

The Waldorf Weekly for February 1, 2012

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION
OF THE WALDORF SCHOOL
OF PHILADELPHIA

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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, 8:30–11:00 a.m.
- 12 Winter Chorus and Recorder Concert, 4 p.m.
- 15 Fourth Grade Parent Evening, 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Winter Break Begins, **NO SCHOOL**
- 27 School Re-opens

March

- 2 Eighth Grade Coffee House, 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Observation Morning, 8:30–11:00 a.m.
- 16 Parent-Teacher Conferences, **NO SCHOOL**
- 17 Faculty In-Service Day, **NO SCHOOL**



**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.

SPRING AUCTION COMMITTEE MEETS TONIGHT AT 6 P.M.

See page 3 for details.



So Noted...



Enrollment Contracts Due This Month

Enrollment contracts for the 2012-2013 school year have been mailed to current families re-enrolling in the Early Childhood and grades 2-8. Please return your enrollment materials to the school office by **Friday, February 17th**.

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 8, 2012**.

Submissions for the next week are due by **Monday, February 6, 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.

WSP Chorus and Recorder Ensemble to Perform

Location: The Unitarian Society of Germantown
Date and Time: Sunday, February 12th at 4 p.m.



Come enjoy a lively and varied program of music from our Fourth and Fifth Grade Chorus, the Middle School Chorus, and the Recorder Ensemble.

~ Amanda Rogers- Petro, Music and Chorus Teacher



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.

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

A Little Incentive

If you contributed \$100 or more to the Annual Fund's Winter Challenge, we have a WSP sport water bottle waiting for you in the school office. Stop by and pick up your bottle today!



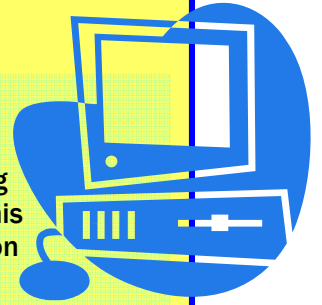
Development News

Spring Auction Committee Seeks Members

Interested in helping the Spring Auction Committee make this fundraiser a success? Join us on Wednesday, February 1st at 6 p.m. in the conference room on the second floor and help to make this year's auction even better than before.

We've already received donations from the Doubletree Hotel, Philadelphia Theatre Company and the Delaware Museum of Natural History, just to name a few. Thank you to the parents who have already started soliciting donations, which can be mailed in or dropped off at the office anytime during school hours. If you have any questions, please contact Alex Dilks Pandola at development@phillywaldorf.com

~ Alexandria Dilks Pandola
Director of Development



LOCAL TV NEWS STATION TO AIR WSP FEATURE THIS FRIDAY

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".



Auction Committee Meeting
TONIGHT! Wednesday, February 1st, 6 p.m.
Conference Room, 2nd Floor

Light refreshments will be served.

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."

The Why and How of Waldorf

Supporting Parents in Digestible Bites

WORLD LANGUAGES IN THE WALDORF CURRICULUM

Now, more than ever, we are connected to others all around the globe. Advances in technology make it possible to see and converse with school children in China, business owners in Australia, or distant relatives in Egypt. One can even find a Smartphone “app” that instantly makes translations of other languages into English and vice versa. While many countries have long supported facility in two or more languages as a life skill, the United States has been a little behind the curve. Controversy continues over the question of whether Spanish, which is spoken by about 45 million people in the U.S. as either a first or second language, should be an “official” language here. Public and private schools continue to offer language study, but it is usually not introduced until the middle school years.

Waldorf Education has long valued the study of world languages, beginning with the first Waldorf school in Stuttgart, Germany in 1919. Language study, along with mathematics, writing, reading, social studies, movement education and practical and fine arts comprise a rich, liberal arts curriculum designed to “awaken and educate the capacities that every human being needs”, according to the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America. Just as some students demonstrate an aptitude for science and may eventually work in the scientific field, others excel in languages and may make use of those skills in a variety of fields as adults. The aim of the Waldorf curriculum, though, is not to create artists, historians, or biologists, but to develop interests and capacities that will serve a child throughout his or her life. Every subject studied contributes to the development of a well-balanced individual. No two Waldorf schools offer the exact same curricula; however, the structure of those curricula is roughly the same. The world language curriculum may vary from school to school in terms of which language is taught, but study begins in first grade when children are beginning to learn sounds, alphabets and numbers that eventually enable them to read and write in English.

