



Newsletter

April 29, 2013

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Dear Robyn,

Please enjoy the current issue of our newsletter.

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All-School News

Update from the Executive Director

2013-14 – Where are we at?

Enrollment for 2013-14 is well underway, with 30 Kindergarten students and 99 Elementary students currently fully enrolled. 18 children in Kindergarten and 28 students in the grades are currently along the path of admissions, or delayed in submitting their recommitment paperwork. We anticipate opening the 2013-14 school year with a total of 140 students, and have based our preliminary 2013-14 budget on this conservative number. We prefer having a good surprise rather than revert to money worries! With this scenario, our deficit for next year will be in the vicinity of (\$190,000), which although large, is a welcome improvement over our historical (\$500+) deficits of recent years.

Class	Confirmed as of 4/25/13
Early Childhood	30
Grade 1	11
Grade 2	13
Grade 3	16
Grade 4 & 5	19
Grade 6	16
Grade 7	11
Grade 8	13
Total	129

Anything I can do?

Yes, you definitely can! Keep sharing your experience of our school with friends and family. Many preschool and kindergarten families are still looking for the best place for their children well into the spring and summer months. In the grade school, many families are looking for joyful alternatives to their current educational context. Your sharing of your experience and love for our school is our best recruiting tool!

Is the program for next year fully settled yet?

Yes, our program for next year is now well formed, with only a few minor details related to scheduling still being discussed. Click [here](#) to see the final plan, for each class. You will receive a 2013-14 weekly schedule and Main Lesson block rotation this summer, along with a welcome letter from your child's class teacher.

Where are we at with fundraising?

Our 2012-13 fundraising goal is \$105,000, and thus far our annual fund appeal has generated \$67,279.70. Thank you to all of you who generously contributed to our effort to balance our books for this year. If you missed the opportunity or forgot to send your gift, you can make a donation at any time using our Pledge Card available [here](#).

And don't forget our upcoming wonderful fundraising events in May! [May Faire](#) on the 4th with a promising Garage Sale added to our wonderful spring event, and our [Spring Concert and Silent Auction](#) on May 18th. Please help us raise the \$37K needed to close our budget this year!

May Faire & Garage Sale 2013

Our annual **May Faire Festival** and (new!) community **Garage Sale** will take place in less than a week, on **Saturday, May 4th**. Thank you for taking the time to read through this somewhat lengthy email for details about these upcoming community fundraisers.

Parking – IMPORTANT UPDATE!

Because of an event taking place at the Botanical Gardens, we will not be able to use Wilburton Park as our overflow parking for May Faire this year. In order to ensure smooth traffic flow in our parking lot on the day of the event, we ask that you please reserve the TCWS parking lot for families with small children, the elderly, or those with limited mobility, and:

- Park in any unreserved space at the [Banner Bank](#) lot, just a couple of blocks from the school on Bel-Red Road, or
- Park along 124th Avenue NE, just south of the school.

As a reminder, due to our conditional use permit with the city for this event, we may not park along any of the neighboring side streets, other than 124th.

Timing

May Faire

- 9:30 a.m. - Student arrival and crown making
- 10:00 a.m. - Opening Ceremonies and Maypole Dances (Plaza)
- 11:00 a.m. - Grades 5-8 strings performance in Trillium Hall
- 11:35 a.m. - Grades 6-8 choir and ukulele performance, Main Stage (Plaza)
- 1:00 p.m. - Faire concludes

Garage Sale

- 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Crowns

- If you saved last year's crowns, we encourage you to bring them to May Faire to be used again. Please remember to save your children's crowns for next year as well!
- There will be buckets available to collect the flowers at the lower level of the parking lot at drop-off and pick-up times on **Friday, May 3**. Your donations of pesticide-free flowers and greenery for decorating crowns are greatly appreciated!

Festival Attire

- Grades 1-5 students wear festive spring colors
- Grades 6-8 students wear pants with white shirts
- All student should wear sturdy shoes that will enable them to perform the dances safely

Pricing

In lieu of charging an entry fee for this event, gnome stones will be sold at the price of \$2 each. We hope this increase will help to offset the rising cost of hosting this event.

Volunteering

In order to create a successful, memorable event for our children, please consider volunteering for one of the remaining slots. These include face painting, children's crafts, fishing pond, café, and school store. We also welcome your delicious baked good contribution for sale at the event! Baked goods (labeled with ingredients please) may be brought to the school office on Friday, May 3rd. To sign-up for a volunteer position, please see our online sign-up sheets [here](#) and THANK YOU!

Garage Sale

The Garage Sale team is seeking gently used items in good repair! Items may be brought to Martin's trailer, which will be located on the school's parking lot daily.

