



Newsletter

08/03/2013

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Dear Robyn,

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All-School News

Message from Geraldine

Dear Parents and Friends,

Since 1995, our board, founding families, donors, and faculty have held a courageous vision - a world and a future built on participation, collaboration, and commitment. Each day our teachers imbue their classrooms with imagination, creativity, and passion, guiding their students through the joyful and at times challenging journey of growing up. Each day they fulfill our school's 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.

Since it opened its doors, our school has grown from a few kindergartners to 135 students, welcomed families into our Parent & Tot program and will complete its accreditation Self-Study this coming year, a milestone in reaching and sharing its maturity. Our campus will in the next few years reach its full capacity, and visions for the future are bubbling in the minds and hearts of faculty and parents alike, a celebration of progress, enthusiasm, and courage for the future.

Please join us on Monday, September 17 and Tuesday, September 18 for our Back to School Nights, and share in our vision of a vibrant Waldorf school in Bellevue!

- **Elementary Back to School Night** - Monday, September 17 - 6:30 pm (Please feel free to arrive at 6:00 pm and visit your child's classroom).
- **Early Childhood Back to School Night** - Tuesday, September 18 - 6:30 pm - Trillium Hall.

Welcome Back to School

Waldorf schools worldwide are strong advocates for the unique joys of childhood. We consider play the 'work' of children. Take a few minutes to view [this video](#) about the benefits of play for children!

Staffing Announcement

We are delighted to announce that several teaching positions for the 2012-13 are now filled.

Kindergarten Assistants

Morning Glory 1-day Assistant

It is a pleasure to announce that we have hired Petra Hines to assist in the Morning Glory classroom on Fridays. Each week on that day Miss Petra and Miss Amie will care for the younger students in the class while Miss Laura and Miss Tabatha take the oldest children (turning 6 by June) to the woods for the Woods Day program. Petra is the parent of two boys who both attended the Three Cedars early childhood program for several years. She is eager to join us as an assistant teacher this year!

Morning Star 5-day Assistant

We are pleased to announce that Tabatha Jeantette is our assistant with Miss Maggie. Miss Tabatha, our kindergarten substitute last year, has an understanding of the Waldorf perspective on childhood and is a long-time Three Cedars' parent who also serves as our school's Development Coordinator. With these and many other qualities, we were thrilled when Miss Tabatha agreed to join us as the Morning Star assistant teacher!

Handwork Assistant

It is a pleasure to announce that we have hired My Huynh to assist Gretchen Whitlatch in the 1st and 2nd grades' handwork classes this year. Mrs. Huynh brings her knowledge of handwork from her 4 years as a handwork teacher and 3 years as a handwork assistant. She brings creative ideas for the festivals to this work and is glad to be working with Mrs. Whitlatch.

Reminders from the Front Office

Elementary Morning Drop-Off

Parents are reminded that the Three Cedars campus opens at 8:00 a.m. on school days for

elementary students. Students arriving earlier than 8:00 a.m. must remain with their parent or carpool driver until the supervising teacher arrives on duty. The supervising teacher stays with the students until the bell rings at 8:10 a.m., at which time the students walk to their classrooms.

Attendance Reminders

All attendance related emails should be sent to attendance@threecedarswaldorf.org. This address will reach those members of the Front Office staff who track attendance. Please remember to also notify your class teacher of planned absences in advance. For more information on Three Cedar's Attendance Policy, please see page 56 of the [Community Handbook](#).

Christof Wiechert - Resilience



You may remember that this past June, our faculty members gathered for three days of study with colleagues of regional Waldorf schools, led by Christof Wiechert, prior Head of the International Waldorf Movement. Christof continues to visit Waldorf schools worldwide, to advise teachers and share his insights and findings. Below you will find an article published in Waldorf Today web newsletter. Our June conference focused on the joy and challenges of the teaching profession, also presented in Mr. Wiechert's new book: "Teaching, The Joy of Profession - An invitation to enhance your (Waldorf) interest", which we use as an inspiration to our faculty meetings' study, throughout the school year.

We hope this will give you a glimpse of the quality of work our faculty did in preparation to the 2012-13 school year.

Read the full article on [Waldorf Today's website](#).

What is Simplicity Parenting?



We will once again be hosting a Simplicity Parenting group this fall and encourage you to come and hear more about this program on Wednesday evening, Sept. 26th at 7:00 pm.

This program is based on Kim John Payne's book, Simplicity Parenting and is designed to help families reduce stress and raise calmer, happier, more secure kids who can be more creative and focused at home and at school.

In his many years of working with families he has come to appreciate how in wanting to provide the very best for our children we need to reevaluate how we are doing that. We are living in a world of "too much, too soon and too fast" in a manner that does not respect the developmental

needs of children. He refers to this as the “undeclared war on childhood”.

Our seven week program uses the book as a guide to examine values and what we want for our families, re-assessing priorities and schedules, eliminating clutter, reducing screen time and information overload so that children and parents have time for rejuvenation, creativity and opportunities to connect more as a family.

Judy Erbe, a parent educator who has been working with parents and children for over 20 years will be presenting this program.

Following the introductory evening interested parents may register for the fall group which will meet on Wednesday evenings - Oct. 10, 17, 24, Nov. 7, 28, Dec. 5 and 12 – from 7 to 9pm.

For more information, please contact judyerbe@comcast.net.

More on Simplicity Parenting

Want to know how Simplicity Parenting might be connected with our children's success in adult life? Read [this latest article](#) in the Huffington Post by Kim John Payne.

