

7

Class Seven Preview



Friday Electives

We call them Main Lesson Enhancements, but they're kind of like electives that take place on Fridays. (Pg. 3)

Workshop Week

In November, students sign up for one or two workshops ranging from rock-and-roll acrobatics to blacksmithing. (Pg. 3)

Here's a preview of how Class 7 will be an exciting year of exploration and discovery.

Living in the "Age of Discovery" the students at the Nelson Waldorf School will learn new and exciting things about the world and themselves through the physical, academic and artistic challenges that the year ahead will offer.

Building on the physical challenges of last year's backpacking and biking trips, we will open and close the year with two Outdoor Education class trips: first, a challenge- and cooperative-based Low Ropes course; and, to culminate our year of exploration, a "Discovery Trip" of our local surroundings on foot and by boat. A day-trip of local biking, snowshoeing surprises, and cooperative and leadership skill building activities, will also mark the year.

Academically the Grade Seven students will be challenged with regular Main Lesson quizzes, block tests, and for the first time, graded Block reports.

We will start the year with a study of the lawfulness of perspective and gain understanding of its inherent rules during the *PERSPECTIVE DRAWING* main lesson block.

Through the *HISTORY* Curriculum we will travel with the early explorers – Vasco da Gama, Ferdinand Magellan and Christopher Columbus – and make discoveries alongside the great astronomers and scientists of this time. This will lead us into the Renaissance and the study of the dynamic characters and great works of Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo.

History will have a dramatic flair early in the year as we work together on a Class Play in preparation for a November performance.

Our discoveries will continue through the Science Curriculum, as we explore the digestive, circulatory and reproductive systems of our bodies during *HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY*, as well as the awesome transformative powers inherent in *CHEMISTRY*. Returning to *PHYSICS* after Grade Six, we will explore the new topic of Mechanics through practical activities and applications.

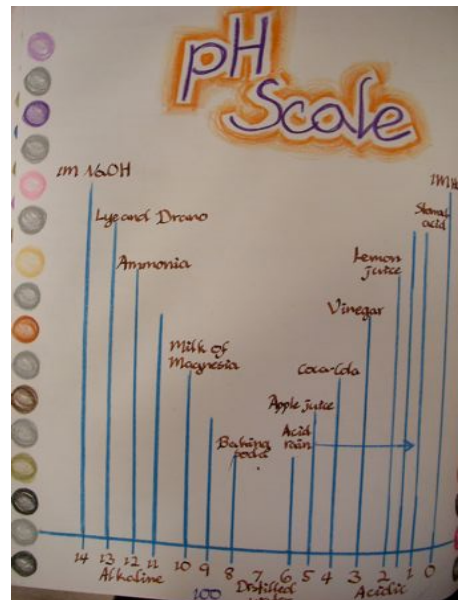
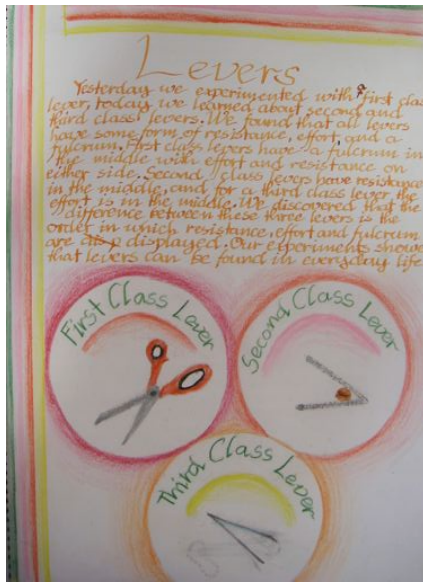
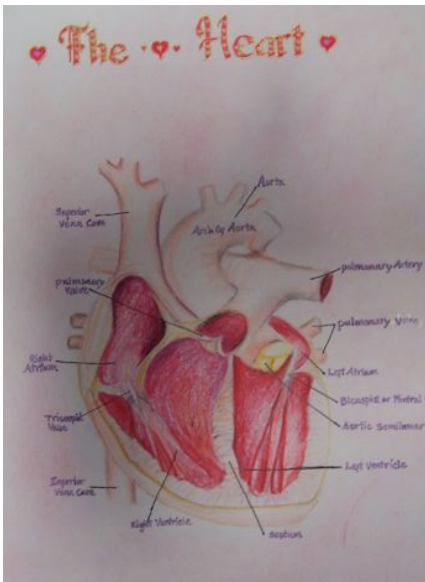
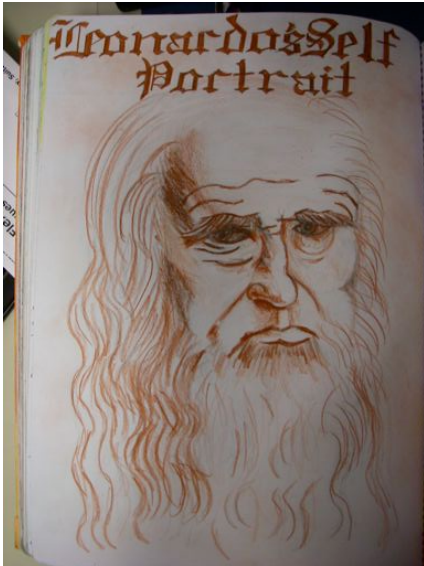
In mathematics, we will introduce *ALGEBRA*, and its applications in Mechanics, as well as review and deepen math concepts acquired to date.

