

## The Waldorf Weekly for November 2, 2011

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION  
OF THE WALDORF SCHOOL  
OF PHILADELPHIA

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Technology in the Classroom
- New, Returning Vendors at Fair
- The Importance of Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Fall Clothing Exchange
- Neighborhood News
- The Why and How of Waldorf
- From the PA
- Holiday Fair News
- The Classifieds
- Courtesy of the Month

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### November

- 4 Parent-Teacher Conferences, **NO SCHOOL**
- 5 Parent-Teacher Conferences Continue
- 5 Fairmount/Center City Family Open House, 10 a.m.
- 7 Faculty In-Service Day, **NO SCHOOL**
- 10 Observation Morning, 8:30–10:00 a.m.
- 12 Lantern Walk Family Festival
- 18 Holiday Fair, 1 p.m. dismissal
- 19 Holiday Fair, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
- 23 Thanksgiving Recess, 1 p.m. dismissal
- 28 School re-opens

### TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM: AN ONGOING DIALOGUE

There are a steady number of articles appearing in the press about Waldorf Education, and many more on educational research and child development. Often the emerging educational research touches on trends and theories that directly relate to the Waldorf curriculum and student experience. The recent *New York Times* articles have generated considerable interest in Waldorf Education around the country. The first article in this recent series, and the most emailed article of the day, “A Silicon Valley School That Doesn’t Compute”, refers to employees of Silicon Valley technology companies like Google, Apple, Yahoo and Hewlett-Packard and how they are selecting “low-tech” Waldorf schools for their kids and, more importantly, why. That article gave way to a response by the chief domestic policy advisor to Vice President Gore and to many other comments from Waldorf parents and alumni. Some of those who commented are from the WSP community. Here is a sample of what parents are saying.

“Several things come to mind as a Waldorf School parent. The first for me

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Vendor Highlights From the 2011 Holiday Fair

Wow! What an amazing selection of artisans we’ve accepted into the 2011 Holiday Fair and Craft Bazaar.

This year’s Holiday Fair features an exciting variety of over 30 vendors, including Holiday Fair favorites like Kurt Walser Chocolate, Milkshake Crafts and Tadpole Creations along with spectacular new offerings like Gritty City Beauty, Recycled Rowhouse and Natural Renaissance.

Visit the Holiday Fair page on our website and check out the vendor pictures and links to plan your shopping early. Invite your friends, family and neighbors using our Facebook event page. Just search “Waldorf School of Philadelphia Holiday Fair” on Facebook - look for an e-mail soon with a link to the event page.

~ Alexandria Dilks Pandola, Director of Development



**Fall Clothing Exchange**  
this Friday and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.  
See page 3 for more details.



## So Noted...

### JUST A REMINDER ...

School is closed this Friday, November 4th for Parent-Teacher Conferences and Monday, November 7th for Faculty In-service Day. Please send all submissions for the *Waldorf Weekly* by Monday at noon.

**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 9, 2011**

Submissions for the next week are due on **Monday, November 7th 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.

### 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

### Have you or your child lost anything lately?

Have you checked the Lost and Found? The school's lost and found basket is scheduled to be emptied on **Tuesday, November 8th**. Please stop by the school office to see if any items belong to you. Unclaimed articles of clothing that are in good condition will be donated to a local charity. Unclaimed water bottles and lunch boxes may be discarded.

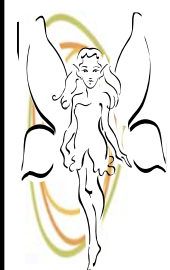
### APPLES ARE HERE!

Pre-ordered apples will be ready for pick up at The Waldorf School of Philadelphia in the hallway near the Parent Resource Room today. If you didn't pick up your apples this morning, they will be available this afternoon at dismissal. If you need to make other arrangements to pick up your apples, please let me know.

Fruit sales are a great way to help fundraise for the school, and also a great opportunity for our community to support local farms and orchards— all the while bringing our families delicious apples and apple products. Rachel Kern was instrumental in organizing this fundraiser and this is something that we're both looking forward to doing again in the spring.

Thank you to Rachel Kern, Solebury Orchards, Weaver's Way (for delivering our apples to WSP) and you!

~ Alexandria Dilks Pandola, Director of Development



### 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.,**

**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!**



Anything important is worth emphasizing...

## DON'T MISS PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

November 4th might be a mini-holiday for your child, but school is closed so that teachers and parents have an opportunity to talk together about what's going on in the classroom and how your child is progressing with the curriculum.

