

Friday, February 8th, 2013

Dear Parents,

Our faculty has stepped forward to design our program for the 2013-14 school year, which we are delighted to unveil today, as announced.

2013-14 Program

In our Thursday January 29th brainstorming session, teachers looked closely at how their diversity of skills, competency, and passion would best serve our students and our mission to educate our students to fulfill their highest potential - think clearly, feel deeply, impart meaningful purpose to their lives, and actively contribute to the positive development of society.

On Sunday February 3rd, the Program Team composed of Monica Lander (Grade 1 class teacher), Kim Holscher (Grade 5 class teacher), Annette Campana (Grade 6 class teacher), Gretchen Whitlatch (Handwork teacher), Laura Mason (Kindergarten teacher), and myself, designed next year's program from the faculty's brainstorming suggestions and initiatives, in the context of our anticipated need to compress staffing in order to meet our budgetary challenges. Further in this letter you can see the main elements of the 2013-14 program. Further details are contingent upon scheduling, a puzzle which is traditionally solved in July for the subsequent year and which will be shared with each grade individually when available, along with grade-specific main lesson blocks.

We believe you will be pleasantly surprised to see that, as we anticipated would be the case, our program and staffing for 2013-14 will offer our students additional opportunities to benefit from the diversity of our teachers' individual passion and talents, and to enjoy a larger social group in several of their lessons. These opportunities increase as students move through the grades, yet our program will remain stable with the guidance of each grade's class teacher.

Tuition 2013-14

We heard your concerns about our tuition level, and we are very glad to let you know that our 2013-14 tuition will remain identical to the 2012-13 levels. The published tuition includes a \$150 tuition protection fee which enables us to offer our Open Withdrawal. For additional details, please see page 60 of our Community Handbook– The tuition agreements you received in our January mailing are therefore no longer accurate. A new mailing will be sent to you shortly, well in time for the **February 26 new Recommitment deadline**.

2013-14 Preschool and Kindergarten tuition		2013-14 Elementary school tuition		Extended Care (After-school care & Break Care)
2 days	\$5,260	Grades 1-8	\$17,600	\$9.00/hour* * Financial aid may apply. Details forthcoming.
3 days	\$7,890			
5 days	\$13,150			

New! Extended Care

Our After-school care is very popular, with many families taking advantage of our extended hours. In 2013-14, we are considering offering our extended care program during the major school breaks. To help us determine the need for break-care in our community, we will be posting a survey in our upcoming newsletter. Please read our newsletter and take a moment to let us know of your needs in that area so we can design the most supportive break-care program.

Staffing

A few significant changes in staffing have occurred in the past few weeks, with Mr. Zabel announcing his departure next year. Additionally, Mrs. Evans-Agnew has shared with us her wish to apply for the posted grade 1 position. In our early childhood program, the compression in staffing means that we will be moving away from our approach of co-teaching to the more traditional approach of one teacher and one assistant for each kindergarten class. In this context, Laura Mason and Maggie Reilly will continue as Kindergarten teachers while Amie Aylward has generously agreed to step into the role of Kindergarten assistant in the Morning Glory class. Tabatha Jeantette will continue in her role of Kindergarten assistant in the Morning Star classroom. Our early childhood teachers are all pleased to be able to provide continuity of care for the children into the next school year. The positions of preschool teacher (to be filled when we are certain that our preschool program is full) and first grade teacher are still open, and the process in full swing.

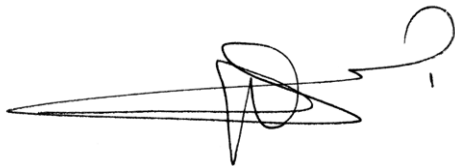
Combined class

The most significant change in our 2013-14 program involves the combining of our current grades 3 and 4 students for next year, under the guidance of Stephanie Packer as their class teacher. Known within our community as our Spanish teacher, Miss Packer brings to our school much more than her excellent Spanish lessons. A graduate of the University of Michigan, where she obtained a B.A. in Organizational Studies with honors, she has taught since 2008 in a variety of settings including three years in Seville where she completed her Waldorf certification. Miss Packer chose Waldorf education while in Princeton, where she took the Waldorf teacher training Foundations Studies while teaching and substituting in the Princeton Waldorf School. Miss Packer will be supported in her new role by two mentors. Annette Campana, grade 6 class teacher, will serve as her in-house mentor, providing her with recommendations and support as needed, while Tommi Morgan will serve as her mentor-at-large, advising Miss Packer in regards to main lesson sequence, preparation, and working in a mixed grade classroom. Tommi Morgan is a seasoned Waldorf teacher who consults with Waldorf schools internationally. You can find her biography on the faculty page of the Sound Circle Center for Arts and Anthroposophy website www.soundcircle.org.

