



Newsletter

January 22, 2011

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Dear Robyn,

Please enjoy the current issue of our newsletter.

All-School News

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2012-2013 Staffing Announcements

I am delighted to announce that our hiring season is well underway with the appointment of several new teachers for the 2012-13 school year. I am very pleased by our progress, and confident that you will share in our enthusiasm as we look forward to a new school year. Although each school year presents us with the challenge of recruiting talented and experienced teachers and staff members - at times well into the spring! I do look forward to the 2012-13 school year with gratitude for those teachers who have made the commitment to remain with us, and those who have chosen Three Cedars Waldorf School as their new home. Please join me in welcoming all to the 2012-13 school year!

Geraldine Kline, Executive Director

Early Childhood

Morning Star: Maggie and Ron

Morning Glory: Amie and Laura

The pairing of co-teachers for the Early Childhood classes will change to accommodate the expansion of our Early Childhood program to include younger students. On Fridays, Amie will remain with the younger students while Ron and Laura continue with the older students for Woods Day and Maggie holds Parent-Tot with an assistant.

Grade One - Monica Lander. The rising Grade One class is very active, and loves movement and outdoors. The challenge before me was to identify the teacher who best could meet the needs of this unique constellation of students. Over the Winter break, Monica conveyed her interest in returning to full time teaching. By placing the needs of the students foremost in my considerations, I came to the conclusion that Monica, with her extensive nature-based, outdoor education experience and her Spatial Dynamics training, would be best suited to teach the first grade class, an assignment that she met with joy and anticipation.

Grade Six - Annette Campana. Since 1994, Ms. Campana has taught middle school students both in the public school sector in British Columbia and in the Waldorf School of Princeton, for six years. In addition to taking a Waldorf class 5th through 7th grade prior to relocating to the Bellevue area with her family, she has taught main lesson blocks to grade 5 students and choir to grade 7 and 8. Prior to her middle school experience, Ms. Campana taught preschool and kindergarten, and experienced the early grades in her position as a 1st and 2nd grade assistant.

Ms. Campana's comprehensive education as a teacher includes a Bachelor of Education and a Professional Teacher Development Program degree from Simon Fraser University, BC, Canada, as well as a Waldorf Teacher Training Certificate from Antioch University, Keene, NH. An accomplished pianist, Ms. Campana received her ARCT Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, and her Bachelor of Music Program, Piano Performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music & Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

We are very excited with the perspective of welcoming Annette as a teacher in our school.

All-School News

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Mother of Kira in Grade Four and Carly in Grade Six, Annette has experienced our school as a parent first, since her family relocated to our region this past fall. Annette's enthusiasm for teaching, her skills and experience, and her love of middle school age children was very warmly received by our faculty, delighted to welcome her in the faculty circle.

While we are enthused by Annette's commitment to the class, we do not forget that her tenure will begin this fall. Please join us in allowing her to be a 'parent only' for the remainder of this school year!

Grade Seven - We are at this time considering a very promising application, and are making arrangements for an interview visit this coming week. The visiting teacher looks forward to being back in the classroom following the graduating of a 8th grade class and many years of involvement in Waldorf Education. Because our applicant is well known to us, we anticipate being in a position to make a decision very shortly after the interview visit, and thus promptly put a term to our search and begin to work towards a smooth transition into Grade Seven.

Dean of Education - The position will be posted next week.

Accreditation – Spring 2014

Three Cedars Waldorf School is proud to announce that the school will engage in a joint Accreditation process with PNAIS (Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools) and AWSNA (Association of Waldorf Schools of North America) in the 2012-13 school year.

The process of Accreditation with both associations was started by my predecessor a few years ago, and we are grateful that both organizations have granted us extensions to accommodate our transition in leadership and organization.

The Accreditation process, called Self-Study, is a powerful tool designed to guide a school community through a thorough assessment of its programs and administration. At this time of transition and expansion, our school will benefit immensely from this guidance, as we ponder options and make choices for the present and future.

For this process, we will use the PNAIS Self-Study guide, and supplement and cross-reference our self-study document – which typically includes over 200 pages – with the AWSNA Shared Principles. You can find links below to these documents.

About 50% of schools seeking accreditation for the first time actually receive accreditation. The remaining 50% enjoy additional support from the associations, in the form of specific recommendations, and precise indications of the additional elements which need to be in place to fulfill the expectations of both accrediting bodies. As both associations continue to tell us, the value of accreditation lies in the self-study process. This said, we of course fully intend to meet all of the PNAIS Best Practices and AWSNA Shared Values, and we are looking forward to engaging in these tasks with enthusiasm.