On behalf of the May Faire and Garage Sale Teams, thank you in advance for your time and contributions in making this beloved event a success! Please direct any questions regarding May

Faire to mayfaire@threecedarswaldorf.org, or regarding the Garage Sale to Martin Wilder at 425.260.0889 or themartay@yahoo.com.

Spring Concert & Silent Auction

Saturday, May 18th, in Trillium Hall

Only 100 Tickets

\$50.00 each - covers the concert, two complimentary glasses of wine, and a dessert.



The evening will begin with a small Silent Auction, where attendees will find a thoughtful selection of items and experiences. Items coming in include a vacation at the beach, a Movie Night party hosted at Rick Saada's home, and the ever popular Charades Night at the Rockenbeck's home. There will be plenty of time for bidding and socializing before the highlight of the night - the Spring Concert! This fun and romantic event will include selections from West Side Story, Romeo and Juliette, and even a little something from that world famous spy movie.

Come hear Heidi Person, Judy Beatie, Lauren Root, Rick Saada and their friends make music and have a lot of fun doing it. Socialize with friends and enjoy an adult evening.

An email invitation was sent this past weekend to enrolled families, friends & family members, and past auction attendees, provided there was an email address on file. Feel free to pass this email along to friends we may have missed! Tickets are on sale at the Front Desk. Be sure to stop by and purchase yours before they sell out!

Volunteer sign-up sheets are coming soon.

For information about tickets, donations, and volunteering, contact Lauren at laroot@q.com. We would appreciate three or four more elegant dessert donations, so please let Lauren know if you can create something special.

Volunteer Appreciation Evening

Dear Parent Volunteers,

So many of you support us in these magical and too often invisible ways. You sew costumes, make hundreds of beautiful gifts for May Faire, help the children with reading in the classroom, take walks to the park and the library, take time off work to go on field trips, apply for grants, fix our computers, coach our Frisbee team, plant flowers, paint fences and install pavers, come up with a marketing strategy, coordinate activities with parents in your classes, take on the responsibility of being a Board Member, and even make salads for the faculty once in a while,

and much, much more. Every day of the school year we can see you somewhere on campus lending a helping hand.

Our faculty and staff's gratitude for your help is far greater than what would ever fit in a message, however sincere.

We want to invite you to attend our **Volunteer Appreciation Evening** on Saturday, June 1, from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., so we can truly express the depth of our appreciation and gratitude.

This simple time together is orchestrated by the faculty, who are preparing drinks, sweets, and fun, for you. Please join us for this informal and friendly time in your honor!

Calling All Gardeners!

It is that wonderful time of year again, when all things green are growing in earnest – especially in the school's gardens and parking lot beds! If you are interested in helping to manage the abundance of horsetail, vetch, and other invasive species, please let us know. In lieu of adding yet another event to the school calendar during this busy time of year, volunteers may contact [Seraphina](#) to schedule a time that works best for you. Garden helpers are warmly welcomed after morning drop-off, before afternoon pick-up, or even on weekends. Thank you in advance!

Seraphina Orzel

Lost & Found is Overflowing!

The Lost & Found bin is filled to the point of overflowing! **Please be sure to check the bin for any missing items this week.** Anything left in the bin on Friday, May 3, without identification, will be donated to the Garage Sale. Items include: snowboots, jackets, gloves, rain pants, water bottles, and more!

Update on NE 5th Street Construction



The Wilburton Neighborhood and surrounding areas will continue to experience traffic revisions due to ongoing construction throughout the remainder of the school year. Most of the work will be taking place between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., with the exception of the road closure below. We encourage families to visit http://www.bellevuewa.gov/traffic_advisories.htm to view additional details and updates so that you may make any adjustments to your morning commute. Please note the following:

NE 5th Street, located across from the entrance to TCWS, is currently undergoing a massive

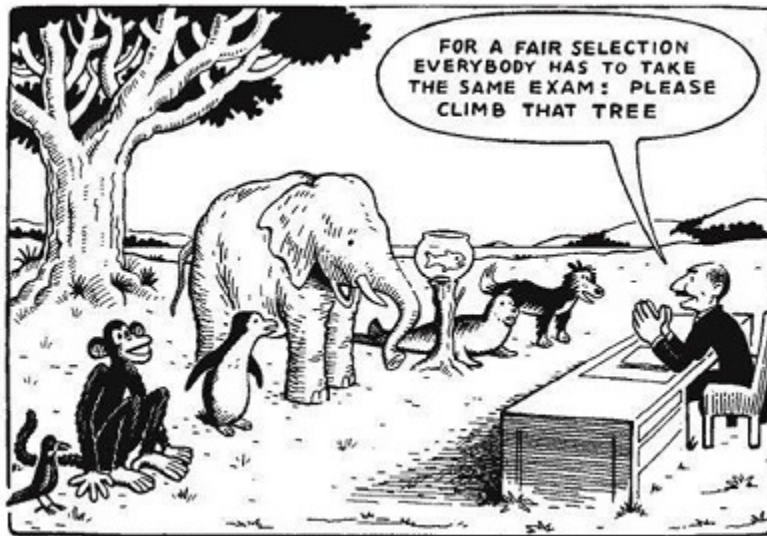
construction project. The road will be closed 24/7, with local access only, for a roadway project beginning Monday, April 29 and is expected to last at least a month.

