

Waldorf News

Three Cedars Waldorf School

September 9, 2011

Dear Three Cedars Parents, Guardians, Friends, and Relatives,

Please enjoy this issue of the Waldorf News.

ALL-SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Three Cedars Community,

Sitting on a bench in the school plaza in the quiet early hours of our first morning of the school year, I pondered the words of a long-standing Head of School who once equated his position to one of a weaver. This image most adequately captures the wide range of emotions I am experiencing: a touch of anxiety over the many changes that will be brought forth in all areas of school life and a sense of joyful anticipation for all that will be accomplished.

As the students joyfully stepped into the 2011-12 school year on this light-filled morning, the tapestry took the distinct color and texture of gratitude. Diligently working through the summer to contribute to some challenging projects, some of us remained on campus cleaning, organizing, planning, and occasionally catching some of the gorgeous summer sun. Others were off campus, studying, researching, working on plays and new songs, and... occasionally catching some of the gorgeous summer sun! Others still were traveling, to find their way back to this wonderful adventure of a brand new school year, eager to share their expertise and their gifts with us and our students; all of us weaving the unique and rich tapestry of the Three Cedars Waldorf School.

Working with board, faculty, staff, and volunteers over these past few months of transition, I am inspired by the degree of professionalism, dedication, and love for the school that is so apparent in our school community. As the school prepares to grow and become home to more students and families, so will the strong spirit of our school. Through our combined efforts, our shared contributions, and our inspiring kindness, our school will continue to journey towards maturity. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to Three Cedars Waldorf School's journey and look forward to a rich and fulfilling 2011-12 school year.

In this first issue of our newsletter, you will find an update from our Board of Trustees, information about upcoming festivals, and practical information. We look forward to keeping you updated on school life in our subsequent issues. Please do not hesitate to let us know of topics that would be of interest to you, as we are eager to be in conversation with you and serve our school community in this way as well. You are invited to send your suggestions to newsletter@threecedars.org.

Upcoming Projects

Enrollment – As parents at Three Cedars, you have chosen our unique Waldorf approach to education and you intimately know how fundamental this choice is in the lives of our children. We are proud to offer Waldorf Education to the Eastside, and we know that many more families are looking for a meaningful education that respects their child's unfolding development. It is time for our school to be better known in the area. Toward this end, we will, on the one hand, be working to further articulate our vision and our programs through our website, publications, and admissions material and, on the other hand, focus on improving and strengthening these elements of school life which we know will benefit from some attention. As always, you are welcome to share your perspective and your suggestions with us. Simply drop a note to Geraldine, or stop by for a visit. She looks forward to getting to know you and the school!

Fundraising – As with other independent schools, and particularly in the early stages of a school's biography, as is the case with Three Cedars, tuition revenue alone is not sufficient to balance our operating budget. Fundraising is a vital element of our school's success, and Three Cedars School has, over the years, benefited from the tremendous generosity of parents. This year we will continue with the school's tradition of a Fundraising Gala, and our usual Annual Fund. Our detailed plan – and our appeal to your generosity – will be unveiled in our upcoming newsletter. We are grateful for your participation in our fundraising efforts, and look forward to a record breaking fundraising year!

Donations

We would like to express our most sincere appreciation for those of you who have stepped up, as you have done every year, to allow Three Cedars to continue to flourish. In 2010-11, a total of \$696,148 was raised by parents in our community. These very significant gifts have brought Three Cedars to life and supported its growth towards maturity in countless ways. Our gratitude extends far beyond what words can express. Your gifts are the pillars upon which our school is anchoring its future, the ground in which its roots are now firmly planted. We thank you wholeheartedly for your kindness, and for your trust.

Additionally, and much to our delight, we have also received this summer an anonymous donation of \$25,000. Honoring the donor's request, this unexpected gift will be dedicated to professional development for our faculty and other projects related to the care of our personnel – such as work retreats for example. THANK YOU to our anonymous donor for this generous donation which we gratefully receive as an expression of trust and encouragement.

