

May 26, 2014

Dear Reader,

We hope you enjoy reading all about what's happening at Three Cedars! We publish the newsletter generally every two weeks, when school is in session.

## UPDATES FOR NEXT YEAR

[All School](#) [Grades](#) [Early Childhood](#) [Community](#)

### Waldorf Schools – Are We *That* Different?

Every Thursday afternoons in Waldorf schools around the world, teachers gather for a weekly meeting – Faculty, or College meeting – to study the foundations of our pedagogy and child development, share classroom experiences, enhance students' experience, address challenges and successes. Along this path of care, they turn to the philosophy at the root of Waldorf pedagogy – Anthroposophy – to guide and challenge them in their keen observation of the students, to find ever new ways to serve their development towards being fully human. What do we mean by 'fully human'?



For Waldorf teachers, being fully human of course includes being ready to graduate, successfully complete one's education, and fare well in life. One could say that those are the visible elements of being fully human. Yet beyond these – visible and quantifiable – there lie intangibles which Waldorf teachers, among many others, have come to view as essential. For example honesty, appreciation for and respect of all life, joy, self-knowledge, interest in and empathy for others, the ability to bring one's vision to life. These qualities are not measured 'scientifically' and do not remain within the confines of single interactions but expand to create a 'mood' in constant

evolution, to which each member of the community contributes and in which he or she partakes. This mood is felt by all, adults and children alike. These qualities are nowadays most often referred to as human values. Waldorf schools view them as spiritual inspirations.

Waldorf education is not simply an alternative to main stream education, one that enhances academics with colorful paintings and sweet songs. Waldorf schools do not use a specific curriculum. Although there are lots of beautiful examples, so much so that one could mistake them for teaching manuals, these examples are illustrative of the type of subject and activities that may speak to and engage the children at specific stages of their development. These stages are both archetypal and evolving. Successful Waldorf teaching anchors itself in understanding where the children are on their developmental journey and which subjects have the potential to nurture their development and its associated capacities. Waldorf education is not a method, it is an art. This art of education is in service to each of the students, bringing appreciation for the uniqueness of each, challenge and balance, and a profound discovery and appreciation of one's talents, which may or may not include inclination for academics.

When entrepreneur Emil Molt founded the first Waldorf school in Stuttgart in 1919, he asked Rudolf Steiner to advise as to how to teach the children so that the experience of the WW1 would never come to pass again. (Although since then we humans have outdone ourselves many times over, the 1914-18 great war was unlike anything experienced by humans before). Rudolf Steiner was very clear that, in addition to lessons designed to serve the development of the children, the community of teachers and staff members in the school absolutely had to be a living model of being fully human: a keen interest in and respect for others, a warm collaboration between all, a vibrant enthusiasm for each other's ideas, a shared dedication for the mission of the school. For Rudolf Steiner at the time, as is the case for a multitude of today's thinkers, education should be completely independent from political and economic pressures so as to safeguard the human freedom to think and act, to create a future free from the constraints of the established order. Waldorf schools educates students so they may discover who they are and what their chosen task is, which includes the option to do much more than simply fit in today's society or our ideas about what tomorrow's society might be.

In 'The Renewal of the Social Organism' 1919-20, Rudolf Steiner writes: *"The school should depend solely upon the authority of those engaged in this activity. The administration of the educational institutions, the organization of courses of instruction and their goals should be entirely in the hands of persons who themselves are simultaneously either teaching or otherwise productively engaged in cultural life".* Further: *'it will be evident to anyone who can bring himself to an unbiased examination of cultural life that the peculiar vitality and energy of soul required for organizing and directing educational institutions will be called forth only in someone actively engaged in teaching or in some sort of cultural activities'.*

[http://wn.rsarchive.org/Books/GA024/English/AP1985/GA024\\_index.html](http://wn.rsarchive.org/Books/GA024/English/AP1985/GA024_index.html)

Rudolf Steiner's initial and intense efforts did not bear the fruits he had hoped for, and the first years were fraught with distrust. For nearly 100 years, Waldorf schools worldwide have sought ways, with more or less energy and clarity, to bring this vision of an enthusiastic and collaborative community as a living model for the children. We too, at TCWS, continue to seek for these ways, and it is this search which informs the way we work, our programs, our staffing, our vision for the school's future. Our school is still small and young, yet it bears within it the seeds of an open and vibrant future that embraces not only our students' visible success but the intangible values, the

spiritual principles, inherent to our task.

