes will be given to the Bicycle Coalition of Philadelphia in exchange for funds. 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. Please cut this notice out and share with your friends and family! Please call Donna DiStefano at 215-226-3688 with questions. Thanks for your help.



~ The Seventh Grade

Auction Planned for Spring



You should have received a letter this week about our upcoming Spring Auction. As promised, you'll find a donation form and letter to help solicit donations from local merchants in this week's issue of *The Waldorf Weekly*. If you are interested in joining the Auction Committee, please join us on Wednesday, February 1st at 6 p.m. in the conference room on the 2nd floor of the main school building. We are looking for volunteers to help us make this year's auction a lot of fun and a huge success. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Alex Dilks Pandola at development@phillywaldorf.com.

Water Bottles Await Winter Challenge Donors

Have you picked up your FREE water bottle? Did you contribute \$100 or more to the Winter Challenge and Annual Fund? If so, then we have a WSP sport water bottle waiting for you in the school office. Stop by and pick up yours today.

~ Alexandria Dilks Pandola, Director of Development



Coffee & Conversation

GETTING TO THE ART OF THE MATTER *Understanding the evolution of art practices in the Waldorf curriculum*

Join us as Susan Braccia gives a colorful presentation about art in Waldorf Education. We will explore and experience the very

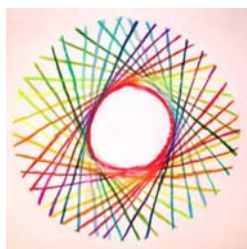
intentional weaving of visual art in the Waldorf curriculum through the grades as it relates to child development and the evolution of consciousness. We will look at the very particular selection of art materials, techniques, applications and activities, how they relate to the growing child and how they enrich the sequential curriculum.

The scaffolding of art-making skills lends continual support to hands-on learning while also building community, enriching understanding, acting therapeutically and aiding individual growth. Art is the bridge that can take us there, and the act of drawing upon our experiences as we cross is what allows us to be fully aware of our great journey. From pre-K to 12th grade, you will learn about the "what", "how" and "why" of main lesson illustrations, block crayons, wet-on-wet watercolor, beeswax modeling and much more. *No art experience necessary.*



Childcare will be available for this event. Please sign up at the school office.

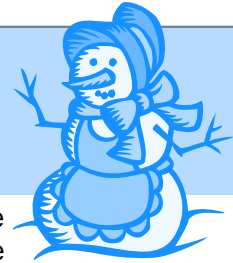
**Saturday, February 4th at 11 a.m.
8th Grade Classroom, 3rd floor, Eagles II**



ABOUT SUSAN BRACCIA ...

Susan Braccia was one of the original co-founders of The Waldorf School of Philadelphia. She spent her early career working as an architectural designer in Philadelphia and New York and, with the births of her children, became deeply interested in education. She carries a Waldorf Teaching Certification as well as a PA State Teaching Certificate, and earned a Masters degree in Education with an emphasis in art. Ms. Braccia conducts classes, workshops and events related to Waldorf Education, special education, art and design for teachers, student teachers, parents and children. She is the parent of an 8th grade student at WSP, and a WSP graduate who now attends the University of Pennsylvania.

HANDLING WINTER WEATHER EMERGENCIES



Winter storms as well as other weather conditions can affect the school schedule in one of three ways: cancellation of school, delayed opening, or early dismissal. We can't urge you strongly enough to have plans in place for transporting children or for child care in the event of severe weather that impacts the school schedule. The decision to cancel school or alter the schedule is based on considerations of road conditions, safety, and weather predictions. In general, our school follows the decision of the School District of Philadelphia; however, you should expect communication from our school through our automated alert system, *One Call Now*, should the regular schedule change. You can also check local radio station KYW (call number 1060AM) for our school closing number, which is 108. School listings are also available at www.kyw1060.com or at www.6abc.com. In addition to these methods of communication, we will change our outgoing Voicemail message to reflect our school's status.

Cancellations

If school is cancelled for the day, families will be notified very early in the morning, usually around 6 a.m., or the night before if the decision is known at that time. Every effort is made to arrive at a timely decision that allows parents an opportunity to put their back-up plans in place.

Delayed Opening

If road conditions appear to be improving and driving is deemed safer after rush hour following severe weather, the decision might be made to open school after 8:15 a.m. In this situation school will typically open one or two hours late.

Early Dismissal

School may dismiss early if a storm develops that creates unsafe road conditions after the start of the school day. Every effort is made to allow families a two-hour window in which to respond to this kind of emergency. No Aftercare services will be available if school is dismissed early so a parent/guardian must make arrangements for a child to be picked up by someone else if he or she is unable to come to the school. The office must be notified if the child is authorized to leave with someone else.