Our grades 4 and 5 students will share most of their main lessons, carefully selected by faculty members as being suited to a wider range of developmental stages, ages and abilities. Miss Packer will be joined by Ms. Holscher, our grade 5 class teacher, with each teaching one developmentally-specific main lesson block to grades 4 and 5 separately. Mrs. Holscher will also teach one additional main lesson block to the whole class. A detailed plan for grades 4&5 has already been shared with parents of these two classes.

We sincerely hope that you will appreciate the care and thoughtful considerations of our team of teachers in creating the 2013-14 program. I will be available for questions and clarifications on **Monday February 11th at 8:30 am in the Grade 7 classroom, and 6:30 pm in Trillium Hall**. I look forward to being in conversation with you once more as you consider your recommitment to Three Cedars Waldorf School.

Geraldine Kline

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geraldine Kline', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Executive Director

2013-14 Program & Staffing

Grade	Class Teacher	Subjects Lessons	Lessons/ week	Notes
Preschool	TBD			Contingent on full class enrollment
Morning Glory	Laura Mason			Assistant - Amie Aylward
Morning Star	Maggie Reilly			Assistant – Tabatha Jeantette
1	TBD	Spanish, Japanese, Handwork, Eurythmy	2 of each	Class Teacher candidates are currently being interviewed (1 st graders daily schedule ends after lunch). - Japanese: Kim Jung Sook - Spanish: TBD
		Extra-main lesson (language arts, arts, mathematics), after-school care	2 2	
2	Monica Lander	Spanish, Japanese, Eurythmy, Games/movement, Handwork	2 of each	- Games - Ms. Lander - World languages combined with grade 3. Japanese: Jung Sook Kim Tokura. Spanish: TBD
		Extra-main lesson (language arts, arts, mathematics)	9	
3	Mary Spurgin	Spanish, Japanese, Eurythmy, Games/movement, Handwork	2 of each	- Games shared with grade 4 students – Cris Smith - World languages combined with grade 2 - Japanese: : Jung Sook Kim Tokura . Spanish: TBD
		Extra-main lesson (language arts, arts, mathematics)	9	
4 & 5	Stephanie Packer	Spanish, Japanese, Eurythmy, Handwork, Games/movement, Strings	2 of each	- Kim Holscher will teach 3 blocks – 1 block to grade 4 only, 1 block to grade 5 only, and 1 block to 4&5 combined. - Math – possibly two levels, by ability. - Games/movement – Grade 4 together with grade 3, while grade 5 students prepare for the Olympiads – Cris Smith. - Kim Holscher will teach 2 extra-main lessons
		Extra-main lesson (language arts, arts, mathematics)	5	
6	Kim Holscher	Spanish or Japanese	4	- World language – focus 4 periods per week, by choice, for students of grades 6, 7, and 8 combined. Spanish: Miss Packer, Japanese: Emiko Lin.
		Eurythmy, Handwork, Movement education, Strings/ukulele	2 of each	- 1 Middle Ages block – Gretchen Whitlatch - 2 science blocks – Johannes. Steegmans - Medieval Dances for ½ year - Gretchen Whitlatch.
		Choir, dance	1 of each	- Middle school choir – 6, 7, and 8 combined - Annette Campana.
		Extra-main lesson (language arts, arts, mathematics)	5	- Practical arts (woodwork, sculpture) – Jason Canard - Movement Education – Cris Smith - Strings will include Ukulele option.