In his book 'The Founding of the First Waldorf School in Stuttgart', Johannes Tautz says: *"Any movement that has spiritual points of departure needs both continuity and new impulses, and the question arises: can we, do we want to draw from the wellsprings that were opened up in the year 1919?"* This question is fundamental to all Waldorf schools, and is fundamental for us to ponder as well. The changes we make every year are steeped in our attempts to respond to Johannes Tautz' call for genuine engagement of faculty and staff in the life of the school, far beyond the duties outlined in employment agreements. Next year, our Thursday meetings will welcome teachers and administrative staff members alike, to form the Plenum from which to draw professional friendship and inspiration. This change in the composition of the Thursday meeting is significant for us. It requires great sensitivity for and keen interest in the very different yet complementary tasks of teachers and administrators. The rewards will be many: a weaving of our shared perspectives, talents, personalities and interests, in service to the school's mission. We look forward to our bi-weekly appointment with one another!

## Summer Preparations

The end of the year is now in sight, with much anticipated summer fun for the students and renewal for our faculty and staff.

At school, we will begin our **summer preparations** in the third week of June with three days of study with colleagues of the Puget Sound area Waldorf schools, led by Christof Wiechert, former leader of the Pedagogical Section at the Goetheanum, Dornach, Switzerland. Christof has also been a Waldorf class teacher for thirty years in the Netherlands. Christof travels around the world extensively to advise Waldorf faculty and schools, and has visited the Seattle area for a decade or so, where he has taught Sound Circle summer courses and more recently, **Review Days**. You can [read a recent interview](#) of Christof in the last edition of Waldorf Today.



In addition to our morning sessions with Christof, we will meet in the afternoons to wrap up the year and begin planning for the next. We look forward to these three days of renewal before leaving for our respective summer preparation courses. Monica Lander, Laura Mason, and I will be leaving for Massachusetts in late June, to attend the **AWSNA Summer Conference**. This continental Waldorf conference gathers Waldorf teachers from the USA, Canada, and Mexico for a week of study, workshops, and connection. The [program for this year](#) is, as always, inspiring and includes meetings of the school delegates by region, as well as meetings of our association's Leadership Council. A full and inspiring week to look forward to!

At various times in the summer, our faculty will be taking preparatory courses for the coming year. Some will attend courses at **Sound Circle Center**, our local teacher training center, while others will spend two weeks working with an [online course specific to their grade](#) with **Eugene Schwarz**. Others still will benefit from individual **mentoring** through the summer. We are very proud to be able to support our faculty's professional development to the extent we do, and

grateful for the time our faculty is dedicating to their ongoing education. We reserve close to **\$20,000** in our budget to fund our faculty's ongoing professional development. **We strongly encourage you to contribute to our annual fund to reach this year's goal so we can indeed send our teachers to these courses this summer.**

## 2014-15 Program

The planning of our 2014-15 program is now complete, and as promised in the last issue of the newsletter, is available for your viewing. We are very pleased with our 2014-15 faculty team, who although very glad to see a longer break coming, is also enthusiastically looking forward to next year.

2014-15 TCWS Program				
Class	Class Teacher	Subject Lessons	Lessons/Wk	Teachers
<b>PreK</b>	Amie Aylward			Assistant: Emma Goldschmidt
<b>MG</b>	Laura Mason			Assistant: Pat Polley
<b>MS</b>	Maggie Reilly			Assistant: Tabatha Jeantette
<b>PreK/KG After Care</b>	Sanae Stanley			
<b>Grade 1</b>	Aurora Garcia	Spanish, Japanese, Handwork, Eurythmy	2 of each	Japanese: Emiko Lin Handwork: My Huynh Spanish: Aurora Garcia Eurythmy: Jenny Fawcett
		Extra-Main Lesson (language arts, arts, mathematics)	2 of each	
<b>Grade 2</b>	Jennifer Winson	Spanish, Japanese, Handwork, Eurythmy, Games	2 of each	Japanese: Emiko Lin Games: Cris Smith Spanish: Yadira Martinez Handwork: My Huynh Eurythmy: Jenny Fawcett
		Extra-Main Lesson (language arts, arts, mathematics)	2 of each	
<b>Grade 3</b>	Monica Lander	Spanish, Japanese, Eurythmy, Handwork, Games	2 of each	Games: Cris Smith Japanese: Emiko Lin Spanish: Yadira Martinez Handwork & Crafts: My Huynh Eurythmy: Jenny Fawcett
		Crafts	1	
		Extra-Main Lesson (language arts, arts, mathematics)		
<b>Grade 4</b>	Mary Spurgin	Spanish, Japanese, Eurythmy, Games/movement, Handwork	2 of each	Games: Cris Smith Japanese: Emiko Lin Spanish: Yadira Martinez Handwork: My Huynh Eurythmy: Jenny Fawcett
		Strings	1	
		Extra-Main Lesson (language arts, arts, mathematics)		
<b>Grade 5/6</b>	Stephanie Packer	Eurythmy, Handwork, Games/Movement, Strings	2 of each	Spanish: Britt Urquiza Handwork: My Huynh, 11 wks Painting: Janet Lia, 12 wks Woodwork: Michael Klin, 12 wks Japanese: Emiko Lin Movement: Cris Smith (5&6 x 2), (5x1) Pentathlon/Olympiad Gr 5: Monica Lander (5x1) Eurythmy: Jenny Fawcett
		Japanese	1	
		Spanish	4	
		Extra-Main Lesson (language arts, mathematics)		