Twice each year our school sets aside a weekday, and many teachers give up their weekends, for formal conversations between parents and teachers. This is the ideal time to ask questions specifically about your son or daughter, the curriculum, or about Waldorf Education in general. Many teachers have posted their schedules for conferences on the bulletin boards outside of their classrooms. If you haven't already done so, please remember to sign up for a conference time that is convenient, or talk with your child's teacher if the schedule doesn't work for you.



## GREAT FINDS AT FALL CLOTHING EXCHANGE

The Fall Clothing Exchange will be held this **Friday, November 4th and Saturday November 5th from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** Come to the triangular area outside the Parents' Resource Room and Applied Arts Wing in Eagles I.

It's time to clean out your children's closets of winter clothing they have outgrown. It's time to recycle and pass on those gently-used items such as boots, snow suits, long-sleeve shirts, turtlenecks, jeans, coats, hats, and mittens from one Waldorf family to another.

To help our volunteers, please bag or box clothing with size and gender marked on outside. Place all donated clothing in the Parents' Resource Room (down the hallway from Snowdrop Nursery). Collection boxes will be provided and will be clearly marked. Thanks!

~Hillary Burdette, Coordinator

## 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:

*"Studies have shown that when used as a means of synergistic learning, art is an intensifier that makes academics more powerfully internalized. The approach to teaching at The Waldorf School of Philadelphia encourages curiosity, creativity and critical thinking skills."*

## 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 noon-6 p.m., Thursday through Sunday. The exhibit will close on November 18th.

### HRC HOSTS FAMILY DAY CELEBRATION

The Human Rights Campaign Greater Philadelphia (HRC) presents its first annual Family Day Celebration on Sunday, November 13, 2011, at Plymouth Meeting Friends School, 2150 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting. All are welcome: LGBT families, straight allies and prospective families.

The event will offer sponsored resource tables representing adoption agencies, financial advisers, professional photographers, open and affirming religious affiliations, and other community-based LGBT organizations. If you have any questions, please email [hrcphillyfamilyday@gmail.com](mailto:hrcphillyfamilyday@gmail.com).



PARENT EDUCATION

## The Why and How of Waldorf

*Supporting Parents in Digestible Bites*

*“Scientists are baffled,” says Alison Gopnik, a professor of psychology at University of California, Berkeley. “The more serious science we do, the more it comes out that very young children are not designed to do focused, goal-directed behavior we think of [as appropriate] for older children but are to a phenomenal degree very sophisticated about learning from the things and the people around them.”*

What should pre-school children learn and how? Decades of research have shown that the innate curiosity young children leads them to develop socially, emotionally, and physically through exploration, but many pre-school programs are gravitating toward flash cards, lectures, and tests— methods used with older children. What role does parent expectations play in this trend toward “real school” for young children? Read the article “Death of Preschool?” by Paul Tullis in *Waldorf Today* at [www.waldorftoday.com](http://www.waldorftoday.com).

## FROM THE PA

The Parents’ Association had a packed agenda at its first meeting on October 24th. Topics for discussion included reports by Class Reps on highlights from the classrooms; the status of St. Peter’s, the proposed future site for the school; school finances; an introduction to the work of the Social Health Group; a motivational speech and volunteer solicitation from Holiday Fair Chairperson, Pat Fiorella; governance of the school; and the dress code and school tee shirts.

This last item (tee shirts) revived a debate about shirts with logos being worn in school. The WSP faculty, with one dissenting member, stated that it had no problem with students wearing WSP logo shirts at school, as the shirts instill

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Continued from page 1)* **TECHNOLOGY**

is that the word “technology” is too broadly used. At the Waldorf School my daughter attends, they use the word “media” rather than technology. From the time children are born in this country the relentless marketing machine is trying to “capture” them, and until about the age of seven, children don’t really know what is real with regard to advertising. Is Bob The Builder yogurt really better for you? Ask a five year old and they will probably say “yes”. By keeping the children “media” or “technology” free during the early years of development, it allows them to keep a sense of wonder and amazement for all new things. TV is the worst “technology” offender and yet not really mentioned in the article. Children learn best by playing with other children and modeling behavior of parents, caregivers and teachers, and that does not involve technology.” *Joe Walsh, Father of Keely in 7th Grade*

