

The Waldorf Weekly for September 14, 2011

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION
OF THE WALDORF SCHOOL
OF PHILADELPHIA

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS *September*

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

The Parents Association is actively seeking new leadership. Ready to step up your commitment to WSP? Consider representing parents as the PA Convener. The voices and views of parents are critical to present and future decision making, long-term planning, and parent education. If you're ready for the challenge, we have mentors and support to help. Contact the school office at (215) 248-1662 for more information.

And So It Begins...

After a sweltering summer we are finally enjoying some cool, crisp mornings and warm afternoons. It's fall and back-to-school time once again and we are happy to welcome you. From the looks on the faces of the children I'd say that they're happy to be back with their teachers and their friends, ready for the adventures a new year will bring. Children who are new to our school have shown a range of emotions as they begin their journeys in Waldorf Education—excitement, fear, wonder, and curiosity. They, too, are wondering what lies in store at their new school that might be very different from where they've come.

Much of Waldorf Education is rooted in the rhythms of the natural world, particularly in the cycles of the seasons. In nature trees bud and flowers bloom when conditions are right; the days shorten and the nights turn cooler to give the earth time to regenerate and to store energy for the coming spring and summer. People often associate spring with a new beginning, but fall offers a chance to begin again as well. It is the beginning of the period of looking inward, of contemplation, and of considering serious subjects; it is the time for gathering closely with family and friends; and it signals the beginning of new opportunities for further developing ourselves as human beings.

We hope that as a new school year begins, you avail yourself of the many opportunities to grow with your child through Parent Study, by volunteering in some capacity, by attending a class meeting or by participating in class events. When we welcome you to our community, we welcome your entire family. Have a wonderful year!

~ Brenda Ridley, Administrator

BOARD OF TRUSTEES WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The WSP Board of Trustees holds legal and fiduciary responsibility for the school. The Board is made up of current parents, parents of alumni and other interested parties, including at least three faculty representatives. The Board sets tuition and fees, develops the budget, and oversees development and implementation of the school's strategic plan.

Over the summer, the Board welcomed the following people to its membership: Shelley Balfour, parent of Ryan Brewer (2nd grade); Joe Walsh, parent of Keely Walsh (7th grade); and Cristina Shiffman, 8th grade teacher and faculty representative.

Oops! We Goofed! The summer edition of *The Weekly* listed Janet Benton as the PA Liaison to the Board. That information was incorrect. Although Janet is a Board member, she is not the PA Liaison. Our apologies.



So Noted...

NEW FACES

We are pleased to welcome two additions to the staff and our new school nurse.

Say “hello” to **Kimberly Meloy**, assistant to Ms. Patricia in the Oak Tree Kindergarten. With previous experience in several early childhood school and day care settings, Ms. Kim is a wonderful addition to the Early Childhood Program here at WSP.

Alexandria Dilks Pandola has joined the administrative staff as director of development. Alex (yes, now there are two Alexes in the administrative office!) brings experience in non-profit fundraising, grant writing, board development, and long-term planning in arts organizations to her role as development director. She continues her work with Green Light Arts, a non-profit that she founded and successfully funded, which provides art-making opportunities to women artists through a mentorship program with established artists. In addition to her experience in development, Alex produces works for theater, including a recent production for the Live Arts and Philly Fringe Festival.

We also welcome **Erin Egelman, RN**, as our school nurse this year. Erin’s services as a school nurse are provided through the School District of Philadelphia’s Office of Non-Public School Programs. Erin has worked as a school nurse for 17 years. She will have hours at our school on every other Tuesday, and she started this week.

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 21, 2011**

Submissions for the above issue are due on **Monday, September 19, 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@philadelphiawaldorf.org.

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.



Greetings From Indonesia!

WSP was pleased to host a delegation of educators from Indonesia on a visit to the school last Friday. The educators, who are invited through a U.S. State Department program, are visiting a variety of American schools to gain an understanding of approaches to educating elementary and high school students. Members of the group are pictured at left with their interpreter, 3rd grade teacher, Dori Persinotti, and Brenda Ridley, Administrator.

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 2012 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 will be rounded out with baby carrots. For prices and other details about pizza lunches, see the insert in this issue of *The Waldorf Weekly*.

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.

Watch *The Waldorf Weekly* for the date of our fall opening!



JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL WELCOME POTLUCK

Friday, September 23rd, 4-6 p.m.

Clear your calendars for the Parents Association's Welcome Back Potluck Picnic, which takes place on Friday, September 23rd from 4-6 p.m. on the "triangle" near Snowdrop Nursery. This annual tradition is a great warm-up to the school year and is always quite fun. It is an ideal time to catch up with friends and to meet some new ones. We encourage you all to come out and join in on the merrymaking! As this is a potluck, please bring a dish to share AND plates, cups and utensils for your family. We're trying to be friendly to the Earth by reducing the amount of waste we produce.

