

Nelson Waldorf School Bulletin

December 16 2009



WINTER BREAK EARLY DISMISSAL AND CLASS CLOSURE

Thur. Dec. 17 th 11am – 12:30pm	Shepherds Play (Faculty Performance) followed by 12:30pm - <i>Early Dismissal for Classes 1 – 8</i>
Thur. Dec. 17 th – Sun. Jan 3	KINDERGARTEN - WINTER BREAK
Fri. Dec. 18 th – Sun. Jan 3	CLASSES 1 – 8 WINTER BREAK
Mon. Dec. 21 st - Sun. Jan 3	MARIGOLD DAYCARE - WINTER BREAK

Have a Warm and Festive Winter Break

SHEPHERD'S PLAY – Performed by NWS Faculty, Staff & Parents – Thu Dec 17, 11am–12:30pm.

In the Christmas festival the great image is of a birth, surrounded by love; the Christ child in the stable, with the mother and father, shepherds and animals. In the dark of winter, the son, "the light of the world", has been born, just after the winter solstice when the light is now returning. It is the birth of the sun in the deepest darkness of the year. Faculty and staff traditionally perform the reverential and humorous medieval nativity, "The Shepherds' Play", as a gift to the students and school community. This tradition of "The Shepherds' Play" is observed in most Waldorf schools throughout the world.

The SKATING PROGRAM Classes 1 & 2/3 begins the first week after Winter Break so please make sure that your child's permission slip & payment has been handed into their Class Teacher before the Winter Break.

NWS 2010 SKI/SNOWBOARD PROGRAM DATES for Classes 4–8 are the following four Fridays:

- Ski Day #1 - January 15th
- Ski Day #2 - January 22nd
- Ski Day #3 - January 29th
- Ski Day #4 - February 5th

PLEASE NOTE - THERE IS NO BUS SERVICE TO or FROM THE SCHOOL ON SKI DAYS - Parents must arrange to have their children brought to the school by another method on ski days.

ALSO, There is no school for Classes 1 and 2/3 on all of the above scheduled Ski Days.

Nelson Waldorf School ALUMNI Christmas Party

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Waldorf School Gym – Silver King Hall

A time to connect with old friends, play and listen to music, enjoy yummy food, & maybe even go tobogganing! This event is being organized by alumni and any who would like to help can email Letty at lbartels@gmail.com. Anyone who is an alumni, has alumni in the family, or knows alumni students, now in Grade Nine or older, alumni parents or teachers/staff, please come, and also pass on this invitation. As the school has been graduating students for 18 years, the whereabouts of many are unknown, so we will have to count on advertising, word-of-mouth and *Facebook!* For more information, please contact Bev at administrator@nelsonwaldorf.org or see our website www.nelsonwaldorf.org

FUNDRAISERS

Mabel's Labels – A Class 8 Fundraiser. By popular request the deadline for orders has been extended to Friday January 15th. Orders will be distributed two weeks later. Your support of Class 8 is deeply appreciated.

KEEP YOUR HOLIDAY EMPTIES - Class 4 & 5 are doing a bottle drive & we want your holiday empties. Please keep your returnable beverage containers over the holidays & bring them to the school the first week back. Or if you really want to clear things out before then please call Georgia at 825.2249 & I will arrange for a pick up. Thank you from class 4 & class 5.

✍ **Notes from Administration** – Beverley Barcham, Administrator

"Lighting the Way to the Future" – Annual Fundraising Campaign"

In appreciation to everyone who supported the toonie auctions and the CD sales at the Winter Faire, this was a great 'kick-off' to our Campaign. Please watch for more projects and events to support the Campaign.

The Faculty and Board of Directors of Nelson Waldorf School are pleased to announce that **Natasha Kraus has accepted the position of continuing Class Teacher** for the current Class Four children. Her intention is to serve the class until eighth grade graduation. We extend our appreciation to parents for their on-going involvement in their children's education, and look forward to working with Natasha Kraus as a most capable teacher. This will of course involve a change in the 'holding' of our handwork program. More information to follow in the New Year.

Winter Break Office Hours -The School Reception and Finance Offices will be open during the Winter Break, with limited staff and hours. We will check phone messages regularly, so please call if you require attendance.

In closing for our year 2009, I wish you all the very best of the holiday season with family and friends!

*May you have the gladness of Christmas, which is hope
The spirit of Christmas, which is peace
The heart of Christmas, which is love.*

Bouquets

In appreciation for all the efforts by parents, children, staff and teachers for the delightful Winter Faire this past weekend. We showcased our School to the greater community as the very best we can be – with smiling faces, rosy cheeks, full tummies, laughing, talking and sharing. Thank you everyone! Bev

Thanks to Class 7 Parents & Students for all the generous donations of time, effort and food that was gathered and assembled for the chef's creations. The behind the scenes preparation, decorating, chopping, cooking, serving, cleaning and shopping all came together in time to serve. Thanks again to all who contributed so willingly of their time, effort and donations of food.

With gratitude Jane and Scott

Big beautiful seasonal bouquets to all the Kinderhouse families for your baking, crafting, serving, building, helping, finding your inner royalty and star fairies, organizing, and more to make the Gnome Café, Gnome Crafts and Cookie Kingdom so successful. Special thanks to the clean-up angels who swooped in on Saturday and Sunday to take-down the Cookie Kingdom, clean-up the café and the crafts and restore all the classrooms. I also want to thank my husband and all of the spouses, partners, sweethearts, family and friends who are behind the scenes looking after our children while we prepare for Winter Faire. It takes a village to put on such a grand event! Lastly, Martha Wilson, Winter Faire Goddess, what would we do without you? The biggest bouquet goes to you for holding it all...Much Joy to All over the Holidays and in the New Year,

Bronwyn Murray

Thank you to all the NWS families for supporting the various Class 8 fundraisers, including the Save-On Grocery Cards!