“One thing to keep in mind is that this article, however supportive of Waldorf Education, is not really speaking to the inundation of media at home, what that can do to a child, and how that can impede a child’s ability to learn in school and affect overall growth. It is a sort of mixed message to say that computers don’t belong in school for young children but it is perfectly harmless to have the children on computers, playing video games, and having all kinds of screen time at home.” *Susan Bracchia, Mother of Zoe in 8th Grade*

“At WSP, classrooms do not include computers or any software-using devices, and families are asked to limit and monitor students’ use of television, movies, computers, and so on at home. This policy, coupled with the Waldorf curriculum, helps to ensure high-quality human interactions at school and supports a home life based on relating to living beings, to books, and to the outdoors more often than to screens. The kids at WSP look each other and

grown-ups in the eye and relate comfortably. They have poise (partly from having physical movement integrated into almost every subject). They join together at home and on the playground to invent games, gather resources, and figure out solutions when practical or emotional problems arise.”

*Janet Benton, Mother of Dariel in 3rd Grade*

As a school community we are grateful for the new and renewed interest and ask that you continue to encourage prospective families to visit so that they may get a sense of the cutting edge, and time-tested, value of an education at The Waldorf School of Philadelphia. A well-timed Open House will be held this weekend and an extra Observation Morning date has also been added to the admissions events calendar.

~ Alex Borders,  
Director of Admissions

Join the conversation at [Facebook.com/PhillyWaldorf](https://www.facebook.com/PhillyWaldorf) or at [www.phillywaldorf.com/blog](http://www.phillywaldorf.com/blog)





### ASK PAT

**Dear Pat, I would like to do my volunteer shift on Friday but, with 1: 00 dismissal, I don't know what to do with my kids. Any advice? Signed, Baffled**

Dear Baffled, Any parent who is volunteering on Friday afternoon, November 18<sup>th</sup> will be eligible for free child care. Just make sure YOU SIGN UP AHEAD OF TIME so Mr. Jim has an idea of the number of children coming. Great idea to work Friday and have all day Saturday to enjoy the Fair. Pat

**Dear Pat, I have religious obligations which make it difficult to work Friday or Saturday. Is there another alternative for me to do my 2 hours of parent volunteering? Signed, Challenged Scheduler**

Dear CS, We have shifts on Sunday for parents to help put the school back together. Through an elaborate system of picture taking, color coding and map making, we dismantle the rooms Friday, but on Sunday, like little elves, parents come and put it all back together for Monday morning. So, each class needs 2 parents to sign up for the 2 p.m. shift. Join us. Pat

**Dear Pat, I am signed up to make vegan chili for the Fair. Is that my 2 hours of volunteering?**

**Signed, Chef Boy R Dee**

Dear Chef, Thanks for making the chili, but we still need you on site for the Fair! Without all of our parents, events like the Children's Shopping Room and the Children's Craft Room, not to mention the jump rope machine, can't happen. Plus, chili is a solo endeavor. Come and make new friends as you volunteer at the Fair. Pat

### Children's Shopping Room Seeks Crafters

Dear Waldorf Families,

Thank you to all of our Children's Shopping Room volunteers! We have made great progress, but we need more help!! Join us at Parent Handwork on Friday from 8:30–10:30 a.m., or this Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. at Ilka Cassidy's house.

Thank you for your donations of fabric and sock yarn!! We still need donations of:

- Whole walnuts (lots of them)
- Bees wax

For more information, contact Ania Mazurkiewicz-Munoz, Co-Chair, Children's Shopping Room, at (570) 239-2777.

Hope to see you soon!!

## Still Wanted!

### \* 10-12 More Card Tables

Rectangular or square folding tables. Sign up on the bulletin board or contact Pat Fiorella at [patlittleflower@yahoo.com](mailto:patlittleflower@yahoo.com).

### \* Holiday Fair Decorations

Mercedes Ureña-Duran is now accepting the following donations:

1. Large or extra large pine cones
2. Vine wreaths
3. Sweet gum fruit.

## BAKERS STILL NEEDED FOR THE HOLIDAY FAIR

When I bought Jim *The Big Book of Baking* for Fathers Day little did I know what I had unleashed. This summer Jim baked EVERY DAY! I kid you not; my house was full of lemon drizzle bars, chocolate fondue cup cakes, double chocolate brownies. I don't wish to brag, but Jim's brownies are ALMOST as good as Gretchen Wright's brownies! I had to put a stop to this before I weighed 400 lbs, so I told him to save his talents for the Holiday Fair. But even Jim, as awesome a baker as he has become, cannot single-handedly fill the café with baked goods. So please help Jim and the café out by signing up to bring something delicious for the bake sale. The sign-up sheet is posted on the front entrance notice board. I will e-mail or call closer to the time to remind you what you said you would bring and when and where to drop off your goodies. Many thanks in advance!