<b>Grade 7</b>	Daniel Packer	Eurythmy, Handwork, Movement, Strings/Ukulele	2 of each	Handwork – My Huynh, 12 wks Painting: Janet Lia, 12 wks Woodwork: Michael Kline, 11 wks
		Japanese	1	Japanese: Emiko Lin
		Spanish	4	Spanish: Britt Urquiza
		Extra-Main Lesson (language arts, mathematics)		Physics Block: Guest Teacher Movement: Cris Smith Eurythmy: Jenny Fawcett
<b>Grade 8</b>	Annette Campana	Spanish	4	Japanese: Emiko Lin
		Japanese	1	Spanish: Britt Urquiza
		Eurythmy, Handwork/Woodwork, Movement Education, Strings	2 of each	Handwork: My Huynh, 12 wks Painting: Janet Lia, 11 wks Woodwork: Michael Kline, 12 wks
		Extra-Main Lesson (language arts, mathematics)		Movement: Cris Smith Eurythmy: Jenny Fawcett

## Interim Leadership Team

An undesirable virus seems to have chosen my body as its residence of choice, with which I am not in agreement! My attempts at regaining my full health having been unsuccessful thus far, I chose to take my vacation in the month of May to give myself time to tend to it with more attention than I was able to previously. While these weeks have been busy – which is the nature of school life, after all – the school is wonderfully held by an Interim Leadership Team. What a wonderful and wise leadership the faculty chose again this year! These past two weeks have been a restoring time for me, experiencing yet at another level everyone's dedication for the school and the well-being of all! Let us pause for a moment to thank **Annette Campana, Monica Lander, Laura Mason, Julie Dean, Britt Urquiza** (for PAG) and **Stephanie Packer** (Elementary Faculty Chair) for warmly and effectively carrying leadership in my absence. With just the right touch of contacting me when needed, all is being well handled and moving forward in a wonderful way. Thank you! ~Geraldine Kline

2014-15 Faculty Leadership Team	2014-15 Personnel Advisory Group
Annette Campana, <i>Full Faculty Chair</i>	Monica Lander
Stephanie Packer, <i>Elementary Faculty Chair</i>	Britt Urquiza
Laura Mason, <i>Early Childhood Faculty Co-Chair</i>	
Maggie Reilly, <i>Early Childhood Faculty Co-Chair</i>	

## Site Development

Our Cedars building expansion project has encountered a major road-block – THE one road-block which offers the least flexibility: too expensive! So back to the drawing table we go! Chris Pressey, our Facilities Manager, has taken hold of finding a few more options, including other bids for the same project (additional upstairs Cedars, 2 classrooms), as well as looking into other options (portable, for example). Although we all hoped timing and cost would be on our side, we may have to wait a bit longer than the coming summer to see changes in our available teaching spaces. It will not be long before the decision is made to either proceed or wait, and to look at our campus in the context of a larger, more comprehensive plan for our facilities and grounds. Chris has met with the faculty leadership to begin discussing the wishes of the faculty, and we look

forward to working with the **Pomegranate Center** (located in Issaquah) to think through the best ways to engage the whole school community in dreaming and creating the next phase of site development. We'll keep you updated!

## Staffing 2014-15

Staffing for 2014-15 continues to unfold with recent additional changes. I am delighted to share with you that **Jenny Fawcett** (yes, our own Jenny Foster!) will return to our school as the full-time **eurythmy** teacher in September. Most of us know Jenny quite well from her teaching our students over a number of years. Jenny left her position in 2012 for a move to Whidbey Island. We look forward to her enthusiasm, love for the children and the art of eurythmy, and abundant energy! We are confident that students and parents will be delighted to welcome Jenny once more!

