

January 6, 2014

## ALL SCHOOL NEWS

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### Director Update

Dear Parents and Friends of Three Cedars Waldorf School,  
Mid-January marks the mid-point of each school year, with much achieved and much to look forward to. For the 'little lady who lives in the tower' (as a mom shared with me her children call me!) it is time to take stock of what has been achieved thus far, and to think about the next school year and beyond.



You may recall our community forum of last year when the Board and I shared with you the school's financial position and the difficult choices we had to make at that time. We are truly delighted that our situation has changed significantly, and that we are now in a position to look at the future with optimism. We look forward to seeing you in the upcoming **Community Forum on Thursday, February 25, 6:30 to 8:30 pm**, where we will discuss our financial position and plans for the future. Until then, I want to share a few highlights with you and keep you updated on our activities and progress.

### Budget

Thanks to everyone's diligence, we are doing very well with our spending. We are committed to meeting our budget which for the 2013-14 school year entails a planned deficit of (\$42,376). This is a considerable improvement over the 2012-13 deficit of (\$425,672) which was the last expression of many years of financial struggles.

The wonderful gift of the **bequest** will help us well beyond what we would have dared imagine this past spring, yet I would not want this exceptional support to cloud our awareness of what we have accomplished—let us remember that it is through our shared work that we are so successfully facing our challenges. In an enormously significant way, we can consider this most generous gift

as a sign of confidence in what we do, a gift of celebration for our past achievements, and encouragements for the future. We prepared our boat well, and our sails welcome this powerful breeze!

## Site Development

The aim of the changes to the site for next year is to create additional teaching space without negatively impacting the site development plan which was approved by the City of Bellevue. We are working with Michael Tenhulzen of [www.tenhulzen.com](http://www.tenhulzen.com) who managed the renovation of the upstairs offices, and Magellan Architects [www.magellanarchitects.com](http://www.magellanarchitects.com), to create two additional classrooms spaces which will ideally be built this coming summer. In the meantime, the faculty has selected new names for our buildings, which used to be referred to by letters only. Welcome to **Alder, Birch, and Cedar!**

## Hiring and Other Staffing News

The position of **Grade 1 Class Teacher** for the 2014-15 school year has been posted for several months, and we will be interviewing a candidate this month. Interviews take place over a two or three-days visit which includes classroom observations, several sample lessons observed by faculty members, and individual and group conversations with faculty and staff members. Hiring decisions are as you know absolutely fundamental for the quality and depth of our working together and the destiny of the children in our care, which is why hiring decisions for Class Teachers are based upon the recommendations of the faculty.

**Julie Dean's** position is keeping up with the increase in the level of work asked of a **Business Manager**, with an increase from 63% to 80%.

**Jackie Ralston's** position is expanding to that of full-time **Extended Care Director**. In addition to after-school care, Jackie is now responsible for designing an enhanced program to include break-care and extra-curricular activities, primarily to start in the 2014-15 school year. Additionally, Jackie will oversee our licensing and its myriad obligations.

## New Event: Open Classrooms

Designed to help kindergarten parents make their enrollment decision for the grade school, this event is also open to prospective parents who will be able to tour our grade school and experience the life of the students in the classrooms. Current parents are also welcome, yet we must ask you to RSVP if you would like to attend as a current parent. As you know, our classroom spaces may not be large enough to accommodate more than a few additional adults!

**The first Open Classroom event will take place on Thursday January 16, for the duration of the school day.**

## Programs and Schedules

Our Pedagogical Carrying Group (PCG) has been engaged this year in many projects.

**2014-15 Calendar:** Waldorf education views rhythms as an essential element of a health-giving education. Many rhythms are found throughout the days, weeks, and seasons, marked by verses, activities, and festivals. Schools' yearly calendars are based on old parameters no longer so relevant to our age—a summer open for working in the fields for example—yet we all are deeply accustomed to the way a school year unfolds. The faculty is currently looking at bringing about a yearly rhythm that supports our students' learning more naturally and more effectively. We are not considering drastic changes at this time, only to adjust the number of weeks between breaks. Our 2014-15 calendar will be published in the next few weeks. In the meantime, we are also designing a **comprehensive Break Care program** for our students to experience rich yet restful breaks while making the organization of school breaks, including summer, easier for parents.