- [PNAIS Self Study Manual](#)
- [AWSNA-PNAIS Cross-Reference](#)
- [AWSNA Accreditation Guide](#)

Recommitment Mailer

All TCWS parents should expect to receive their recommitment paperwork at the beginning of the upcoming week. This mailing was delayed due to the winter storm that affected the region this past week.

Please carefully read the information included in the mailer in preparation for Recommitment Days on Friday, February 3 and Saturday, February 4. When you arrive for Recommitment Days, be sure to have information on hand, such as insurance information and doctor's contact information, to ensure that each student's Emergency and Consent form is filled out completely and accurately. Also, for parents planning to submit a new Certificate of Exemption form (for immunizations), please note that per a new law that went into effect as of July 22, 2011, the form must be signed by a licensed health care provider. More information on immunizations may be found [here](#).

Santa Lucia Appreciations



This year's Santa Lucia Procession was presented by the Grade 2 students on Tuesday, December 13. We would like to thank the following individuals for their contributions to this beloved event:

Bakers: **Mike Geri, Andy Held, William Hines, Kimberly Johnston and Rich Koehler**

Costumes and Fittings: **Barb Geri and Kimberly Johnston**

Photography: **Andy Held**

Overall Coordination: **Kimberly Johnston**



Just a few of the comments that were heard around campus as the students brought homemade buns and tea to each classroom included, "very moving," "beautiful," and "lovely!"

Elementary Sharing Assembly

Friday, 03 February 2012 05:30pm - Saturday, 04 February 2012

The TCWS community is invited to the Elementary Sharing Assembly. Students are to arrive at 5:15 pm. The audience will be seated at 5:30 pm.

Sammamish High School

Dress Code for Assemblies, Concerts, Festivals

Several times each year, the school gathers for special events and assemblies for which participating students need to dress in "Concert Attire." We request that on such occasions the students dress in black pants and white shirts for boys, and black pants or skirts and white shirts for girls. All students are asked to wear flat, comfortable dress shoes unless otherwise indicated. Additionally, some school events invite a festive type of dress, such as the Rose Ceremony, graduation, or festivals. We will let you know well in advance when special occasion dress is invited or required.

Make-Up for Snow Days?

Each year the school accounts for the possibility of snow days when planning the calendar for the upcoming school year. We are happy to report that at this time there is no need to make up school days because of cancellations this past week due to inclement weather. If there are additional closures during the current school year, there may be a need to make up days, most likely during Spring break. We will, of course, keep you posted in the event that we add days onto the calendar.

Attendance

All attendance related emails should be sent to attendance@threecedars.org rather than individual staff members. 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. Please see the [TCWS Attendance Policy](#) for more information.

With Appreciation

We would like to express our appreciation for parent volunteer, Julie Elithorp. She worked diligently to update the calendar on the new website. Julie continues to maintain the calendar, adding and editing events. Thank you for your hard work, Julie!

Parent Association Update - January 2012

Although the January meeting of the Parent Association was canceled due to snow, several initiatives are unfolding, offered by the parents present at the December meeting.

Adult Education - We are working on creating an Adult Education program for the 2012-13 school year, and we need to hear from you! Let us know what you would be interested in learning

more about Waldorf Education, so we can tailor a program that will really be of interest to you. Email us at parentassociation@threecedars.org, or speak directly to your teacher before April 15th.

Professional Directory - Need a plumber, a massage therapist, a haircut, or a webmaster? Support - and be supported by - fellow parents by using the professional services available in our community. Please let us know of your interest by taking the short survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/M8GG8M3>

Next Parent Association meeting - Thursday February 9th, 6:30 pm in Trillium Hall.

For more information on the Parent Association, please visit the [Parent Association page](#) of the school's website.

Custom Pure Water Comes to TCWS!

Upon returning to campus your children may inform you that each one of our classroom and kitchen sinks now has a new Custom Pure water filtration system installed. For reasons of health and environmental consciousness, moving to a water filtration system has been one of our long time goals, which I am very happy to say we have now accomplished!

In addition to being easily accessible, less wasteful, and free of 95-99% of all particulates, the Custom Pure water systems also removes fluoride. This is the same water that many of you may purchase in bulk at Whole Foods, PCC Natural Markets, and other grocery stores. For additional information, please visit the [Custom Pure](#) website.

Thank you to parent volunteer, Corey Colwell-Lipson, for your research efforts!

-Mrs. Orzel

Ecuador's Dr. Angel Castillo Visits American Waldorf Schools



“This Is What a School Is Meant to Be”

(by Eugene Schwartz)

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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In spite of its steady growth, and in spite of admirable efforts on the part of individual Waldorf schools and the leadership of AWSNA, Waldorf education has attracted the attention of no one with the clout and stature to transform education on a large scale. A notable exception to this rule was the recent visit of Dr. Angel Castillo to three Waldorf schools in the United States.