**Upper Grades Fine & Practical Arts: My Huynh and Janet Lia** will be joined by **Mike Kline** in holding the upper grades fine & practical arts program next year. With 11 or 12 week sessions for each of these specialties, our students will experience the quality that comes with assiduity and focus, under the inspiring guidance of trained and experienced Waldorf teachers. It is important to note that, because of the obvious conflict of interest in my husband being hired – in however minor a position – I requested authorization from the Board to proceed with his hiring process, to recuse myself from this process and to delegate it entirely to the faculty leadership. Annette and Stephanie (full faculty chair and elementary faculty chair) documented that they indeed did so in a letter addressed to the Board. You are welcome to request a copy of this letter to the Board. See in italics below for Annette's and Stephanie's message to the faculty and staff:

*Dear Faculty and Staff,*

*As many of you may have read in the recent newsletter, we have an exciting Fine & Practical Arts program planned for the upper grades for the upcoming school year. Each grade in grades 5-8 will have rotating blocks of Woodwork, Handwork, and Painting. We are excited to announce that Michael Kline has accepted the position of woodwork teacher at our school. Mike currently teaches the 7th grade at the SWS. He is a practicing artist who brings more than 15 years of woodwork teaching experience to our school.*

*Please welcome Mike to Three Cedars.*

*~Annette and Stephanie (Full Faculty Chair and Grade School Chair)*

**Office Staff:** A significant transition awaits us in the office, with several key staff members having announced that they will not return next year. **Seraphina Orzel** has held a very full position in recent years, taking on the task of Director of Administration with much expertise, flexibility, and resilience. She has very capably managed much of the office work, coordination and supervision of office staff and work with parents on fairs and events, in addition to admissions work. Her intimate knowledge of the school and its working, and her strong and long-lasting relationship with the parent body are irreplaceable. **Robyn Hartman** – We will miss her great organizational skills and her precision in all matters, and we will be wise to be prepared to receive our emails later than we have become accustomed to! Over the years Robyn has held many positions and knows the office inside-out. Her good humor in the face of an ever-busy office have been appreciated by



all, as well as the care she has put into so many issues of the school's newsletter, and her incredible resourcefulness in all things, including IT.

We bid Seraphina, Robyn, Jackie, and Grace a fond farewell and wish them the very best in their next endeavors, where they are sure to shine as brightly as they have at TCWS!

We look forward to welcoming **Shelly McSweyn** as our new receptionist in mid-August. Shelly has worked as a receptionist for the Seattle Waldorf School in years past, where she was also a volunteer coordinator extraordinaire, handling many a Winter and May Faires, and organizing countless field trips for her daughter Molly's class. Molly will very soon graduate from the Seattle Waldorf High School which she has attended since preschool, and will join the University of Portland in the fall. Shelly has founded and owned two successful businesses where she managed large teams and projects, and learned all there is to know about flooring. We are delighted that Shelly has agreed to join us!

**Extended Care Program:** **Jackie Ralston** has announced that she will not be returning next year. More recently appreciated for her loving care in the afterschool care program where her fun approach to afternoon activities is enjoyed by many, Jackie has been involved in the school for over a decade in many capacities, including President of the Board. **Grace Smith** also will be leaving the afterschool care program and its beloved kitchen. Her gourmet snacks will be missed! **Sanae Stanley**, in addition to continuing as one of our most faithful substitute teachers, will care for our preschool and kindergarten afterschool program. She will replace **Pat Polley** who will be assisting Laura Mason in the Morning Glory classroom.

At this time, a few positions are still open. You are welcome to apply if working in a collaborative and dynamic environment appeals to you. Simply visit the [employment page of our website](#) for details.

Open Positions	Time Commitment
Office Manager	Full-time
Admissions Coordinator	Full-time
Communication Coordinator	Part-time – 10 Hours per Week
Extended Care Coordinator	1:30 – 6:00 pm on School Days
Grades After-School Care Assistant	2:30 – 6:00 pm on School Days
Parent-Tot Teacher	Part-time

## Looking Ahead

This year again much is changing as our school continues to evolve and grow. With such a dedicated and optimistic team, I have all reasons to be very optimistic and I look forward to bringing this year to conclusion and together with faculty and staff to preparing the next with creativity and resourcefulness.