Bus Riders

The availability of school bus transportation is determined by the appropriate public school district. Parents need to check the status of schools in their home districts. If your home district is opening school late, for example, and we are on normal schedule, transportation services will be on a delayed schedule.

~ Brenda Ridley, Administrator

SOCIAL INCLUSION CORNER

COURTESY OF THE MONTH

"Courage becomes the power of redemption."

~ Rudolf Steiner

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.

(Continued from page 1) BUILDING A HEALTHY WALDORF SCHOOL

faculty, Board of Trustees and staff in an exploration of organizational change in school leadership and management for the future.

Parents are encouraged to come out for Dr. Finser's public talk entitled "Building a Healthy Waldorf School" tonight at 7:30 p.m. The talk will offer a glimpse of possible organizational forms that might better answer the needs of school families. Questions like "Who do I talk to about...?" or "What's the school's policy on...?" are voiced frequently by parents, often in frustration that there doesn't seem to be a central place to find an answer. In consultation with Dr. Finser, our school has begun a process of looking at its form in order to determine how it can serve an "adolescent" school rather than a young one. Families can expect to be a part of the process and to hear more about it as we move forward.

Dr. Finser, who directs the Waldorf Teacher Education Program and 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. He has been an educator for three decades and has offered keynote speeches at conferences in Asia, Europe, and throughout North America. He has also consulted with many public and Waldorf schools in areas such as facilitating change, designing mentoring and evaluation programs, and leadership development. "Building a Healthy Waldorf School" is an event not to be missed. We encourage you to be part of the conversation about our school's future.

LOCAL TV NEWS STATION TO AIR WSP FEATURE NEXT WEEK

You might recall that a reporter and camera crew from local Fox News affiliate WTFX visited our school in November following the a *New York Times* feature on Waldorf Education back in the fall. Reporter Karen Hepp's story will finally air on the Fox 10 O'clock News on next Friday, February 3rd, on channel 29. Hepp interviewed teachers, parents and students during her visit. She was particularly captivated by the beauty and quiet hum in the Early Childhood classrooms, and curious about a grade school curriculum that does not include the use of computers. Hepp's curiosity was piqued by Matthew Riechl's article in the *Times*, "A Silicon Valley School That Doesn't Compute".

Area Foundation Expresses Gratitude to WSP Teachers and Students



kyle daniel kerpan foundation

To the teachers and students of the Waldorf School of Philadelphia,

I would like to once again thank the teachers and children that provided the "feel peace" drawings for my foundation. The drawings were wrapped around blankets donated by IKEA and delivered to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for the children in the Oncology clinic as well as for children who were in the hospital for Christmas. It is difficult for me to express how

the beauty and simplicity of these drawings magically transform a plain blanket into something very special. I feel honored that The Waldorf School is carrying on this tradition which began when my daughter, Tessa was a student there. It allows me to stay connected to an incredible group of people who see the peacefulness in this world and are willing to share that focus with others. On behalf of the foundation and myself, I thank you for helping me bring continued peace to children with brain tumors and their families.

Feel peace,
Joan Kerpan

Joan Kerpan is the parent of Tessa Kerpan, WSP Class of 2010. Tessa's twin brother, Kyle Daniel Kerpan, lost his struggle with brain tumor in 2007.

Neighborhood News

"ALL HANDS ON DECK"

For the fifth straight year, local non-profit Yes And Collaborative Arts Program will offer a wonderful, all-original musical theater presentation at Eastern University. Written as a collaborative work with children and teens, and acted by a cast ranging in age from 6 to adult, *All Hands on Deck* will be enjoyed by everyone. Roman Fiorella, WSP Class of 2011, and Sondra Fiorella, WSP 6th grade, are both performing in all 6 shows beginning on Thursday, January 26 and running through Sunday, January 29th. For complete information, ticket purchase, directions and a short synopsis of this year's play, go to www.wintersortofthing.com. To download a flyer with complete showtimes and a coupon please visit http://www.wintersortofthing.com/img/schools_flyer_2012.pdf.

BECOME "ENCHANTED"

Author Elizabeth von Arnim's heart-warming novel about four women from London who take a life-changing vacation on the Italian Riviera, *Enchanted April*, comes alive this week under the deft direction of WSP Music and Chorus teacher Amanda Rogers-Petro at the Mitchell Performing Arts Center, Bryn Athyn College in Bryn Athyn.