7	Annette Campana	Spanish or Japanese	4	- World language – focus 4 periods per week, by choice, for students of grades 6, 7, and 8 combined. Spanish: Stephanie Packer, Japanese: Emiko Lin.
		Eurythmy Handwork, Movement education, Strings/Ukulele	2 of each	- Middle school choir – 6, 7, and 8 combined - Annette Campana.
		Choir, dance	1	- Renaissance dances for ½ year – Gretchen Whitlatch
		Extra-main lesson (language arts, arts, mathematics)	5	- Fine arts – combined with grade 8 – Mary Spurgin - Practical arts (woodwork, sculpture) – Jason Canard - Movement Education – Cris Smith - Strings will include Ukulele option.
	Britt Urquiza	Spanish or Japanese,	4	- World language – focus 4 periods per week, by choice, for students of grades 6, 7, and 8 combined. Spanish with Miss Packer, Japanese: Emiko Lin.
		Eurythmy, Handwork, Games/movement, Strings/Ukulele, math	2 of each	- Middle school choir – 6, 7, and 8 combined - Annette Campana.
		Choir	1	- 2 main lesson block taught by guest teacher. TBD.
		Extra-main lesson (language arts, arts)	4	- Organic chemistry main lesson – Cris. Smith - Weekly math lessons – Gretchen Whitlatch - Practical arts (woodwork, sculpture) – Jason Canard - Fine arts –combined with grade 7 – Mary Spurgin - Movement Education – Cris Smith - Strings will include Ukulele option.

Grades - Subject lessons

Our grade school teachers will see their task change slightly next year, with several grades combined for different lessons in an effort to enhance our students' social interactions and learning. Our teachers will teach a few lessons not traditionally part of their teaching repertoire, in subjects they are passionate about and trained in.

Teachers	What they will teach
Monica Lander	Grade 2 Games & Movement
Mary Spurgin	Grade 3 Painting grades 7 & 8
Stephanie Packer	Grade 4 & 5 Spanish grades 6,7,8
Kim Holscher	Grade 6 Grade 4&5 – one main lesson for each, and one main lesson for the whole class Grades 4&5 – 2 extra-main lessons
Annette Campana	Grade 7 Middle school choir Ukulele Ensemble, with Jason Canard
Britt Urquiza (<i>part-time</i>)	Grade 8
Gretchen Whitlatch	Handwork 1 through 8 Woodwork grades 5 through 8, with Jason Canard Grade 8 math Grade 6 Middle Ages main lesson
Jason Canard	Eurythmy grades 1, 2, 3, 4/5, 6, 7/8 Ukulele ensemble, with Annette Campana Practical arts (sculpture, woodwork, clay) grades 5 through 8, with Gretchen Whitlatch

Cris Smith	Games and P.E. grades 3 through 8 Movement (Olympiads training) grade 5 Grade 8 Organic Chemistry
Lauren Root & Judy Beatie	Strings grades 4 through 8
Emiko Lin	Japanese grades 6/7/8 – Japanese group (Japanese 4&5 – teacher TBD)
: Jung Sook Kim Tokura	Japanese grades 1, 2/3 (Japanese 4&5 – teacher TBD)

Posted positions

Three positions are posted at this time. We will be recruiting a preschool teacher (position to be filled when we are certain that our preschool program is full). Our first grade position remains open until filled, with currently three candidates being considered. We anticipate being able to announce our 2013-14 1st grade teacher in early to mid-March. Lastly, a part-time position for Spanish grades 1 through 5 has been posted, and we are at this time considering two excellent candidates.

Timetable – 4 periods per day

One important element of next year's program is the timetable, which will be based on 4 periods per day in addition to main lesson. This choice is based on our wish for students to experience the benefits of a slower pace and fewer transitions, providing them with the opportunity to engage in their work in a deeper and calmer manner. The timetable below is our current draft, which I am sending so you can have an initial sense of the children's daily rhythm in the grade school. The timetable will be revised by the faculty in the coming months, and will be published along with the weekly schedule for each class.

Times	Lessons	
8:15-10:15 - 2 hours	Main lesson	
10:15-10:25	Snack	
10:25-10:45	Recess	
10:45-10:50	Transition	
10:50-11:35 - 45 min	Period 1	
11:35-11:40	transition	
11:45-12:25 - 45 min	Period 2	
12:25-12:30	Transition	
12:30-12:50	Lunch	
12:50-1:10	Recess	
1:10-1:15	transition	
1:15-2:05 – 50 min	Period 3	
2:05-2:10		Thursday early dismissal
2:10-3:00 – 45 min	Period 4	2:10-2:25 – Clean up, verse, closing 2:25-2:35 – dismissal
3:00-3:15	Clean up, verse, closing	
3:15-3:25	Dismissal	