**Early Childhood Program 2014-15:** Our preschool and kindergarten will offer a **half-day** and a **full-day option**. Programs extend into the afternoon with a dismissal time compatible with that of the grade school. In addition, after-school care will be available to students enrolled in the full-day preschool and kindergarten.

**Grade 1 Schedule:** In 2014-15, Grade One students will experience a full-day program. We find that our youngest grade school students are ready to take hold of the full curriculum when the timetable is adapted to their need for quieter afternoon activities.

Program	Time	After-School Care
<b>Preschool and Kindergarten</b>		
<b>Half-Day Program</b>		
2-Day Preschool: Thurs, Fri	8:15 am–12:00 noon (8:00–8:15 drop-off)	Not Available
3-Day Preschool: Mon, Tues, Wed		
5-Day Preschool or KG: Mon – Fri		
<b>Preschool and Kindergarten</b>		
<b>Full-Day Program</b>		
2-Day Preschool: Thurs, Fri	8:15 am–2:45 pm (8:00–8:15 drop-off)	Not Available

3-Day Preschool: Mon, Tues, Wed  
5-Day Preschool or KG: Mon – Fri

**Grades 1-8**

Monday through Friday\*

*\*Note: Thursdays are no longer early dismissal days.*

8:00 am–3:00 pm  
(7:45–8:00 am drop-off)

3:00–5:30 pm

**World Languages and Music:** Our World Language program is currently in the final stages of review by the Program & Curriculum workgroup. Our music program will be reviewed next, with recommendations for both expected in the next few weeks.

**Combined Class:** the current Grades 4&5 students will remain as one class next year, for their Grade 5&6, under the care of Ms. Packer.

## 2014-2015 Tuition and Fees

**Early Childhood Half Day Tuition**

2-Day Preschool \$5,260

3-Day Preschool \$7,890

5-Day Preschool

or Kindergarten \$11,800

**Early Childhood Full Day Tuition**

2-Day Preschool \$6,600

3-Day Preschool \$9,900

5-Day Preschool

or Kindergarten \$16,500

**Grade School Tuition**

Grades 1-8 \$17,900

**After School Care**

*Available for Full Day Preschool through Grade 5*

Grade School \$20/day 3:00 – 5:30 pm

Early Childhood \$20/day 2:45 – 5:30 pm

Drop-in (Grades only) \$12/hour 3:00 – 5:30 pm

**Break Care**

*Available for Full Day Preschool through Grade 5*

Half Day \$35 day, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Full-day \$65 day, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm





### Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities, including Ultimate Frisbee, are offered seasonally for currently enrolled students and are free of charge.

### Tuition Payment Schedule

A non-refundable deposit of \$400 per student is due at the time of enrollment. Deposits are applied toward tuition. Two payment plans are available: one payment in the full amount due June 1, or twelve monthly payments made June through May through Smart Tuition.

### Financial Aid

Financial Aid is available for families who qualify. Applications and instructions may be found on our website. Please contact our Business Manager for questions pertaining to Financial Aid.

### Other Fees

**After School Care and Break Care** are billed separately from regular tuition and are invoiced monthly.

**Musical Instruments** other than recorders provided in Grades 1 and 3, are the responsibility of parents. This includes rental of musical instruments, as well as private lessons.

## Holiday Crafts and Cookies: A Huge Success!

Growing up in Germany where Christmas markets emerge in early December, I have long desired to bring an outside holiday get-together to Three Cedars. I felt the impulse to share the joy of meeting friends and neighbors outdoors, drinking hot tea or mulled wine, bringing the kids to a merry-go-round and buying typical Christmas cookies (some called 'Lebkuchen' or 'Stollen'). To me, these things are part of my Christmas culture like candles and songs, and are a great way to slow down in all the hustle and bustle of the holiday preparations.