TCWS Board of Trustees

Dear community members,

As you may know, we have been collecting feedback from the community, Faculty, and Administration for the development of the school's long-term strategic plan. We are proud to introduce the first draft of the plan, based on your feedback and our ongoing work in collaboration with our Executive Director, Geraldine Kline.

Below you will see the highest level of the plan, designed to be a one-page overview that provides a bearing point for the future. All decisions and plans we make moving forward should clearly support the goals stated in each section. We define the sections as follows:

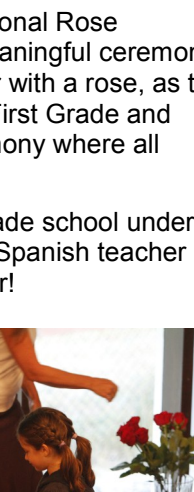
- **Mission** - What is our ultimate aspiration for what the school should achieve?
- **Core Values** - What are the non-negotiable values that we will uphold in all interactions with each other?
- **Unique Value Proposition** - What is the value the school will provide to students, faculty, administration, parents, and the broader community?
- **What our Students, Faculty, Administration, and Community Members Experience** - This is the experience we wish our community members to have at TCWS.
- **Must Achieve** - What are the concrete goals we must achieve in the next year to provide the foundation for everything else above? Note that these items may change on an annual or semi-annual basis as our initial goals are achieved.

Thanks again to all of you who took the time to provide such thoughtful input to date. We have incorporated your feedback in this high-level plan, as well as the more detailed plans which support the achievement of the "Must Achieve" goals. These will be introduced once the initial draft below has been finalized.

We invite all of you to continue providing input to the board via email (board@threecedars.org) as we begin firming up this plan.

Sincerely,

The Board of Three Cedars Waldorf School
Lisa Conaghan, Chief Governance Officer
Tom Doggett, Vice President
John Tinker, Secretary
Kelly Anderson, Treasurer
Kari Kailamaki, Trustee



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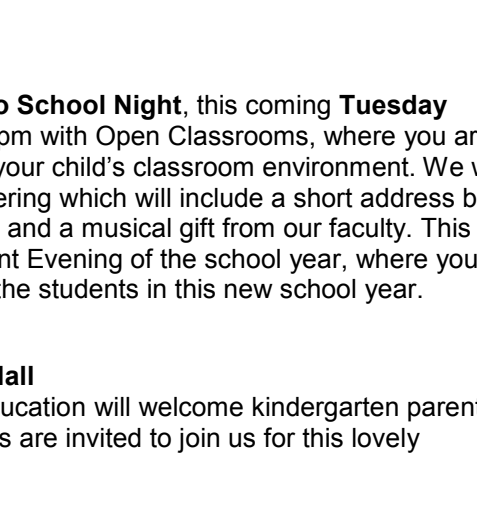
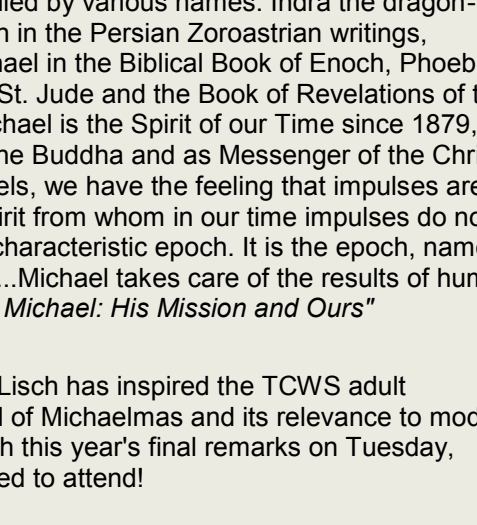
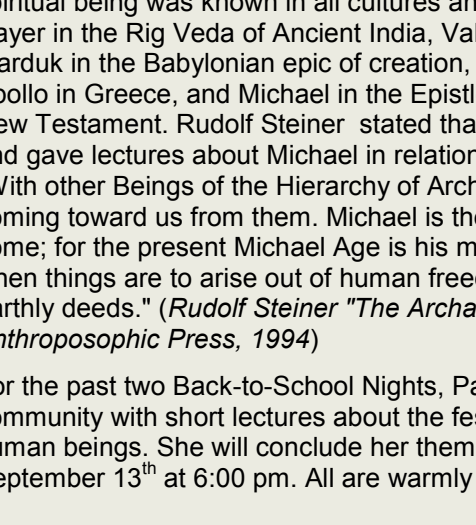
TCWS Festivals, Assemblies, and Celebrations