*Geraldine Kline / Executive Director*

# ALL SCHOOL NEWS

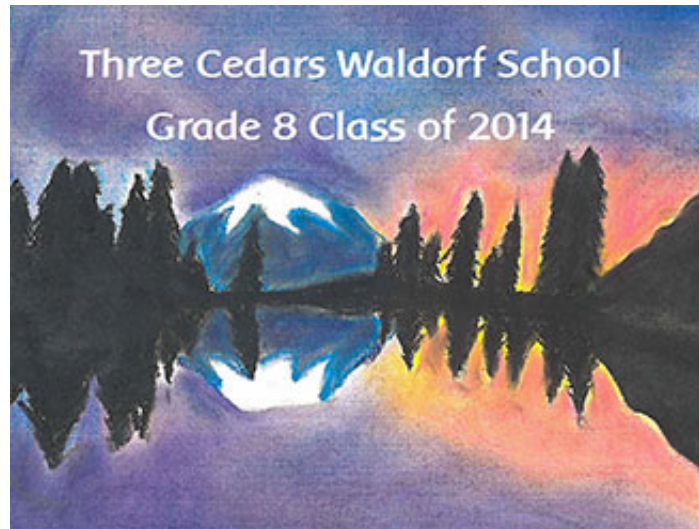
Updates   Grades   Early Childhood   Community

## Grade 8 Commencement Ceremony

**June 8 • 1:00 pm • Trillium Hall**

We are looking forward to our upcoming Commencement Ceremony in honor of the completion of Grade 8 for the class of 2014. In order to ensure seating for the family and friends of the graduates, **admittance to this event will require a ticket.**

Please see the front office staff to secure your ticket to this event. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our limited space in Trillium Hall!



## Nature Exploration Class

Adding to shelters, playing sense-deepening games, blindfold caterpillar walks, blindfold string maze, Native American plants and tools at the Botanical Gardens, mapping the Botanical Gardens, fire starting and connecting with each other and Nature. These were just some of the things we enjoyed together as Nature Explorers over ten weeks as the Coyote clan! The students chose nature names, worked together and relished in the vast amount of outdoor time we had. We completed our class by inviting parents and siblings to join us around a bonfire that everyone roasted marshmallows and bannock (Native American bread dough) over. It was an amazing experience teaching these exuberant young adults and I will cherish the time we spent together.



Many thanks to Andy Held for helping us with our primitive fire starting skills. Now go out and explore!

*Rachel Tomczek*

### ***Bannock Bread Recipe***

#### ***Ingredients:***

2 ½ cups all-purpose flour  
2 tsp. baking powder  
½ tsp. salt  
½ tsp. sugar  
3 Tbsp. lard, bacon grease or cooking oil  
1 cup cold water

#### ***Directions:***

1. In a medium bowl, whisk together the dry ingredients. (This mix can be made in advance and kept in a zip-top bag or other airtight container until ready to use.)
2. Stir in the fat and slowly pour in the water, while stirring, until a firm dough forms. You may not need to use the whole cup of water.
3. Knead the dough for a minute or two, then set aside to let rise for about 30 minutes.
4. Pinch off dough to wrap around a stick in a spiral, being careful to ensure there is uniform thickness from top to bottom.
5. Hold over campfire, turning often to brown evenly on all sides and cook through – about 20 minutes.



## **End of Year Gifts**

The end of the school year is nearly here! During the weeks leading up to the summer break, those who wish to do so are invited to participate in our gift giving tradition. Beginning Monday, June 2, there will be a bag placed outside of each classroom door, in which parents and children may place personal, consumable, or handmade gifts and cards for your class/kindergarten teacher.

Those who wish to make a monetary contribution to the teachers may do so in the front office until

Wednesday, June 11. These donations will be pooled and distributed among the class, kindergarten, and subject teachers. *Cash only please.*

Please take a moment to stop into the office to sign cards for the teachers - you will find your child's class/kindergarten teacher's card in your class coordinator's mailbox in the front office, while the subject teacher cards will be available at the counter.

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## TCWS Yearbook

After almost seven months of loading pictures, hunting down photographers/photographs, waiting to squeeze in one last event, checking and re-checking – our school yearbook is nearly here!

The yearbook will arrive on June 2nd and be handed out by teachers in their classes in time before the end of the school year. For early childhood families, your yearbooks will be placed by your sign-in/out books prior to the last day of school.



Thank you so much to Jenn Miller and Karen Wegehenkel for helping with the yearbook layout!! To all the photographers who have contributed photos, your help was indispensable; thank you for taking beautiful photos and sharing your work with the yearbook and the school community! I have greatly enjoyed being the editor for the yearbook and hope each of you, who have ordered a yearbook, relish looking back through the memories from this school year.

*Rachel Tomczek*

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## Missing Dishes?

Have you looked around your kitchen, wondering what has happened to your baking dishes and storage containers? If so, some of these items might currently be residing in the Front Office! Many items that were brought on Salad Day or for the May Faire bake sale remain unclaimed. Please stop by and check if any of these items belong to you. Items that are not picked up by the end of the day, Friday, May 30 will be donated to our kitchens and/or Goodwill.