The idea to prepare small crafts for the holidays arose during our first Parent Association meeting of the school year. Several parents hoped to bring the Winter Crafts Bazaar—or at least a small part of it—back



to Three Cedars. With only three short months to prepare and the busy holiday season just around the corner, we set to work organizing, gathering supplies, and crafting. We started with the idea of a small sale on a single table outside of the Front Office of our school, selling crafts and typical European Christmas cookies. Our group of moms was so excited that every Thursday, and even at home, we sewed felt pouches, sanded wooden gnomes, organized materials, traded and translated German and Austrian Christmas cookie recipes, planned group baking sessions, and had never ending ideas for new crafts. And we had so much fun together, planning, imagining, laughing! I was thrilled that they all were inspired by the idea of the sale and came back highly motivated every week to work at school or take work home to complete. It was wonderful to have such a large and diverse pool of people (we were about 10 moms every Thursday), including some who thought they were not crafty at all, but who all shared the joy of time spent together.

By the end of November we were almost done with all the crafts. We met with Seraphina and Rachel and they were surprised at what we had completed in such a short time! We started to plan the baking sessions, picked out the recipes and Cris contacted two amazing friends to ask for permission to bake in their kitchens as a group. With two prepared doughs and ingredients for more cookies, I headed to our first baking session and met seven other moms at Silvia's place (Silvia is Cris' friend). We rolled out the dough, decorated and covered cookies with jelly... and did some tasting... the cookies were amazing! And again, preparing them in a group was such a delight!

We hope you enjoyed the event as much as we did! We welcome you to join us on Thursday mornings after drop-off for crafting, tea, and conversation as we begin our preparations for May Faire.

*Jeannette Nagel on behalf of the Crafts & Tea moms*

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## Appreciations

Three Cedars would like to thank all of the parents, grandparents, alumni, and friends who made this event such a great success: **Gwyndolen Bennitt, Dashka Blyzniukova, Carla Boon, Silvia Colombaretti, Erin Dudley, Sandra Duncan, Julie Elithorp, Martina Fischer-Klee, Nelya Galiakbarova, Jill Granberg, Kristi Hartman, Ana Huston, Nira Medeiros, Martha Mize, Asun Muir, Jeannette Nagel, Cathy Nanda, Tanya Orlando, Beth Parker, Rachel Rodriguez, Sabina and Sunny Singh, Sanae Stanley, Karen Wegehenkel, and Cris Wegmann.** *Please let us know if you contributed in any way but are not listed here so that we may update our records.* Preliminary accounting of this event indicates a profit of more than \$1500, which is quite remarkable! Thank you to the event organizers as well as all of the parents who purchased items in support of our school.

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## Inclement Weather

As we move into winter and the colder,

wetter weather it brings, parents are reminded to take extra precautions in the parking lot and on sidewalks at school. Surfaces can be slippery, especially in the morning. Please remind your children to walk, not run.

In the event of a school closure, parents should expect a call to their home and cell phone numbers from Blackboard Connect, as well as an email. Contact information is provided to Blackboard Connect from Three Cedars directly and is updated weekly.

If you wish to update your contact information, please contact the Front Office directly: 425.401.9874 or [info@threecedars.org](mailto:info@threecedars.org). Three Cedars also posts school closures at [FlashAlert.net](http://FlashAlert.net), where families can check for updates about school closures, including early dismissals and cancellations of evening events.



## Preparing for Life: A New Video About Waldorf Education

The New York Times sparked national media coverage with its front page story on why Silicon Valley parents are turning to Waldorf education. This film picks up where that story left off.

“Preparing for Life” takes viewers

inside the Waldorf School of the Peninsula where the focus is on developing the capacities for creativity, resilience, innovative thinking, and social and emotional intelligence over rote learning. Entrepreneurs, Stanford researchers, investment bankers, and parents who run some of the largest hi-tech companies in the world, weigh-in on what children need to navigate the challenges of the 21st Century in order to find success, purpose, and joy in their lives.