When the street reopens, traffic traveling in both directions on NE 5th will be required to stop at approximately the Bellevue School District Maintenance Facility and allow only one vehicle at a time to pass. Families who use NE 5th may wish to read more about this specific project on the City of Bellevue's website: [Northeast Fifth Street Neighborhood Traffic Plan](#).

Of Machines, Testing, Humans, and Grading

by Geraldine Kline

The topic of grading and testing comes up very often in any educational setting, perhaps even more so in a Waldorf School. It is perfectly natural, and commendable, for any parent to want to know whether their child is learning, how well, and to want to address any difficulties early enough so as to not impair a child's progress. In Waldorf schools, we consider standardized tests to be a very partial measure of a student's progress, useful perhaps as a small window into a child's progress and development, yet extremely limited in scope. This is perhaps best illustrated by this cartoon found in the Assessment for Learning Review of Current Practices published by the European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education 2012-13.



Waldorf Schools have considered how to best assess students' progress for nearly 100 years. Other school movements for even longer. A very long time indeed if the goal is to arrive at a definitive method usable for evermore. Fortunately, conversations are kept alive as people and their thinking continue to evolve. These days, folks are talking about software doing not only the tallying of testing scores, but also the review of essays, as a way to carve out time for professors to do other tasks than correct copies, as one can read in the April 4th [New York Times](#).

It is often much harder to define what Waldorf Education stands for rather than what it does not do. It is so very unique, and frankly quite at odds with much that is going on in the educational world. In our school, we have defined our approach to testing, assessments, and measuring progress in our Approach to Grading, which you can read below. Yet I thought it might be useful for you to know with the degree of clarity called for, that our school will not ever consider using software, however intelligent, to assess our students' writing skills. We think we still have time to sit down with our students and chat with them about the use of punctuation and the value of a solid argument. In fact, we very much like doing this, and we are not ready to give this pleasure up to a machine anytime soon!

Approach to Grading - "Letter grades for student work are not assigned at Three Cedars Waldorf School. The nature and style of delivery of the curriculum, combined with a high degree of individual attention allow for a qualitative approach to assessment, reported with an increasing frequency as students move through the grades. Waldorf education is concerned with the whole, individual child as a developing human being. For this reason, our school also chooses not to rely on standardized testing as an evaluation tool. In reporting to parents, we aim to give each teacher the latitude he or she needs to best assess the students' progress in the context of their particular subject. Our school uses a combination of a narrative class description, a grid reflecting a particular skill set articulated on the report by that teacher, and individualized comments regarding each student. It is important to emphasize that on such a grid, the student is measured in relation to his or her individual abilities, rather than against a class average or a pre-assigned standard of performance."

Biographies

Jung Sook Kim-Tokura - Japanese Teacher



Tokura Sensei is from Osaka, born fifth in a family of seven. Being of Korean ancestry, she struggled against racial prejudice in Japanese society, which motivated her to seek an educational opportunity in the United States. Seeking to understand her identity, she completed International Studies at Yonsei University, South Korea, a B.A. in East Asian Studies from Western Washington University, an Early Childhood Education Certificate from Bellevue Community College, the Fundamentals of Caregiving, Foundation Year with Sound Circle Teacher Training, and ongoing Waldorf Foreign Language Conferences, formal and informal. Ms. Tokura has taught English to Korean executives of a sportswear company, and has coordinated sales with International Marketing for Japanese import-export. She excels at volleyball and enjoys hiking, skiing, and aquatic sports and she remains active with community Buddhist faith, practice, and study. Tokura Sensei joined TCWS in 2004.

Grace Smith - After Care



Born, raised, and educated in the Midwest comes Grace Smith. She attended schools from kindergarten through high school from a town just outside Kansas City, Missouri. From here she obtained a BS from the University of Missouri at Columbia in elementary education, and then a Masters degree after that in Curriculum and Construction. After getting married she lived in Georgia and California, before moving back to Columbia, Missouri to teach in a nearby rural town. Here she taught for several years before moving to the Pacific Northwest to raise a family. Settled in Anacortes, she had two boys and she was a stay-at-home mom, becoming very active in their education. Later she moved to Kirkland, and she found work in a private school in Seattle, Seattle Academy teaching 6th grade. There she taught for approximately 20+ years, before moving into an administrative position at the same school. Missing having daily contact with the children, she left looking for work that involved contact with kids. Presently she is living with her soon-to-be husband in Kirkland. Both her children live in the area, and her first grandchild was born in December.