Throughout history and in all civilizations, celebrations reflect the cycle of seasons and nature's rhythms. Waldorf Schools throughout the world view festivals, community events, and ceremonies as an essential element of Waldorf school life. While each school's events are unique to that school community, they share an understanding of the need for children and families to create and experience community and a dedication to do so based on an evolving understanding of the values informing Waldorf Education. TCWS assemblies are designed primarily for our students, though parents occasionally are invited to attend. Festivals, assemblies, and celebrations are a festive time when the school community gathers to celebrate turning points in the year: beginnings, accomplishments, seasonal festivities, and journeys yet to come.

The Rose Ceremony

First Grade students are welcomed into the Grade school with the traditional Rose Ceremony, held in the morning of the first day of school. During this meaningful ceremony Eighth Graders, as the elders in the Grade school, gift each First Grader with a rose, as they begin their journey as a class guided by their class teacher. Parents of First Grade and Eighth Grade students are warmly invited to attend this traditional ceremony where all students are present.

This year the Rose Ceremony welcomed our 17 First Graders to the Grade school under the able guidance of Mrs. Hinton, supported in her task by Señor Gandára, Spanish teacher and 1st grade assistant. We wish all of them a wonderful 2011-12 school year!



Michaelmas

As we spiral our way inwards from the heights of starry summer nights toward approaching winter's rains, Michaelmas marks that time of the year when we reflect on the challenges that face us in the waning light. At this turning point, just beyond the autumnal equinox when the nights are now longer than the days, our students gather for Michaelmas to spend the day in a myriad of activities—setting up and going through meaningful challenges- as is the school's tradition. These activities focus on the inner meaning of our students' accomplishments and are framed by a story related to the meaning of this festival – that of courage and transformation. Michaelmas is a very special occasion unique to Waldorf schools.

This year's Michaelmas will be different from those which were enjoyed in years past. While the faculty creates and carries a rich festival life for the students, the task of organizing a community-wide event is more than can be asked of our wonderful teachers, particularly at this time of year. We also recognize that a school-wide festival is most alive when created and held by community members as a living expression of the community's innermost qualities. This is why we will, in this bridge year, host a student-only event. As the year unfolds and the Parent Association is launched, we warmly invite you to co-create the community events that mark our yearly rhythm as a Waldorf school community.

This year's Michaelmas event will take place on **Friday September 30th**, during regular school hours, and will be hosted by faculty for the students only for most of the day. All **Kindergarten parents are invited to arrive at 11:30 a.m. for the Kindergarten Michaelmas Festival and stay to 1:00 p.m.** (Kindergarten After Care is available for those children who need to stay in the afternoon.) **Elementary grades parents are invited to arrive at 12:15 p.m. to visit the Blacksmith as he forges iron through the blasting fire into tools and stay for the Michaelmas Pageant which begins at 12:45 p.m. and to stay until it ends at 1:15 p.m.** Elementary students will return to their classes to experience events they have planned for the rest of the day and dismissal is at 3:15 p.m. with the Grades After Care being available until 5:30 p.m. To preserve the special Michaelmas mood created by the faculty for the students and the cohesion of the classes, we ask that parents not engage with their children until the end of the school day, at our regular dismissal time.