Finally, English will also be explored in a new way as we delve into the world of *CREATIVE WRITING*, and explore the themes of Wish, Wonder and Surprise. Through this process the students will be able to explore their unique voice through the activity of writing.

Academics supported by the arts.

The main lesson work samples shown here are from various Grade 7 classes, and represent the type of main lesson work to be expected next year.

Clockwise from top: Leonardo da Vinci and Renaissance history; levers and simple mechanics; chemistry; explorers; perspective drawing; and, human anatomy.





Friday electives & Workshop week: two ways to give Middle School students more of what they need.

Last year, we introduced Friday electives in the middle school that we call “Main Lesson Enhancement.” Here’s how the idea works: At the beginning of each term, students sign up for electives. Then, each Friday, from 9:30 to 10:10, students join their mixed grade (6-7-8) groups for their chosen activity. Typically, each group has about a dozen students.

Activities presented last year as “electives” included:

- Soccer / Badminton / Basketball (one per term)
- Guitar
- Ping-pong
- Calligraphy
- Rock and roll acrobatics
- Modern dance
- Poetry
- Snowshoeing
- Orienteering
- Bothmer gymnastics
- Choral singing
- etc...

These are a fun way to punctuate the end of the school week, by something different with a different social group.

Another program that we began and will continue next year is the concept of Workshop Week. In November, about a dozen different, week-long workshops are held following Main Lesson. Last year, middle school students signed up for workshops that included:

- Iron-age forging/blacksmithing
- Metal casting
- Piano duets
- Lazure painting
- Wet felting
- Bookbinding
- Basket making
- Songwriting and guitar
- Jive dancing
- etc...

Depending on the activity and the set-up required, students enroll in either one or two workshops for the week.

At the end of the week, there is a school-wide assembly where students present each workshop and what they did.



Following Class 7, the “Age of Revolutions” and the culminating Grade 8 year.

After the study of the Renaissance in 7th grade, we will advance into the modern era. Our year will be permeated with the age of revolution which serves so well the students’ awakening individualities. We will then end our year(s) together with a graduation play and a very special class trip.

Based on historical evidence, these middle school years provide an academically rich springboard into High School, while at the same time reaffirming the students’ enthusiasm for, and love of, learning. Indeed, our Waldorf grads are known to do very well in their future studies!

*If you would like to find out more about the Class 7 year or any other year,
please contact me at 250-352-2025 or carronmulligan@care2.com.*

love is a place

e.e. cummings

*love is a place
& through this place of
love move
(with brightness of peace)
all places*

*yes is a world
& in this world of
yes live
(skillfully curled)
all worlds*

Say YES! to Waldorf Education where many worlds await you.

*Carron Mulligan
Class Teacher for Grade 7, 2009-2010*