Mr. Fertey

SOCIAL INCLUSION CORNER

We have been discussing the topic of simplifying the holiday season. Parents shared experiences and practices for navigating this season with our values and sanity intact! Two main themes have emerged: dealing with the larger culture (including extended family) to stem the flow of 'stuff' and keep a consumer mentality at bay, and deepening ritual and tradition within our households so that children may live into a rhythm in harmony with the values their family holds dear.

Here are suggestions from parents:

- **Cycle the gifts:**
 - Have children choose some of their things to leave out for Santa (or St Nicholas, the advent angel, or invent a new fairy!)
 - Have the children package up some of their things (old toys or new gifts) to give away to those in need
 - Hold a gift exchange: everyone picks an item that has meaning to them but which they're ready to let go of. At the exchange, everyone receives one gift and hears its story from the original owner.
- **Home made gifts:** instill in children the idea that simple items made by hand are the most precious of gifts.
- **Buy it yourself:** suggest that grandparents (or other gift givers) send money in advance, and let them know you will choose and buy the child's present, wrap it and put the giver's name on it. Saves them time, lets you choose an appropriate gift!
- **'Secret Santa' or One Person One Gift:**
 - Have everyone (a household, an extended family group, or a group of friends) pick one name out of a hat. You are then responsible to give the person whose name you picked a gift, and only that person (keep it secret!). Everyone thus receives one gift and gives one gift.
 - Alternatively, pick names and then secretly be extra nice to that person. At the end of the day, week, or visit, try to guess who picked your name!
- **Pace gift opening** to encourage enjoyment of gifts. Open some Christmas Eve, some Christmas Day, some Boxing Day (substitute Winter Solstice or your holiday of choice). Allows each gift to be appreciated and helps to avoid the 'extreme-high-then-let-down' of doing it all at once.
- **Emphasize ritual and tradition** in ways that are meaningful to you. For example, create a daily or weekly ritual during advent with a candle to be lit or a figure to be moved in a scene. Recommended books that describe simple celebrations are [Lighting the Lantern](#) (available at Maple Rose) and [Celebrating Festivals with Children](#).
- **Celebrate alternative traditions** such as Winter Solstice, Hanukkah, or Kwanza. For ideas on celebrating earth- and goddess-based festivals with children see the book [Circle Round](#).
- **Simplify decorating.** Keep it simple with an advent candle or a seasonal nature table. Or clear space for your decorations rather than decorating on top of existing 'stuff'.

To contact anyone on the SICG, please call the school at 352-6919 and leave a message through Danny Finley, our SICG Coordinator. We will get back to you right away.

The Parents of SICG Deirdre Mclaughlin, Paige Adair, Georgia Argyle

What Gratitude to be a part of a community that can create such a wonderful Winter Celebration as the Winter Faire on Saturday December 12th!!

Solstice Gratitude and huge bouquets of poinsettias, holly, cedar and cranberries to:

- * **All the children** who shared such joy and laughter at the Faire.
- * **All the parents who hosted the shifts** at the events to make the Faire happen.
- * **All the Winter Faire coordinators:** Julie Stuppiello-Gnome Cafe, Jen Bruin-Gnome Cafe, Bronwyn Murray-Cookie Kingdom, Jane DiGiacomo-Candle Dipping, Claire Leishman and Chantal Boisvert-Bakery, Deb Thompson and Georgia Argyle-Wool Works, Pam Loeppky-Winter Crafts, Sheryl Richmond- Children Only Store, Jane Courtney-Frost Bite Cafe, Ana Luke-Rudolf Cafe, James Loeppky-Fireside Cafe.
- * Bree Switzer and **the Waldorf Choir** and Marie Pfeffer for copying the song sheets.
- * Julie Kerr for coordinating the Candle Dipping Musicians, and all the **Musicians**.
- * Craig Korth, Julie Kerr and Jaya Ducharme for **music in the Frost Bite Cafe**.
- * **Puppet play performers:** Debbie Phelan, Carron Mulligan, Erica Maclennan, Maria Seeger, and on guitar Trevor Janz and **doorkeepers:** Donna Switzer, Tanya Thayer, and Karen Weidemann.
- * **Parking Magicians:** Frank Willow, David Steel, Jamie Sanchez Valdes
- * **Admission Mathematicians:** Birgit Chart, Alex Cormier, Jon Lockett, Lautaro Wilson-Valdes, Keitha and Scout Patton.
- * Danny Finley for coordinating **displays of class work**
- * Julien Cormier and John Pengelly for **set up, take down and all the details in between**.
- * Paul Edney for the **poster**
- * Monica Robinson, alumni parent for the **hand felted Winter King and Queen**.
- * **Artisan Market Coordinator**, Andrea Scholz
- * Steve Forte and Phil Peabody for the **Christmas trees** and Trena Gauthier for tree decorating
- * Keitha, Bev and Andromeda for **constant admin. support**.
- * **NWS Table and Lighting the Way to the Future Toonie Auction support:** Trena Gautier, Georgia Argyle, Donna Switzer, Lisa Bramson, Iain Pardoe, and Martha Wilson
- * **Business Sponsors** who donated food and Toonie Auction Items: Save-On Foods, Real Canadian Wholesale Club, Railway Station Specialty Meats and Deli, The Fisherman's Market, Mountain Baby, Kootenay Coop, Gaia Rising, Otter Books, Still Eagle, Shamballa Centre, MapleRose, Pam Loeppky, Erica Konrad, SelfDesign High.

Honouring what we can create collectively in community!!