Waldorf families are invited to be enchanted by *Enchanted April*, which Ms. Rogers-Petro describes as "heart-warming, uplifting, and quite funny" but maybe too "talky" for younger children. Families can get

one free ticket when purchasing tickets online by typing in the code word "Waldorf". *Enchanted April* runs from January 27th through the 29th, and on February 4th and 5th. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students. Visit www.brynathyn.edu to purchase.

PHILADELPHIA GIRLS CHOIR INTRODUCES "SISTER" ENSEMBLE

Music opens a window to the beauty of the world and the Philadelphia Girls Choir see music as the central piece in a cultural jigsaw puzzle. Through music, choristers gain a deeper understanding of themselves, their communities and the world.

Philadelphia Girls Choir is an after-school music education program for girls 7 and older. Girls audition and are placed in one of the training programs based on proficiency and age. After the training programs, selected singers are asked to audition for the performing choir. All programs include public performances; some programs include summer camps abroad.

The choir kicks off this spring with a "beta choir", ages 7 to 11 with plans to launch the program completely in the fall with a wider range of ages.

Open auditions for the beta program will be held on Saturday, January 28 from 1-3 p.m. at Academy of Vocal Arts, 1920 Spruce St., Philadelphia. Rehearsals will begin at Trinity

Center for Urban Life at 22nd and Spruce Streets, Philadelphia, in early February, and the program will conclude with a performance in mid-May.

For more information, please visit <http://www.phillygirlschoir.org> or call the Choir offices at 215-222-3500.

OPERA REMEMBERS CHILDREN OF THE HOLOCAUST

International Opera Theater and International House of Philadelphia are co-sponsoring performances of the operetta, *Brundibar and The Children of Theresienstadt* to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day this year, April 19th.

Brundibar tells the story of the children who gave 55 performances of the little opera *Brundibar* in the Theresienstadt concentration camp during World War II. The opportunity to use music and art enabled the children to feel uplifted in their final days. The operetta *Brundibar* is based on the book of the same name written by children's author Maurice Sendak, and is suitable for children ages 6-18. Tickets are \$10 for general admission at International Opera Theater. For more information, visit www.internationaloperatheater.org/iot/brundibar.



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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

Dear Merchant,

The Waldorf School of Philadelphia will be hosting our Annual Online Auction from March 15th- May 1st, 2012. Each year, we rely on generous donation from merchants like you to help us raise money for our scholarship fund, which provides tuition assistance to families in need. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 from the amazing items that are generously donated to our school.

The Waldorf School of Philadelphia offers a comprehensive early childhood through eighth grade education based on a vibrant curriculum that integrates academics with music, movement, visual and handwork arts. One of almost 1,000 Waldorf schools worldwide, it is the only Waldorf school in the Philadelphia metropolitan area, enriching the diversity of school choice for parents in our region and fostering a new generation of thoughtful, socially responsible and clear-thinking Philadelphians.

Your generous gift will be acknowledged as part of the online auction, in our annual report, and in news releases about the event. The Waldorf School of Philadelphia is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and we will be pleased to provide a formal receipt of your contribution for charitable deduction purposes. Our Tax ID number is: 75-388-993.

Please refer to the attached donation form for details on how to make a donation. If you have any questions, please contact me at (215) 248-1662 or development@phillywaldorf.com.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration and support.

Have a great day,



Alexandria Dilks Pandola
Director of Development

It's not what to think.
It's how to think.



Spring 2012 Auction Donation Form

Thank you so much for your contribution to The Waldorf School of Philadelphia's Auction event. We expect over 700 bidding guests and will also publicize prizes and their contributors to an even wider community through our website and news releases. Item donation deadline is **March 5th**.

Please help us properly acknowledge your gift by completing the information below:

Contact Person: _____
(as you would like it to appear in our online auction)

Business Name: _____

Address, City State, Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Website: _____

Item description: _____

Item value: \$ _____

Would you like a formal gift acknowledgment for tax purposes? " Yes " Not necessary

Delivery information:

- r Gift certificate/item enclosed with this form
- r Gift certificate/item provided to solicitor named below
- r No gift certificate provided. Please create one on Waldorf School of Philadelphia letterhead based on the description and value above and we will honor it.
- r Item may be collected on _____

*Item Solicited By: _____

Please return form to The Waldorf School of Philadelphia, Attn: Alex Dilks Pandola
by email at development@phillywaldorf.com; by fax at (215) 248-6167;
or by mail at 7500 Germantown Avenue, Eagles II, Philadelphia, PA 19119.