Community Announcements

Community Events

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.

Wider Community

Sahale Summer Camp, July 7-13, 2013



With a focus on practicing skills of friendship: inclusion, collaboration and fun, this overnight camp is specifically designed to meet the needs of youth



aged 9-12. Explore 65 acres on the Tahuya River where camp life includes games, drama, archery, art, music, nature exploration, group work together time. Campers benefit from a multigenerational staff and community which demonstrate how to build nurturing relationships and self esteem. Our staff includes Waldorf trained educators and student counselors, elders as mentors, family life educators and professional musicians and artists who all volunteer to create a week of living in a magical village camp setting. For more information contact Irene Perler, Waldorf subject teacher, parent and camp director, at irene_perler@hotmail.com , and visit www.goodenough.org for online registration. Brochures will be available at the front desk.

Camp Sprouting Spirits

Camp Sprouting Spirits is a Waldorf inspired summer camp where children learn about self-regulation through co-operative games, building fairy houses, cooking, arts, crafts, music, yoga and more! All activities are outdoors to maximize freedom, nature, and exploration. We take daily walks to Woodland Park/Rose Garden where our "inspiring artists" teach a yoga, drama, or music class. We also make most of our snacks (pizza, smoothies, salad...etc). Our days are filled with singing, storytelling, and imaginative play!

We are located in the Phinney Ridge Neighborhood of Seattle. For 2013, we have 3 week-long half-day sessions for around 15 children. Kids around 3-8 years old are welcome to register (I accept some 2 year olds if they are younger siblings). Camp runs Monday-Friday from 9:00am-1:00pm. We hold at least a 1:5 ratio, so your children have the attention they deserve.

For more information, including registration, please visit our [website](#).

Camp Roots at St. Edward State Park

Join Camp Roots at St. Edward State Park for a week of hiking, games and upcycled creativity. For boys and girls ages 8-12. Cam will be held August 12-16th from 10-4. Please see the [Camp Roots website](#) for more information, including registration.

Sound Circle

Introduction to Anthroposophy Lecture Series -

Winter/Spring 2013



On Saturday mornings twice a month the public is invited to join the Foundation Year students to listen to presentations on essential themes in Anthroposophy.

9:15am - 10:45 am at the Seattle Waldorf School, 2728 NE 100th St, in Huckleberry Hall (East Entrance)

Drop in \$10 per session. Click [here](#) for a listing of upcoming presentations, including Evolution of Consciousness and Antroposophy as a Path of Thinking.

Seattle Housing Needed for Sound Circle Summer Intensives

Sound Circle Center is looking for host families to accommodate participants in the Sound Circle Summer Intensives.

The Summer Intensives are held at Bright Water School,
1501 10th Ave East, Seattle, WA 98102
the weeks of June 23rd-28th and July 1st-5th.

If you have an extra bedroom or space that you could offer for a guest, please contact Kim at information@soundcircle.org for more details, including reimbursement.

Classifieds

Forget-Me-Not Waldorf Inspired Preschool - Openings for 2013-2014



A Waldorf Inspired Preschool
in Kirkland, WA

Forget-Me-Not Waldorf Inspired Preschool in my home in Kirkland, WA is a good match for families who want their children to develop not only in intellect but also in imagination, memory, a sense of beauty, and physical health.

Coming into this world, a young child brings two tremendous qualities - a natural ability to imitate and a strong will. Children learn by using their senses and by active experience.

Forget-Me-Not Preschool is designed for 3 and 4 year olds. Here children have endless possibilities for creative play, exploring nature, and learning social skills.

Forget-Me-Not Waldorf Inspired Preschool is accepting applications for 3 and 4 year-old children for the 2013-2014 school year.

Please, call Tanya 425-949-7091 or visit my website www.forgetmenotpreschool.com

International Visitors - Homestay Hosts Needed

Are you looking for additional ways to bring foreign language and culture to life in your home?

If so, please consider the following opportunity. The Foundation for International Understanding Through Students (FIUTS) offers year-round opportunities for volunteers to host international visitors for short-term homestays lasting from three days to three weeks. Visiting students and teachers come from all over the world and include middle and high schoolers, university students of all ages, and visiting scholars. Hosting is a great opportunity to learn about the world and welcome an international visitor to Seattle! Learn more at www.fiuts.org/community/homestay, or contact homestay@fiuts.org.

The newsletter is published every two weeks during the school year.
The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is Sunday, April 21.

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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