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## Work Party Appreciations

Our final work party of the year was attended by **Sandra Duncan, Zebiba Nur, Beverly Pressey, Karen Wegehenkel, and Cris Wegmann** on Saturday, May 17. Thank you to the many

dedicated volunteers who have helped keep the school gardens and grounds looking beautiful throughout the year!

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## May Faire – Additional Appreciations

The following volunteers were inadvertently omitted from the appreciations list in the last newsletter. We wish to thank them now for their efforts to make the event a great success: **Kelly Anderson, Rado Klco.**

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## Tuesday Park Play Dates

Three Cedars families are invited to Play Dates at Idylwood Park in Redmond each summer. They take place every Tuesday in July and August, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Frequently, families with younger children come a little earlier to make it home for nap time. Families with older students often come later and stay a little bit later.



Idylwood has a beach along Lake Sammamish and the children enjoy playing and swimming in the water. Parents, bring beach blankets, beach umbrellas, snacks, sunscreen, books, and crafts!

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## GRADE SCHOOL NEWS

[Updates](#)   [All School](#)   [Early Childhood](#)   [Community](#)

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## Ultimate Frisbee

The Three Cedars Ultimate team wrapped up the Spring League season last weekend with a playoff tournament hosted by Disc Northwest. It was a hot and sunny day and both players and parents persevered. Both teams played hard, won some games, lost a few, and overall had a great

time. Our middle school team finished 3rd in their division and 9th out of 38 total teams. The elementary team finished 5th in their division and 5th out of 37 teams.

Over the course of this year, our teams competed in two tournaments: Fall Drizzle (for middle schools) and Spring Reign, the biggest youth ultimate tournament in the world (for elementary through high school). Both teams played in the Disc Northwest Spring League which consisted of weekend games March through May.

This was the first year that Ultimate was officially held as a school sport. We practiced every Thursday and had lots of first time players come out, many of whom stuck with it. Tomas Campomanes (the ultimate coach at Seattle Waldorf High School) helped us to start the year while we searched for a permanent coach. In the fall, Gavin Sing joined as our coach and the program has been developing ever since. Two of our alums joined to assist Gavin: Aldous Root helped to coach at practices and some games and tournaments, and Anna Tinker helped coach at the Spring Reign tournament. Other teachers and parents who helped with attendance and management were Cris Smith, Tabatha Jeantette, Gretchen Whitlatch, Jason Canard, Geri Snyder, John Tinker and Robbie Wright. We are grateful for all of their help and continuing support.

In addition to having fun, the players practiced sportsmanship, learned to self-referee, experienced great camaraderie, developed team and school spirit, refined the art of “letting go” and rose to meet many challenges on the field.

The TCWS Ultimate program continues to evolve. Soon, the coaches and school officials advising our program will review the year and make plans for next year’s season. Parents will receive information about TCWS Ultimate 2014-2015 at the parent evening at the beginning of the school year. In the meantime, we will continue to offer practices on Thursdays after school until the end of this school year.

As a final note, I want to emphasize how lucky we are to have a coach who is a professional ultimate player. Check out Gavin’s [profile](#). Let’s go to one of the Raptor’s games as a school to watch and support our coach. The Raptor’s next home game (that doesn’t conflict with a school event) is on Sunday, June 22 at 1:00 pm. RSVP to [me](#), then get your tickets at [www.sraptors.com](http://www.sraptors.com). If we have enough interest, I will arrange a dry tailgate or a TCWS ultimate party after the game.

*Jenny Frank-Doggett, Ultimate Frisbee Assistant Coach*

**Ultimate practice will not take place on Thursday, June 12 due to Games Day taking place during school that day.**





# EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWS

[Updates](#) [All School](#) [Grades](#) [Community](#)

## The Six Year Old Walking Stick

*I hope you enjoy this article about the six year old walking stick project. I would like to ask that you keep the information in this article in the adult realm and not share it with your child. The children are currently deeply engaged in the project and while there is a clear process, we teachers prefer that the children discover it for themselves rather than hearing about it from adults. Thank you!*

*Miss Laura*

All of a child's years in the Three Cedars Kindergarten provide ample opportunities to engage in purposeful work. From chopping vegetables and kneading bread dough to folding napkins and setting the table, all students have plenty of work to do in addition to their very important work of play. Much of this work is optional for three and four year olds but once a child reaches 5½ or six they find that their jobs are mandatory. Never fear, most of these jobs are things they have been waiting to do for one, two or even three years before they gain the privilege themselves.