Please [click here](#) to watch the video on YouTube.

## New York Times Article: Why Other Countries Teach Better

Our school, as all other Waldorf Schools in the nation, is challenged every year in its efforts to recruit teachers. We have great hope that as Waldorf schools become better known nationwide, the prospect of teaching in our unique schools will be a great inspiration to those wonderful

people who seek a meaningful and rewarding teaching career. This article about teachers world-wide caught our attention in that it sheds light perhaps on why becoming a teacher in our country is not yet one of the most appealing careers. As a Waldorf school, we are proud to attract teachers who have passion for their work. Their task is far more demanding than that of a teacher in any other type of school, whether public or private. Yet they are sustained in their calling by strong and lasting characteristics unique to Waldorf education—a high level of ethics, strong and long-lasting collaboration with colleagues, love for the wonders of the Waldorf curriculum, and of course love for the students in their care—another perspective on the teaching profession.

### **Why Other Countries Teach Better**

The United States has much to learn from other countries, especially in preparing teachers and paying for schools. [Click here to continue reading.](#)

## Educating Children for the Journey: Jack Petrash at TEDxRockCreekPark

*Published on May 8, 2013*

Our world is changing at a rapid and dramatic pace. Every decade brings technological advances and unforeseen social change. So how can

we prepare our children for a world we can't envision? The best way to do that is to educate our children to develop three essential capacities: a capacity for vibrant and vigorous activity, a capacity for a sensitive and yet resilient emotional life, and a capacity for clear, focused, original, thinking.

[Please click here to watch the video on YouTube.](#)



## The Milestones That Matter Most

*by Christine Gross-Loh, Huffington Post*

"M-a-t" "M-at." "Mat." My 6-year-old pored over her Bob book, painstakingly sounding out each word. I listened and worried; her older brother was able to read those same words at a much younger age.

It's natural to compare our children and fret over their development. We are encouraged in the United States to look at a child's expected milestones and make sure they are meeting them on time. It wasn't until I started researching global parenting that I discovered how many of a baby's and child's stages and milestones actually aren't universal. What we expect of a child at any given



age is influenced and shaped by culture. Viewed through the prism of culture, some notions of “normal” look totally different.

[Click here to continue reading.](#)

## GRADE SCHOOL NEWS

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### Basketball in Grades 6 & 7

Coach Haller, Cris Smith and the volunteer basketballers from grades six and seven enjoyed two friendly games against the French-American School team after school games in December.

*Photo by Julia Guderian  
Submitted by Kim Holscher,  
Grade 6 Class Teacher*



## EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWS

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### Star Money

Shown here is our Apple Blossom Kindergarten's nature table featuring the story *Star Money*.



# VOLUNTEERING

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## IT Support

We are seeking additional volunteers to join our IT Team. The following are some of the areas where your time is needed:

- Administer small domain of PCs with Windows server; troubleshoot hardware and network issues
- Office 365 administration for email and SharePoint (SharePoint experience a plus, other aspects can be learned)
- Familiarity with MS Office desktop applications
- Domain administration for email, website, and Office 365

Our current IT volunteer is available to answer questions and speak with you in more detail. Please contact [Robyn](#) in the Front Office and she will happily connect you with him to discuss where you may be able to help!

# BIOGRAPHIES

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## Mary Spurgin, Teacher, Class of 2019

Mary Spurgin has fond memories of a childhood in Tarrytown, NY, spent chasing four brothers on the roof and sledding on frozen creeks. Mrs. Spurgin majored in Interdisciplinary Visual Art and minored in Japanese at the University of Washington where, during her senior year, her love for art, interest in child development, and enthusiasm for teaching pointed her in the direction of becoming a Waldorf teacher. After earning her BA at UW, she began training at Sunbridge College in New York, where she earned a Masters in Education. Mrs. Spurgin spent four years class teaching at Green Meadow Waldorf School in New York. It was then that she began the greatest journey of her life: motherhood. While she was pregnant with her son, she and her husband returned to Washington State, where she began tutoring students from both Three Cedars and Seattle Waldorf School. Mrs. Spurgin became a class teacher at Three Cedars in 2012-13. She enjoys playing guitar, oil painting, knitting, cooking Japanese food, and gardening. She also enjoys traveling and has visited Thailand, Korea, Japan, China, Italy, and England.