Michaelmas – Kim Holscher, Grade 4 teacher

Revived as a festival by Rudolf Steiner, our Michaelmas celebration features a battle of good versus evil in which evil is not vanquished but transformed to serve humanity. Our own TCWS event involving all the grades will take place on Friday Sept. 30 at 12:45 pm. The afternoon features challenge activities for grades 2-8, and the celebrations will end with a shared snack.

Who is the Saint Michael, or the Archangel Michael, whom we honor in this festival? This spiritual being was known in all cultures and called by various names: Indra the dragon-slayer in the Rig Veda of Ancient India, Vahman in the Persian Zoroastrian writings, Marduk in the Babylonian epic of creation, Michael in the Biblical Book of Enoch, Phoebus Apollo in Greece, and Michael in the Epistle of St. Jude and the Book of Revelations of the New Testament. Rudolf Steiner stated that Michael is the Spirit of our Time since 1879, and gave lectures about the Hierarchy in relation to the Buddha and as Messenger of the Christ.

"With other beings of the Hierarchy of Archangels, we have the feeling that impulses are coming toward us from them. Michael is the Spirit from whom in our time impulses do not come; for the present Michael Age is his most characteristic epoch. It is the epoch, namely, when things are to arise out of human freedom...Michael takes care of the results of human earthly deeds." *(Rudolf Steiner "The Archangel Michael: His Mission and Ours" Anthroposophic Press, 1994)*

For the past two Back-to-School Nights, Paula Lisch has inspired the TCWS adult community with short lectures about the festival of Michaelmas and its relevance to modern human beings. She will conclude her theme with this year's final remarks on Tuesday, September 13th at 6:00 pm. All are warmly invited to attend!

Back to School Night – Grade School

Tuesday September 13th, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

We look forward to seeing you all on our **Back to School Night**, this coming **Tuesday September 13th**. The evening will begin at 6:00 pm with Open Classrooms, where you are welcome to visit class teachers and experience your child's classroom environment. We will then gather at 6:30 pm in Trillium Hall for a gathering which will include a short address by our Director, Paula Lisch's Michaelmas address, and a musical gift from our faculty. This gathering will be followed by our first Class Parent Evening of the school year, where you will discover the curriculum and activities that await the students in this new school year.

Back to School Night – Early Childhood

Tuesday September 20th, 6:30 pm – Trillium Hall

Kindergarten teachers, Director, and Dean of Education will welcome kindergarten parents to the 2011-12 school year. All kindergarten parents are invited to join us for this lovely gathering.

Office News

Our school office is open daily from 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. on days when school is in session. Office hours during holidays may differ and will be published as needed. We have creatively worked within our office space constraints to create a staggered schedule, which you can discover below. Although this may at first appear confusing, please know that all of us are easily reachable via email. You can find our email addresses below, in the directory, or simply by remembering our school email protocol: first letter of first name, followed by last name, followed by @threecedars.org (i.e., flast@threecedars.org).

In the front office, **Robyn Hartman, Administrative Assistant** (rhartman@threecedars.org), will be delighted to help you with all things practical. While **Seraphina Orzel, Office Manager** (sorzel@threecedars.org), will still be found in the front office on occasions, she now primarily focuses on enrollment and admissions and spends most of her time in the Admissions Office (also known as the "pink room" or the "conference" room), from Sunday through Thursdays. She shares her office space with our **Geraldine Kline, Director** (gkline@threecedars.org), who will be on campus on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. She is available at your convenience via email. Please do not hesitate to schedule a visit with her: she will be delighted to get to know you! **Monica Lander, Dean of Education** (mlander@threecedars.org), can be found in classrooms, playgrounds, the woods, and more rarely in her "back office". Monica will be on campus on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. **Geri Snyder, Administrative Assistant** (gsnyder@threecedars.org), is on campus Mondays through Fridays. **Leslie Coe, Bookkeeper** (lcoe@threecedars.org), now shares her work-station with **Julie Dean, Business Manager** (jean@threecedars.org), **Jim Jack, Facilities Manager** (jjack@threecedars.org), works primarily in the evenings and on week-ends and holidays so as not to interfere with the flow of the school day.