MEDIA & Waldorf Education



This article is courtesy of Waldorf Today, an online publication available weekly. Parents may enter their email address on the [website](#) to subscribe directly to this informative newsletter.

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Waldorf school media policies have been an issue on the front burner since Waldorf schools and media have been around. Now, with the rapidly increasing use of media by children and families in school, at work and at home, the topic takes on an even more importance.

Filmmaker Paul Zehrer has produced an excellent video for the Marin Waldorf School on media and how it touches children’s and families’ lives.

It’s up-to-date, fast-paced, informative and a must-see for teachers, parents and families.

[Click here to view the video on YouTube.](#)

Grades News

Grade 5 - Humans and Plants



The new 5th grade, now 17 students strong, is beginning the school year with a subject best described as "Humans and Plants." Structured somewhat like the "Humans and Animals" studies of 4th grade, the introduction for learning about plants is knowledge about human development. What can babies do? When do toddlers begin to walk? How is a young child different from a 10-year-old? While it doesn't sound as though these conversations have anything to do with plants, we will turn to Forest Botany and study simple plants such as mushrooms and ferns soon enough. A challenging hike to Lake Serene on September 21 will allow us to see the majestic Washington forest in all its splendor. Our block concludes at Michaelmas, when we will know quite a bit about spiders, flies, and trees.

Kim Holscher, Grade 5 Teacher

Early Childhood News

Kindergarten Michaelmas Festival and Harvest Luncheon



Friday, September 28th
11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Please join us on the kindergarten play yard at 11:30 am on Friday, September 28th for our annual Kindergarten Michaelmas Festival. We will share a Michaelmas circle and then enjoy eating a lunch prepared by the kindergarten classes. The festival will close with a Michaelmas pageant presented to us by the 1st through 8th grade students and teachers.

The harvest lunch of fresh bread, soup, apple cider and more will be prepared for you by the students with the help of their teachers. We would like for each child to have an opportunity to add a vegetable to the soup pot. Please pick or purchase and wash one type of organic vegetable to come to school with your child on the morning of the festival or any day earlier in the week. We also look forward to pressing apples for cider. You can contribute by delivering three washed organic apples to the classroom by the morning of Wednesday, September 26th.

As a part of our Michaelmas celebration the children will be dyeing silks with yellow onion skins. We will collect onion skins from our vegetable chopping here at school but will need many more for our project. Please be thinking of this as you cook throughout the coming weeks and save any dry yellow onion skins that you would normally discard. Deliver them to school by Monday, September 24th and we will happily add them to our pot.

Children not normally at school on Fridays are invited to join us at 11:30 on the morning of the festival with their families. Festival preparations will be going on all week and every child will have an opportunity to participate regardless of their schedule.

The Festivals Team will be designating a photographer for this event. Please honor this by leaving your camera at home and enjoying the festival with your child.

We look forward to having you with us on this special day!

Community Announcements

AWSNA Inform - September 2012

Read about: [Waldorf Alumni Gathering, Teacher Education Loans and Grants Program, and more.](#)

Ultimate Frisbee

Ultimate will take place Thursdays when school is in session at Wilburton Park from 2 to 3:30 pm (possibly to 4). New players and beginners from grades 3 and up welcome. Teams will be forming for spring league play from March to late May. Hosted by TCWS parents David Hasbrook and Jenny Doggett.

Puppet Show: Hansel and Gretel

Sept. 30, 2012

11:00 am & 1:00 pm

Presented by:

Willow Branch Puppet Theater Group

With 6 silk and wool marionettes & 4 felted wool animals

Held at:

Seattle Waldorf School's Huckleberry Hall

2728 NE 100 Seattle, 98125

Visa/MC Advance Reservations: \$7 child/senior \$8 general

Call: 206-985-2059

At the Door: \$8 child/senior \$9 general

Organic Pears for Sale

My name is Vince Carlson. I manage a small family farm in eastern Washington. We are currently harvesting pears and a few of the parents from the school have suggested I contact the school to let them know that we have tasty, fresh organic pears available. The Bartlett pears are excellent for canning or eating fresh. The Anjou pears store well and are great for snacks and cooking. Price is \$25 per 30 pound lug. If there is interest I can deliver to the school.

Please contact Vince Carlson of Valley View Farm at 425-482-9030 if you are interested.

City of Bellevue - Youth Link Program

[Bellevue Youth Link](#) is a youth leadership program sponsored by the City of Bellevue, Parks & Community Service Department, WA, USA and Bellevue Public Schools. Founded in 1990, Youth Link gives youth an active voice in the community and an opportunity to make a difference!

Bellevue Youth Link consists of the Youth Link Board, the Youth Council, and around nine Action Teams. Youth Link Board advises the Bellevue City Council and City Manager on youth matters and programs and is authorized by the City to award funding for community youth projects. The Youth Council is the main organizational body of Bellevue Youth Link and meets twice a month to plan various community projects. The Action Teams are smaller committees which focus on fulfilling the goals of Bellevue Youth Link, as set out by the Council.

Please visit the [Bellevue Youth Link](#) website for more information about the many opportunities available.

Click [here](#) for the flyer for Bellevue Youth Link's upcoming Open House.

The newsletter is published every two weeks during the school year.
The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is Friday, September 14.
Please email submissions to newsletter@threecedarswaldorf.org.

We only intend to send you helpful information and respect your decision to [modify your subscription](#).

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