Dr. Castillo is the Minister of Education in Imbabura, a large province in Ecuador. After a long period of dormancy, a new President has laid out ambitious plans to reform the Ecuadorian public school system. Dr. Castillo's visit was a state-mandated mission to establish partnerships with American universities – and to explore Waldorf education as a potential alternative to the test-driven and intellectually-oriented methodologies that are so prevalent in the northern hemisphere. This visit was arranged by Sue Brown and Paul Murtha of Mountains of Hope, a social/educational/service initiative that has been active in Ecuador for several years.

[Read full article on Waldorf Today...](#)

Grades News

Grade 2 Class Play - Student Performance

Thursday, 26 January 2012 - Friday, 27 January 2012

The Grade 2 students will perform their play for TCWS elementary students at 9:30 a.m. in Trillium Hall.

Trillium Hall (TCWS)

Grade 2 Class Play All Community Performance

Friday, 27 January 2012 06:20pm - Saturday, 28 January 2012

The TCWS community is invited to the Grade 2 Class Play. The audience will be seated by 6:20 pm.

Trillium Hall (TCWS)

Volunteering at TCWS

Pavel Dolezel



Pavel is the father of Lucie (Morning Glory Kindergarten) and Michaela (future Waldorf student). He admires the philosophy Waldorf education is built upon, and felt that our school was the best kept secret on the Eastside if not in the entire Puget Sound area. Therefore he wanted to make sure the school's greatness can be shared with the community, and stepped up to lead its website upgrade. No status quo was accepted and he rebuilt it from ground up, breathing the school's life into the world wide web so it can easily reach all current parents and faculty, as well as those who are just deciding where to place their child or who to support with charitable donations.

Pavel, his wife Sophie and the girls love spending their time in the nature, most often pursuing outdoors activities, including skiing, hiking, mountain biking, sledding or just discovering new parks where the kids can play with other friends. In the beautiful winter we're just having, they prefer to continue staying outside but if it gets really wet and dark, you can find them in the new climbing gym at the Crossroads Mall.

Pavel hopes you'll join him with spreading the good word about our school (we're always looking for more volunteers to help with the web and other marketing activities), and on their outdoor or indoor adventures.

Biographies

Michael Preston - Class of 2013



Mr. Preston was born to British parents in Mbale, Uganda and grew up in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania until age thirteen, then lived in New Zealand until he was eighteen. He experienced teaching for the first time as an eighteen-year-old, teaching a class of children in Vanuatu for a year, for the New Zealand organization, "Volunteer Service Abroad." He holds a State Teacher Training certification and B.Ed. in Literature and Philosophy of Education from the University of Lancaster and an M.Ed. and Ph.D. in Phenomenology in Education from the University of London. Mr. Preston obtained his Waldorf Teacher Training from a two-year, full-time training at Emerson College, Forest Row, England.

As well as three years in English public schools, Mr. Preston has a total of twenty-eight years full-time, Waldorf class teaching experience in Canterbury Steiner School, England, Honolulu Waldorf School, Hawaii, and Three Cedars Waldorf School, Seattle. His three children went through Waldorf schools in England and Hawaii. He and his wife currently have five grandchildren. Mr. Preston has published several articles for 'Renewal' Magazine and three books, 'Music from Around the World for Recorders' (AWSNA) and two ukulele instruction books: 'Let's Kanikapila-Learn to Play Hawaiian Ukulele'(Mutual Publishing), and 'Let's Kanikapila-Play Hawaiian Ukulele Around the World.(Mutual Publishing)' Mr. Preston joined TCWS in 2006. In addition to teaching his class, Mr. Preston also teaches the middle school ukulele's class.

Geri Snyder - Administrative Assistant



My early life was spent on a wonderful farm in western Kansas where I learned to love nature through vegetable gardening, helping with the maize crop, seeing the sparrows, cotton tailed bunnies, turtles, and coyotes, along with the farm animals. All things spiritual were precious to me which grew into reverence for many cultures I experienced throughout my life, and opened up an interest in different healing modalities from using herbs to faith healing. Fairy tales and books opened new realms of delight along with exploring outdoor activities such as tennis, skiing, hiking, boating, camping, and flying with my father in single engine planes. Experiencing university and college life opened up new horizons in learning with a special love for literature, anthropology, and religious philosophies. Making gifts and celebrating festivals and special events were highlights in my life that led me to becoming a Waldorf kindergarten teacher for 18 years in California, Colorado, and Washington. The difficult times brought the wisdom to step above them and seek the positive. I enjoy supporting the faculty, students and families at Three Cedars Waldorf School as an Administrative Assistant and look to loving the gift of life each day.