Meet Our New Business Manager

Julie Dean was born in Los Angeles, Ca. where she lived with her family until moving to Boulder, Co. in 1980. She attended the University of Colorado school of Business and graduated with a BBS in accounting in 1985. In 1988 she arrived in Seattle and began a career as a Certified Public Accountant. Over the past 20 years she has been a practicing tax professional, a certified Yoga instructor, an avid volunteer and mother of two beautiful children who currently attend the Seattle Waldorf High School. Julie's passions include yoga, dance, travel and long walks at the beach or in the woods. She is very excited to be joining the Three Cedars Waldorf School community.

New School Emails

As our school is poised to keep growing, with the accompanying increase in email communication, we have opted to standardize our school email addresses for all faculty and staff members. Each of us now has a school email address designed as follows:

First letter of first name, last name, @threecedars.org (i.e., flast@threecedars.org). You can find all school email addresses in our school directory, posted on the secure section of our website.

Additionally, we have made changes to the ways the school communicates with parents via emails, and are now sending all communications from teachers and class coordinators through the Office. This process ensures that the information you receive is accurate – such as dates, times, event details – and that each parent indeed receives the information, as the school office holds the updated database. We ask Class Coordinators and teachers to sent emails addressed to groups to emailrequest@threecedars.org. This email is received by Seraphina and Geraldine, who review the content for accuracy. Any suggested changes – save simple spelling errors – are submitted to the author of the email for approval before sending. At times we may communicate by e-mail as a way to limit the number of emails you receive. We look forward to using this method and moving swiftly in the direction of clear and accurate information!

September 21 is Portrait Day!

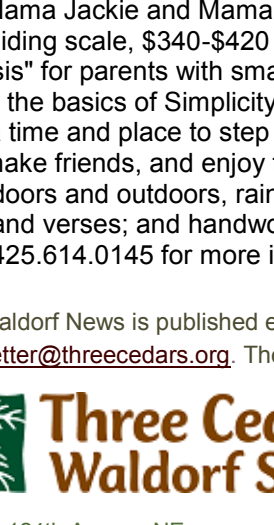
We are pleased to be working with Vakker Portraits again this year for our student photos! Portrait order forms will be sent home the week of September 12th and should be returned to the front office with payment. We are seeking one parent volunteer to assist Mrs. Orzel and the photographers from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on portrait day. Volunteer will receive one free package! Please email sorzel@threecedars.org or call the school office at 425.401.9874 if interested.

Parents Brown Bag Tea Cancelled

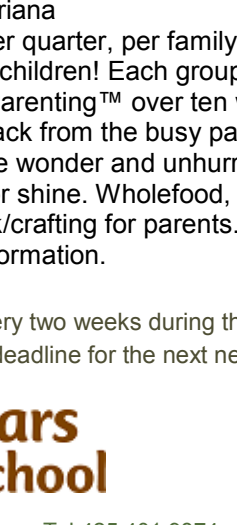
Dear parents, please be aware that the Parents Brown Bag Tea and Craft Evening is cancelled for the time being. Keep posted for work parties, such as Benefit Evening prep, that may take place on Wednesday mornings during that time. Please see Mrs. Orzel in the front office if you have any questions.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

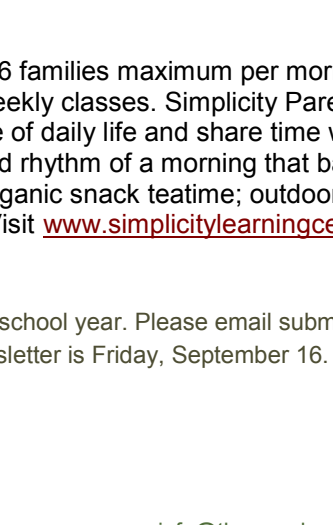
Beautiful Chalkboards Welcome Students in Grades 6-8