The most important and anticipated project for all of the six year olds in our program began in the last few weeks – preparing a walking stick for our year-end hike. The project started with each child choosing a sapling from a “walking stick tree”. Once they had done the hard work of cutting it down with the saw all by themselves, they peeled off all the bark. Some sticks had bark that peeled off easily by hand while others required the use of a carving knife. The sticks then rested for a day or two before they were dry enough for sanding. The first phase of sanding takes weeks as every dent and scratch has to be removed before moving on to a finer paper. Our sandpaper is color coded and this helps make their progress visible to the students. During this first sanding phase with blue sandpaper we very often hear “Am I ready for red yet?!” They have been disappointed with our answer over and over. When they do receive the news that they can move on to a new color I am sure that they will be delighted! By the final week of school we hope that all of the children will have completed blue, red, gold and finally the much desired black sandpaper. Once their sticks are “as smooth as silk” they will oil them to a fine shine. On the last day of school all of the completed sticks will assist us on our long hike to Kelsey Creek Park and finally go home with the child.

It is our hope (and belief) that the children who have been through our kindergarten program leave with a strong will for work and a feeling that they are capable of accomplishing great things on their own. Through this project and our other work in the kindergarten we can already see the potential for these students to become strong, capable adults. We hope their walking sticks will serve as a reminder of this and will be well cared for and treasured.

In closing, I want to share with you a conversation that took place between me and a third-year kindergarten student just a couple of weeks ago. I think it illustrates very well what I spoke of above.

*Miss Laura: "Come and follow me, it's time for you to do some good, hard work today."*

*Six year old: "What work?"*

*Miss Laura: "It's your turn to cut your walking stick down."*

*Six year old: "What?! Finally! I have been waiting so long! Literally, I have been waiting six years!"*

*Six-year old after 10 full minutes of sawing: "Now I know why I had to wait so long... This is hard work!"*

Hard work, indeed! Blessings on all of our six year olds and the hard work they are doing to be ready for their year-end hike!

*Miss Laura, Morning Glory Kindergarten Teacher*

## COMMUNITY

[Updates](#) [All School](#) [Grades](#) [Early Childhood](#)

### Local Opportunities

#### Bellevue Girlchoir

Beginning in June, Bellevue Girlchoir will be accepting girls ages four to thirteen for Fall 2014 enrollment.

- Unmatched musicianship training, inspired performances, and a joyful, spirited community of girls.
- Conveniently located in the Overlake neighborhood.
- No auditions required for girls in Preschool to grade two!
- Auditioned choirs (grades three to ten) will participate in regional choral festivals and tours.

[www.bellevuegirlchoir.com/audition](http://www.bellevuegirlchoir.com/audition) or email

#### Steers from Jubilee Biodynamic Farm

Jubilee Biodynamic Farm is harvesting steers in June and July and making quarters available for purchase to the public. The multi-generational herd is fed grass through a daily rotational schedule. We feed hay, that we cut ourselves, through the winter. Our herd is raised free of



pesticides and herbicides and, in accordance with biodynamic principals, the herd forms the core of our farm's fertility. We charge \$5.25 a pound by hanging weight and a butcher will cut your quarter into individual packages and provide an assortment of cuts based on your preference. We love to talk about our beef and are open to farm visits! Please visit our web site at [www.jubileefarm.org](http://www.jubileefarm.org) or email us.

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## Pork from Farmer Vince

I have two Large Black/Duroc cross & six Large Black/Berkshire cross available. Pricing is \$4.75 hanging weight.

Currently, pig hanging weights range between 180-240 lbs. Additional costs include the butcher and \$50 Abattoir fee per pig. You can use your butcher or I will coordinate sending it to Cullens Custom Meats (Jim does a wonderful job). You will be responsible to place the cutting instructions directly to the butcher. I am more than happy to help you put together your order. Cullens currently charges \$0.55/lb for cut & wrap and \$0.70/lb for cure & smoke. Once your pig is ready I will deliver to your freezer.

Typically folks take home about 80% of the hanging weight. It really depends on how you order your cuts; also if you want the offal and lard and head. I get four quarts of lard from the leaf fat. You could get more from trimmings, depending again on how you want your cuts. Please feel free to give me a call if you have detailed questions. If you want half a hog let me know and I will put you on a list to pair up with the next person interested in half.

