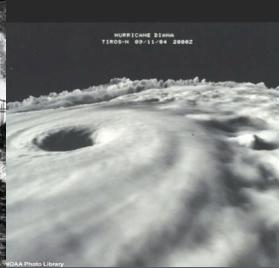
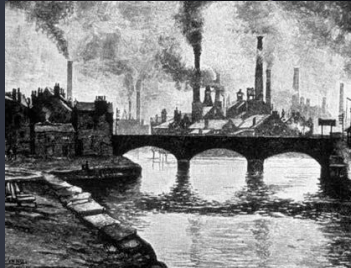
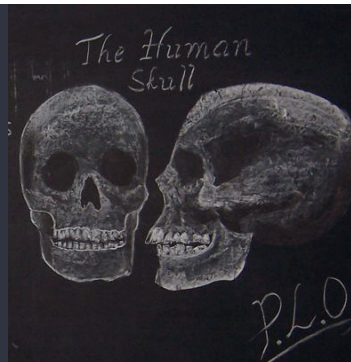


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Class Eight Preview



Grade 8 Projects

These are usually quite diverse and unique. So are the technical and practical skills learned along the way. (Pg. 2)

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 8 prepares the "academic springboard" into High School.

With my recently graduated class, eighth grade was as much a year of completion as it was a year of preparing the "academic springboard" so that the students felt confident and ready for High School – whether they were entering Grade 9 or skipping to Grade 10, as was the case for 11 of my 21 students. In these pages, I hope to give you an overview of what you could expect if you returned to Class 8.

First of all, the year begins with a **High Ropes Challenge Course**. We then punctuate the year with an end-of-year trip such as last year's once-in-a-lifetime five-day **Tall Ship** sailing adventure

(soundexp.org) aboard the schooner, *Adventress*. I am presently investigating a booking for next year...

Sandwiched in between these two highlights are the following blocks: *Organic Chemistry* – this is informally also known as "kitchen and food chemistry." *Elements of the Short Story* – what makes for a great short story? We'll find out and then author our own short stories. *Geometry* – axioms, theorems, proofs; it's all part of Euclidian geometry and more! *Physiology* – a close-up look at our skeletal and muscular systems. *History of Revolutions* – from the French revolution to the Industrial and American



revolutions.

Drama – one of my passions; we can expect a major production.

Physics – hydraulics, pneumatics, electrical phenomena and more!

Meteorology – understanding how the weather works.

World Geography – we'll tie this subject in with economics and globalism.

Each block comes with a syllabus and ends with a graded Block Report.



"My darling Oliva, what has happened?" he looks at Jansen as if sending him a telepathic message "why can't you ever take care of her?" Jansen looks down at the floor. His father never believed in him, and never will. And yet he's at a higher table than anyone in his family.



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These pictures are from past Grade 8 Project fairs. Last year's presentations included: the creating of an "educational" video game; the designing of a custom wood dining room table using a CAD program; a pair of custom-made skis; a slide show featuring re-touched and non-edited original fashion photography; a video documentary on the relationship between horses and humans, with a student-composed soundtrack; a series of themed oil paintings; the creation of a radio show...



The Grade 8 Project

This is a traditional element of the grade 8 year in many Waldorf Schools. Students pick an area of interest in the Fall Term, find a mentor by December, and work independently on a project of their choice.

The whole process culminates with a Project Fair involving student presentations to the community.

For most students, the hands-on project is the focal point of their effort. For others, it may be a blend of more research and less practical/artistic work. That's one beauty of these Projects – they present an opportunity for each person to take up what truly interests and inspires them, and penetrate it more deeply. That's where the involvement of a mentor is most helpful.

The mentor is the person who guides the project along, provides the expertise, and quite often, the tools and other resources needed. It's up to the student to find his or her own mentor. Between the Waldorf community and wider Nelson community network, finding a good mentor is not difficult.

The actual "project work" happens outside of school, over several months. There are periodic in-class check-ins and reporting to the class. This year, there will also be a "journaling aspect" to document the process, the challenges and the actual *experience* of working on the project.

The final project involves a written report/essay, an oral presentation to assembled guests at the Fair, and a fair display. The Grade 8 Project Fair is typically held at the end of May or early June.

Here's a list of projects from past years:

- Photography and photo editing
- Video and post production
- Becoming a radio DJ
- Exploring "edutainment" through gaming
- Horseback riding
- Designing and building of various home furnishings (tables, beds, etc.)
- Pottery
- Reading tea leaves
- Welding
- Dress-making
- Theatre make-up
- Casting
- Glass-blowing
- Painting
- Building a pair of skis, a guitar, etc.
- Creating a documentary
- Writing a novel

- Dancing and choreography
- Songwriting and composition
- Reconditioning an appliance or vehicle
- Applying solar energy
- Recreating a historical costume
- Building a mini sauna

As you can see, there are no limits as to what a Grade 8 Project can be. They're as individual and unique as the students behind them!





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

Last year we introduced Friday electives 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 were 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, 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 8 graduation from the Nelson Waldorf School...

In our local community, Waldorf graduates consistently do well at LV Rogers and other post-elementary institutions. In fact, a student of mine who left my previous class following Class 7, skipped grade 8 and went directly into grade 9 in 2008. He recently called me to say he had won the Grade 9 award for top academic student at LVR!

This year, 11 of my just-graduated students are beginning High School directly in grade 10.

This is mainly based on their successful completion of the English 9 and Math 9 tests, for which Ms. Natasha Kraus and I prepared them. This academic activity spilled over and benefitted the whole class.

*If you would like to find out more about the Class 8 year or any other year,
please contact me at 250-354-4271 or chacocan@telus.net.*

*For registration information, including information on the
Full Tuition Scholarship for new Waldorf students,
please contact our Administrator, Beverley Barcham,
at 250-352-6919 or administrator@nelsonwaldorf.org.*

Thank you!

Phil Fertey

Class Teacher for Grade 8, 2009-2010

& Faculty Chair