At The Waldorf School of Philadelphia, Spanish language begins in first grade with students imitating the sounds made by the teacher, Maestra Isabel DeBeary. The focus is on reproducing sounds and learning words for things commonly found in the child’s environment. The emphasis on sound production and pronunciation continues through third grade as students continue to build their vocabularies. Toward the end of third grade and more centrally in fourth grade, students begin to write short sentences in Spanish. By middle school, students are reading and writing in Spanish and developing more cognitive skill in the structure of the language. After eight years of study, students are prepared to continue their language studies in high school or through enrichment activities that help to develop fluency.

Maestra Isabel (“maestra” is pronounced “my-stra” and means “teacher”) encourages parents to support their child’s Spanish skills through practice at home. For the month of February, Maestra Isabel would like students to practice words and phrases related to weather. See “Spanish Lesson” for this week’s list of words and phrases. Parents who have questions about Spanish assignments, correct pronunciations, or other aspects of the language program are welcome to contact Maestra Isabel at school or via e-mail to facingfaces@comcast.net.

SPANISH LESSON

Learn and practice these weather-related words and phrases at home.

Lluvia (u-vee-a) ~ rain

¡Hace frío! (ah-say free-o) ~ “It’s cold!”

¡Está lloviendo! (Ace-sta yo-vee-endo) ~ “It’s raining!”

Neighborhood News

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 on February 4th and 5th. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students. Visit www.brynathyn.edu to purchase.

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.

RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

The public is welcome to this presentation by Kenneth R. Ginsburg, MD, MS ED., an international lecturer and pediatrician specializing in Adolescent Medicine at CHOP whose clinical practice, teaching, research, and advocacy are dedicated to fostering children's internal resilience. His most recent books are *Building Resilience in Children and Teens: Giving Kids Roots and Wings* and *Letting Go with Love and Confidence: Raising Responsible, Resilient, Self-Sufficient Teens*. Dr. Ginsburg's talk takes place on Thursday February 2, 2012, 7:30– 8:30 p.m. at Springside Chestnut Hill Academy (formerly Springside School) at 8000 Cherokee Street, Philadelphia, 19118. For more details, please call 215-247-7200 or visit www.sch.org.

CHILDREN'S HAITIAN QUILT SQUARE WORKSHOP

The Free Library's ONE BOOK ONE PHILADELPHIA program celebrates this year's book choice, *Create Dangerously* by Haitian author Edwidge Danticat, with a tie-in quilt-making workshop for children. Participants will learn about the history of quilt culture in Haiti in this hands-on workshop and will create their own quilt squares to take home. Materials will be provided. Parents are welcome! The workshop takes place at the Chestnut Hill Branch of the Free Library, 8711 Germantown Avenue on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at 4 p.m. For more details call 215-685-9290 or visit the website at www.freelibrary.org/onebook.

SOCIAL INCLUSION CORNER

COURTESY OF THE MONTH

"Discretion becomes the power of meditation."

~ Rudolf Steiner

Create space for truth and leave gossiping out of the community.

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.

Doll-Making Workshop

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

Classes will meet weekly on Thursday evenings from 7-9 in the Applied Arts Studio at the Waldorf School of Philadelphia, **beginning March 1st.**

**New Start
Date!**

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@verizon.net for more information.



Nicole Nicola will also host "Sheep to Shawl", a class that focuses on the Fiber Arts. Please see The Classifieds in next week's Waldorf Weekly for details.

AFTER SCHOOL HANDWORK TO CONTINUE THROUGH SPRING BREAK

Due to popular demand, After School Handwork is being extended through Spring Break. Cost is \$10 per week. Anyone in grades 2–8 is welcome to come and catch up on a school project or get help with an independent project. The class meets on Monday afternoons in the Applied Arts Studio from 3:15–4:15 p.m.



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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