## Lauren Root, Strings Teacher

The daughter of an officer in the U.S. Army, Lauren Root was born in Garmisch, Germany, and then lived in Moscow, London, Monterey, Fort Bragg, Honolulu, Fort Leavenworth, Nebraska City, Springfield, VA, Carlisle, PA, and Fort Benning—not necessarily in that order. After earning a bachelor's degree in Cello at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, then spending one year in business school in Syracuse, NY, Mrs. Root moved to Whidbey Island, WA, where she taught cello for several years. She eventually settled in Bellevue, WA, her home for the past 25 years. Mrs. Root is a private cello instructor, has worked with the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestras for more than 20 years, and has been part of Marrowstone-In-The-City children's programs for nearly as long. Decades of performing and touring with chamber music ensembles and orchestras were put on hold with the birth of her son, now in high school. Mrs. Root joined Three Cedars in 2002. She teaches introductory strings to grade four, intermediate strings to grade five, and the middle school strings ensemble classes.



## COMMUNITY

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### Local Opportunities

## Mystery Dramas: The Wildest Dramas Ever Written!

Barbara Renold, director and producer of these four plays which were written about 100 years ago by Rudolf Steiner will give a lively evening of talk and experience at **Seattle Waldorf School on Tuesday, January 14**. She will describe scenes and characters which show the intense and complicated soul and spiritual tapestry behind our every day lives. To illustrate, we will have an excerpt played by two members of our community.

Barbara will also be offering a [Friday/Saturday workshop](#) in Portland OR on January 24-25. To learn more about these plays which will be performed in August 2014 in Spring Valley NY, [please click here](#).

**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014

**Location:** Seattle Waldorf School, 2728 NE 100th Street, Seattle 98125

**Time:** 7:00 – 8:30 pm

**Donation:** Suggested \$10 – \$15

**Contact:** Pam Engler 206.526.5984 or [pengler@nwlinc.com](mailto:pengler@nwlinc.com)

**Host:** Seattle Branch of the Anthroposophical Society

## Housing Hosts Needed

The Seattle Waldorf School will be hosting the Northwest Regional Early Childhood Conference from February 14 to the 16 and is looking for housing for out of town participants. If you are able to offer a room, bed or floor space for those two nights, please [contact Debora Petschek](#) for more information. We are especially interested in options within walking distance or an easy bus ride away from the school.

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## For Rent: Wilburton Hill Neighborhood Walk to Bus, Shopping, Medical Facilities

Rent: \$925 month plus 1/2 utilities: gas, electric, cable (monthly); water (bimonthly); recycle (quarterly),

Sunny, bright garden level apartment in lower level of split level home. Very quiet. (Double paned windows). Completely renovated: new painted, new carpet, new flooring and toilet in bathroom. Private entrance and indoor garage parking with automatic door (remote provided). Bedroom, private full size bathroom, large family room, laundry room. Shared washer and dryer. Functional kitchenette; ideal for light cooking. Kitchenette includes a refrigerator, lots of cabinets for dishes, pots, pans, etc. Unfurnished. Storage space, and good closet space. Walking distance to Bellevue Botanical Garden, Three Cedars School, International School, Kelsey Creek Park and walking trails. Walk to bus, shopping centers, Uwajimaya, Home Depot, Total Wine, Whole Foods, Bartells, medical facilities. One mile from 405/I-90 and 520. No pets, no shares, no smokers, no drugs, no parties. Seeking individual who is clean and neat with quiet lifestyle. Occupancy for one person only. Available Jan. 5, 2014. One month Security Deposit and first and last month's rent upfront. Credit report required. For more information, please call 425-451-8470.

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*Submission deadline for our next newsletter is Monday, January 13, 2014.*

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