Grade 6



Grade 7



Grade 8

LOWER GRADES NEWS

Beautiful Chalkboards Welcome Students in Grades 1-5



Grade 1



Grade 2



Grade 3



Grade 4



Grade 5

EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWS

Kindergarten First Day

The first day of school for the Kindergarteners is Monday, September 12.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

This section provided as a free service to the TCWS community.

AWSNA Newsletter INFORM

Read about: [the service weekend on the Pine Ridge Reservation, AWSNA's Annual Summer Conference, and more.](#)

Upcoming Community Events

Ultimate Frisbee

Ultimate Frisbee will resume under the leadership of Coach David Hasbrook, a TCWS parent. Please note that practices will be held on **Thursdays this year, from 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.** at Wilburton Park. All experience levels are welcome!

Most Fridays after school at Three Cedars since January, 2010, a group of dedicated students have arrived at Wilburton Park to play ultimate for an hour-and-a-half. Ultimate is a team game played officially with 7 players on a side on a 40 yards wide field that is 70 yards from goal line to goal line with 25 yard endzones. The field and the players per side can be reduced. The object of the game is to advance a plastic disc or Frisbee into the opponent's endzone by catching the disc after a pass by a teammate. Throwers cannot run but must establish a pivot foot after a catch. An incomplete or intercepted pass results in a turnover and immediate return play with the new offensive team attacking the new defensive team's endzone. Contact is not allowed aside from incidental minor contact. What sets ultimate apart is that there are no referees and players must assume the responsibility of learning the rules, making calls on the field, and following the established peaceful dispute resolution set forth in the rules. The obligation to play with honor, fairness, full information about the rules, love of the game, and respect for all players is set forth in the cardinal rule of ultimate known as "spirit of the game."

While this may sound daunting, ultimate is not very complicated once a player spends some time on the field with friends in a game. More experienced players share their knowledge of the rules and game and share it with newer players. Sometimes play is stopped to calmly explain a rule or describe more detailed aspects of the game as dictated by the circumstance on the field. It is in these moments that our children have the opportunity to share information, resolve misunderstanding, and move forward without the need for adult arbitrators or the incentive to gain an advantage by cheating outside the referee's perception. It's not perfect, but the potential for growth and sportsmanship is there.

From March to May, 2011, Three Cedars Waldorf School competed in the Seattle Elementary School Spring League (grades 3-5). Known as the Geckos, the team won all 7 regular season games, another playoff game, and then fell 9-6 in the championship game to a team from Wallingford to finish second out of 22 league teams. The Geckos were half boys and half girls and included players from 5 different grades. Seattle's league is the only elementary school league in the U.S. and has been going for 5 years. The Geckos also attended the Spring Reign tournament in Burlington, WA in April and finished third, losing only to eventual champion, Wallingford, 10-9. The Geckos hope to be back for spring league 2012 and Coach David Hasbrook intends to form a middle school team (Grades 6-8) for spring league play also.

-David Hasbrook

Upcoming Events

Seattle Tilth Harvest Fair

Saturday, September 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Meridian Park (4649 Sunnyside Ave. N)

Urban Farm Activities include urban livestock area featuring goats, bunnies, chickens, and an amazing bee hive! Don't miss Cider pressing, DIY herb crowns, massive seed swap, garden crafts galore, Compost Wonderland, Author book signings by [local authors](#), [harvest-themed adventure](#) scavenger hunt, and a huge Local Marketplace with food, vendors, and farmers.

Also don't miss the Demonstrations & Workshops – see the [full schedule](#). Live Music & Lectures – [See the music schedule](#). Buy raffle tickets for \$5 during the event for a chance to win a Chicken Coop Package (yes, includes coop, value \$1,434) or Urban Farm Starter Kit (\$230)!