Eat Well & Eat Pork,  
Farmer Vince 425-482-9030

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## Folding Paper: The Infinite Possibilities of Origami

**May 16 to September 21**

This unique exhibition explores the history and evolution of paper folding. Over 140 works by 45 master folders from around the world—from countries as diverse as Japan, the United States, Uruguay, and Russia—showcase the power of origami and its modern-day application in the field of engineering, design, fashion, and the global peace movement. Works range from lifelike and representational to mathematical and computer-generated, lyrical and abstract to social and political. Considered a children's craft for many centuries, Folding Paper pays tribute to the many artists and activists who have elevated origami to a recognized art form as sophisticated and meaningful as any other. See more at the [Bellevue Art Museum website](http://Bellevue Art Museum website).

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## Sahale Summer Camp

**July 7–13, 2014**

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, and 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](mailto:irene_perler@hotmail.com), and visit [www.goodenough.org](http://www.goodenough.org) for online registration. Brochures available at the front desk.

## Ekone Ranch

**Ekone Ranch** is a well-kept secret that Portland Waldorf families have been in on for years! Now Seattle's Waldorf school community is invited to explore Ekone's offerings for children of all ages.



Located near Goldendale, WA, a peaceful 3 hour drive from Seattle to the sunny side of the state, Ekone is 1060 acres of canyonlands, forests and meadows near the Columbia

Gorge, operating as a non-profit land

trust. They have offered a one-of-a-kind summer camp program since 1986, emphasizing natural horsemanship, life on a working ranch, nature crafts, unstructured play and exploration, wholesome food, a positive work ethic, and a supportive camp community. Kids fall in love with Ekone, find life-long friendships, and learn powerful life lessons.

Two special camp sessions are *Passage for Girls: A Coming-of-Age Journey in Nature*, and *Homestead Camp*, both designed to challenge and support kids in unique ways.

Ekone also offers Family Camp, a Mothers & Children Retreat, a variety of quests, retreats and workshops for adults, and customized school field trips for all grades throughout the year.

Families are welcome to contact Ekone or join the mailing list by emailing [sacredearth@ekone.org](mailto:sacredearth@ekone.org) or calling 509-773-4536.

## Sound Circle News

### Summer Courses to Rekindle the Flame

#### **Courses and workshops in Professional Development and Continuing Education**

Get ready to be inspired, guided, and renewed at Sound Circle Center this summer.

#### *Offerings of Interest to Everyone*

##### **Study of Man and the Artistic Expressions of the Study of Man**

*June 30 – July 4 and July 7 – July 11*

An essential workshop for all Waldorf educators and those interested in learning about or deepening their knowledge of Anthroposophy with Anouk Tompot and Janet Lia.

#### *Offerings in Early Childhood Education*

##### **Healing Archetypes: Inspiration and Nurturing for Early Childhood Educators**

*June 30 – July 4, 2014*

A professional development course for Waldorf Early Childhood educators who wish to enrich and expand their work, with Heidi Jefferson-Gloor and Nancy Pfeiffer.

##### **Social Artistry in Early Childhood**

*July 7 – July 11, 2014*

A professional development workshop for Waldorf Early Childhood educators, with Holly Koteen Soule and Cynthia Lair.

#### *Offerings in Grade School Education*

##### **The Heart of Childhood: The Joy of Teaching Grade Four**

*June 30 – July 4, 2014*

Practical information and inspiring guidance for those teaching or interested in grade four, with Nettie Fabrie and Tommi Morgan.

##### **The Turning Point of Childhood: The Joy of Teaching Grade Five**

*July 7 – July 11, 2014*

Practical information and inspiring guidance for those teaching or interested in grade five, with Nettie Fabrie and Tommi Morgan

We invite you to join us at Sound Circle Center this summer. Please [click here](#) for overview and

detailed course descriptions, faculty bios and registration. Group discount available for schools sending three or more teachers.

Questions? Contact: [Kimberley Hiner](#), Administrator

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## Classifieds

### Barn Needed for Film Project

Kai's (seventh grade) sister Zoey (eleventh grade) is shooting her original screen play this summer. She needs a barn. Do you know of one where she and the actors can film for a few days in June? Beverly Pressey (206) 235-2968.

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### House for Rent in the South of France for Summer Holidays

We are parents of a pupil of the Steiner School in Avignon (South of France) and want to give to rent our house during next summer holidays. For five or six persons, it is an ideal spot to discover Provence. Rent price 680€ a week.

[maisonenprovence.eklablog.com](http://maisonenprovence.eklablog.com). We

also rent a mobile home for four persons, rent price from 300/480€ a week. Both locations share a common swimming pool.



For information 00.33.490.51.97.17 / 00.33.668.40.50.01 [duchateau.bruno@wanadoo.fr](mailto:duchateau.bruno@wanadoo.fr). We understand English.

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*Submission deadline for our next newsletter is Monday, June 2, 2014.*

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