Here are some suggestions for the kinds of foods to bring:

All Kindergartens: cold or hot salad of any kind

1st and 2nd Grades: cheese and crackers

3rd Grade: bread, butter, and dips

4th, 5th, 6th Grades: main dish of any kind

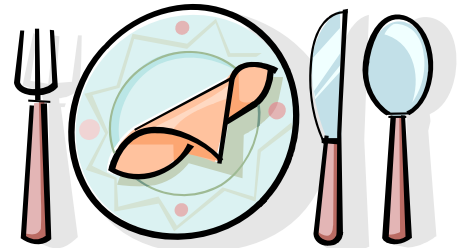
7th and 8th Grades: desserts

(If you have children in two grades, choose one from above list)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TAKE YOUR PLATTERS HOME WITH YOU (or they will be left for the groundhogs, squirrels, vultures, ants, etc)

See you all there!

The Parents Association



WSP Parents Rock!

Word of mouth continues to be our number one source of new students. A significant number of admissions inquiries can be traced to conversations with a WSP family. WSP parents rock! Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

There are a number of ways you can continue to help. Collect a new yard sign from the office and display it in your front yard; grab some open house postcards and place them in your favorite coffee shop, gym, hair salon, or wherever parents might get together; talk to everybody and anybody about our school; share your positive experiences and encourage friends and acquaintances to visit.

The first Open House of the season will be held on Saturday, October 1st at 10 a.m. It's a fact that prospective parents prefer to talk to current parents. You can make a huge difference in enrollment simply by attending an open house. If you have a child in the upper grades, bring your child too and they can talk about being a Waldorf student. Open Houses are a time for us to show off. E-mail me if you can volunteer to help.

In the coming few days your child will bring home a school t-shirt. These shirts are a gift for each student. They can be worn outside of school but, unfortunately, they are not to be worn at school because they are not in alignment with our school dress code. For a preview of the shirts visit www.phillywaldorf.com/blog. I hope you like them and that your child will enjoy having a school t-shirt to wear.

Welcome back to another great school year – our fifteenth!

Best wishes,

Alex Borders, Director of Admissions

For up to the minute school news and events, including latest information about school opening times, visit our homepage and check out the banner headlines at www.phillywaldorf.com

WANT TO GO PAPERLESS? *The Waldorf Weekly* is posted on our website every week. You can find it on the parents' page. Just click on the link to open it. And if you want to continue reading *The Weekly* online, just send an e-mail to office@phillywaldorf.com and put "I want to go paperless" in the subject line.

The Rules

PARKING AND DRIVING REMINDERS

For safety reasons we are reminding drivers to exercise caution when entering and driving through the school grounds, particularly at 3:15 p.m. dismissal. In order to navigate the grounds safely, we are reminding drivers of the following:

- **The speed in a school zone is 15 m.p.h.** Please do not speed.
- **Drive a one-way loop around the building at drop-off and pick-up.** Please enter the school grounds via the drive between the church building and Eagles I (behind our building), and exit via the Eagles II driveway on the entry side of the building.
- **Do not stop or park alongside the kindergarten play area.** This area is for school buses only.
- **There is no parking in front of the school building** or along the split-rail fence along the lower grades playground during school hours.

**KEEPING
KIDS
SAFE**

PLEASE HELP TO KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE!

After School Handwork

New projects are starting in every class and also in After School Handwork! For the first time last year, our students had an opportunity to get extra help with their handwork projects, to work on an independent project, or make up a project they missed because they joined the school in a later grade. This class was a huge success and the kids who participated loved having some extra time to work in the handwork room. This year After School Handwork will meet on Mondays, from dismissal to 4:15. Students who are new to our school in grades 3-8 are strongly encouraged to participate. Those who struggle to keep up with their peers in this subject will also benefit from this extra time and instruction. Those who just love to work with their hands are also welcome to come and work on something other than their regular class projects. Possibilities include embroidery, knitting, crochet and spinning. Anyone who would like their child to participate, please call or e-mail Ms. Nicola at 215-850-2657, or via e-mail to nicolenicola@verizon.net. Cost is \$10 /class, with a sliding scale for anyone who asks.



PARENT HANDWORK STARTS THIS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH!!

All are invited to join us on Friday mornings after drop-off for parent handwork. It is a wonderful time to meet other parents and chat all while either working on a project of your own or helping out with different projects that various school committees request help on. This year we will start out by working on some of the crafts for the children's shopping room at the Holiday Fair as well as some toys for the parent handwork table. We will be meeting in the applied arts room (And if that room is being used some weeks, we will move to the Parent Resource Room right next door) in the Snowdrop Nursery wing. No experience necessary. Questions? Contact Gretchen Wright at nate-gretch@gmail.com. (Mom of Dylan and Emma in the Second Grade.)

When: Friday mornings, 8:30ish - 10:30ish

Where: Applied Arts Room, Eagles I

Why?: Crafting! Coffee and tasty treats! Excellent conversation!



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