Community Announcements

AWSNA Newsletter INFORM

Read about: [the response to the article in the New York Times on Waldorf Education.](#)

Classifieds

Simplicity Learning Center - Parent-Tot Classes Now Registering for Spring 2012



“An oasis for parents with young children”

When: March-June 2012 (choose from Tue, Wed, Thu or Sat mornings, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.)

SIMPLICITY
Learning Center

Where: home-based program in the Lake Hills Neighborhood of Bellevue

Who: Simplicity Learning Center

Cost: sliding scale, \$340-\$420 per quarter, per family

Spring 2012 Session (10 classes over 11 weeks):

Begins the week of Mar 26-31, 2012

Ends the week of Jun 4-9, 2012

Parent Orientation Meeting:

Monday, March 26, 2012, 7 – 8 p.m.

Visit www.simplicitylearningcenter.com for brochure/registration form or call 425.614.0145 for more information or [download flyer for more details](#).

Briana Bennitt, Proprietor

Bellevue, WA 425.614.0145

Your Family's Health - Cooking Classes with Melanie Waxman



Learn how to make delicious balanced meals for your entire family. Participate in three in-depth cooking classes focused on preparing easy and nourishing dishes, including yummy, sugar-free deserts. Gain a new understanding of how your kids' health and behavior are affected by what they eat, and walk away with many recipes, food-based remedies for colds, tummy aches, and other kids' and adults' ailments.

Melanie Waxman is a vegan chef and mother of seven vibrant, healthy children. She is also the author of Eat Me Now, Mr. Hoppity's Color me Cook Book for Kids and many other inspirational books on healthy lifestyle. For more info, please visit her [website](#).

[Download flyer for more details](#)

Invitation from Bright Water School's Parent Association

Invitation to Bright Water School

While you've been drying out mittens and hats, your fellow parents on the Bright Water School Parent Association have been hoping for clear roads up to Capitol Hill so everyone can attend our free adult education event, Saturday, January 28, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Have you ever wondered: What is the basis for Waldorf's festivals, curriculum, unique teaching methods, and underlying philosophy? What is the place of Rudolf Steiner in today's Waldorf school?

Please come explore the man, the myth and the magic of Steiner in this informative and entertaining session. Bring your questions!

Topic: "What Steiner Means To Us Today"

When: Saturday, January 28, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Where: Bright Water School Community Room (upstairs), 1501 Tenth Avenue E, Seattle, 98102

Speaker: BWS friend and former teacher, Skye Chamberlain

Childcare will be available in St. Mark's Bloedel Hall, for a \$2 per hour per child minimum. For childcare, PLEASE RSVP BY SAT., JAN. 21, to Kristi Hartman, at SplashNW@aol.com or 206-683-0652. Children in the childcare must be at least 3 years old and potty trained.

Enjoy the snow while it lasts. We look forward to seeing you on January 28th!

The BWS Parent Association

Seattle Waldorf High School Play Production: Twelfth Night



"We will draw the curtain and show you the picture."

The students in the Seattle Waldorf High School Drama Club present "Twelfth Night" by William Shakespeare. See our own Fiona and Bennitt and Jaimey Sears in the roles of Viola/Cesario and Sebastian!

Thursday and Friday, February 2 and 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. each night

Theatre 4 at the Seattle Center House

Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$5 for students.

Director, Morgan Sobel

TCWS Alum Offers Violin Lessons - New Fall Openings

Hi, I am Maria Crum (Class of 2009) and I aspire to be a music education major in college. In the Fall of 2010, I started giving private violin lessons to some TCWS 5th grade violin students with guidance from my mentor, Judy Beatie. I currently have 1-2 openings for new students. Students come to my house in Bellevue, (Lake Hills area) for weekly lessons on Saturdays. My current rate is \$15/45 minutes or \$20/hour. Please contact me by phone at 425.746.0416 or by email at magicalmusician@gmail.com. If you're interested, act fast because slots go quickly! Private lessons are a superb way to get individual instruction and specific needs met while also adding a wonderful bonus to the school strings program.

Lazure Painting

Lazure painting rooms to hold the spirit of the child. Meet Danielle, the Pacific Northwest's Waldorf inspired painter. For more information visit www.LazureFinishing.com or email DanielleKerrWilson@gmail.com.

The newsletter is published every two weeks during the school year.

Please email submissions to newsletter@threecedars.org.

The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is Friday, January 27.

We only intend to send you helpful information and respect your decision to modify your subscription.

Three Cedars Waldorf School
556 124th Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA 98008
425-401-9874 ~ <http://threecedarswaldorf.org>