14th Annual Aki Matsuri

Japanese Cultural Arts Event

Japan comes to Bellevue College for a weekend! A two-day program of Japanese cultural and educational events for all ages.

This year's "Japan Guests Program" features (1) Kimono Presentation (**SAT**, 4:30 PM @ L-Bldg Lobby) & Yukata Show (**SUN**, 2 PM on the stage in the Gym) by Ugawa Yu and 5 assistants from Hyogo-ken, (2) Pioneer Leather Arts Exhibit by Keiko Murakami from Chiba-ken (L-Bldg Lobby), and (3) Yanagawa-Mari & Sagemon Exhibit by Fumiko Ogata from Fukuoka-ken (L-Bldg Lobby). This is a unique opportunity to meet with artists from Japan and learn more about some of Japan's rich cultural heritage.

The matsuri includes 2 full days of on-stage Performing Arts, Martial Art demos by local dojo members, Puppet Shows, Tea Ceremony and Ikebana demonstrations, 80+ Exhibit booths, lectures & workshops, Koi Show, and Japanese food booths. Browse through "Nomi-no-ichi ... a Japanese style flea market" to make a lucky find! Meet with Aki Matsuri Mascot and friends! Don't miss Shinto Ceremony and Omikoshi Procession by Tsubaki Grand Shrine of America (**SAT**, from Noon).

Featured documentary film, "Great Grandfather's Drum" will be shown to raise funds for Relief and Recovery from Tsunami and Earthquake in Northern Japan (@ L-Bldg L126, **SAT**, Noon, 1:30 PM, 3 PM, and 4:30 PM & **SUN**, Noon, 1:30 PM, and 3 PM)

Please check our website (www.enma.org) for more information.

Issaquah PCC Food Bank Packaging Work Parties

Monday, September 12, 2011, 7 p.m.

Monday, November 14, 2011, 7 p.m.

Interested families are welcome to join Mrs. Orzel at the [Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank](#) to help package bulk foods purchased with PCC Food Bank Program donations from PCC shoppers. For more information, contact PCC Community Relations at 206-547-1222 or e-mail: Learn more about the [PCC Food Bank Program](#). Issaquah Food Bank is located at 179 First Ave S.E., Issaquah.

Classifieds

Simplicity Parenting Information Evening

When: September 21, 2011 (Wednesday 7 PM until 8:30 p.m.)

Where: Three Cedars Waldorf School, Bellevue

Who: Presentation by Judy Erbe

Cost: \$10 suggested donation

So much of modern life seems to be about more. Come to an evening with a refreshing message: LESS! This presentation is for parents with children of all ages. It will invite you to think more intentionally about your family values and priorities so that both you and your children can feel calmer & less overwhelmed, connect more as a family, and reduce stress. Visit <http://www.threecedars.org/programs/simplicity.htm> for more information.

Simplicity Parent-Tot Classes Now Forming for Autumn 2011!

When: October-December, 2011 (choose from Tue, Wed, Thu or Sat mornings, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.)

Where: Simplicity Learning Center in the Lake Hills Neighborhood of Bellevue

Who: Mama Jackie and Mama Briana

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

An "oasis" for parents with small children! Each group (6 families maximum per morning) will explore the basics of Simplicity Parenting™ over ten weekly classes. Simplicity Parent-Tot offers a time and place to step back from the busy pace of daily life and share time with your child, make friends, and enjoy the wonder and unhurried rhythm of a morning that balances time indoors and outdoors, rain or shine. Wholefood, organic snack teatime; outdoor play; songs and verses; and handwork/crafting for parents. Visit www.simplicitylearningcenter.com or call 425.614.0145 for more information.

The Waldorf News is published every two weeks during the school year. Please email submissions to newsletter@threecedars.org. The deadline for the next newsletter is Friday, September 16.



Three Cedars Waldorf School

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