~ Miss Lucy, Café and Bake Sale Coordinator



## 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 AT (215) 248-1662 NO LATER THAN 3:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH 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.

(Continued from page 4) **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**

school pride rather than carry an advertising message. The faculty asked that parents discuss this issue since some parents expressed concern that approval to wear the shirts contradicts the dress code. Class Reps from 12 of 13 classes were present along with other parent members. The overwhelming consensus was that approval to wear school shirts should be limited to students in grades 4 and up.

Complete notes from the meeting will be posted on the bulletin board at the main entrance facing the Wishing Well. Questions or comments about the PA or about the meeting can be directed to Co-Convener Ania Mazurkiewicz-Muñoz or me.

~ Jim Brannon, Co-Convener

### Join the WSP Listserv

If you want an additional way to stay connected to fellow parents, teachers, and staff at WSP, consider joining the school's "Yahoo Group", a parent-monitored listserv. It's easy to join. Just send an e-mail to Joe Walsh, the moderator, at joewalsh1@gmail.com. Please put "WSP Listserv" in the subject line of your e-mail and indicate that you'd like to join the group. When you have been added to the group, you will receive a "welcome e-mail" along with information to help you get started.

### SOCIAL INCLUSION CORNER

### COURTESY OF THE MONTH

Patience becomes understanding. -Rudolf Steiner

Have patience in all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections but instantly set about remedying them—every day begin the task anew. ~ St. Francis de Sales

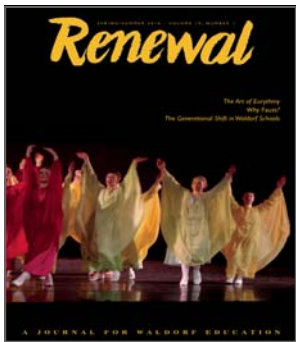
*The Social Inclusion is an on-going project designed to bring greater awareness to issues of social inclusion, courtesy and bullying in our school. Our school participates in, and supports, The Social Inclusion with the goal of creating a healthy social environment that nurtures children and adults,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

**BUY A CHANCE  
TO WIN THIS  
BEAUTIFUL  
QUILT!**



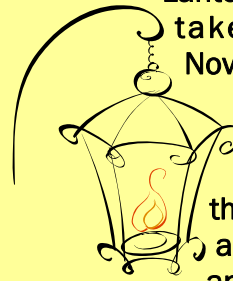
Chances for our Holiday Fair grand prize raffle, a hand-made quilt by Anna Ziegner (pictured above), are available NOW on the Holiday Fair page of our website.

**Wondering about your copy of  
*Renewal Magazine*?**



Families who ordered *Renewal Magazine* with their PA dues can expect deliveries later this month. See upcoming issues of *The Waldorf Weekly* for more details regarding the magazine's arrival.

**Our school-wide celebration of the Festival of Lanterns (aka The Lantern Walk) will take place next Saturday, November 12th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Blue Bell Hill in Fairmount Park. Look for confirmation in the next few days of the exact location. Welcome autumn with us with friendship and hot cider.**



### **“Race to Nowhere” Screening in Area**

“Race to Nowhere”, the documentary film made by a mom concerned about the achievement pressure her daughter faced at school, will be screened at Hatboro-Horsham High School on Tuesday evening, November 15th at 7 p.m.

The film generated a lot of discussion in area schools—both public and private—when it premiered last school year. Facilitated discussions often followed the film’s screening, and that opportunity is being offered by “Be Part of the Conversation” at Hatboro-Horsham. There is no charge for the event; donations are encouraged. To see what “Race to Nowhere” is about, view the trailer at [www.racetonowhere.com](http://www.racetonowhere.com)

## **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](mailto:wend53@gmail.com) or 267-471-4821. Cost: \$90



**REMEMBER TO “FALL BACK” THIS WEEKEND!**  
Daylight Savings Time begins this Sunday, November 6th at 2:00 a.m.



7500 Germantown Avenue  
Eagles II Building  
Philadelphia, PA 19119  
[phillywaldorf.com](http://phillywaldorf.com)  
T: 215-248-1662  
F: 215-248-6167  
E: [info@phillywaldorf.com](mailto:info@phillywaldorf.com)

Thank you for reading *The Waldorf Weekly*