



CWS
Calendar of Events

March 11 (Friday)

- 3rd Annual Soup Invitational and Artisan Auction – OSU Alumni Center

March 14 - 18

- Open House Week (see schedule of events inside)

April 8 (Friday)

- 2nd Annual Grandparents and Special Friends Day

May 7 (Saturday)

- 19th Annual May Faire – Central Park

June 11 (Saturday)

- 8th Grade Graduation

Enrich the Mind
Enliven the Heart
Engage the Hands



Learn how...
OPEN HOUSE WEEK
March 14-18

Corvallis Waldorf School

Pre-K • Kindergarten • Elementary • Middle School
corvalliswaldorfschool.org
541-758-4674

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Settling Down

- Lonnie Drouhard, Administrator

On January 11th, 2011 the initial step in achieving a long-held goal (dream?) of the Corvallis Waldorf School was taken. On that day we entered into an agreement with the Corvallis School District to purchase our current property and buildings! The sale is slated to occur in July of 2013 for an extremely reasonable price of \$450,000. This agreement brings both tremendous excitement as well as a bit of trepidation. Yes it has been a desire for many years for us to have a permanent home in Corvallis, but the realities of what will be required in order to raise the funds to successfully complete this transaction can feel a bit daunting.

What is important to understand, however, is that really this decision is much more of a need than it is a luxury. Our current lease with the school district is due to expire in July 2013. The school district has made it clear that they no longer wish to be landlords and will likely want to sell the property at that time. If we do not purchase the site we would need to relocate. Relocating the school would have the potential for many negative outcomes. First the act of moving can cause all sorts of emotional anxiety for our school community. Second,



Settling Down, continued

where to re-locate to would be a significant problem. There are very few (possibly none!) alternatives for a school our size that would be affordable. Our Long-range planning committee has looked at many alternatives in and around the Corvallis area to find either rents or sale prices that are cost prohibitive. To put this in some perspective our current rent is quite affordable; for this we are fortunate. We have found no other site that could compete with our rent. Properties in the area that would be sufficient to consider purchasing would cost into the millions of dollars and would still require rather substantial upgrades in order to actually operate our school. There are certainly additional maintenance and capital improvement needs at our current site, but for the most



part we would be able to phase those expenses in over time while continuing our current operations. The price is certainly right for what we would get! Our long range planning and finance committees have crunched the numbers and the upshot is that the most financially prudent decision is to purchase the property.

So, how will we pull this off? Good question! Raising money via a capital campaign will be the primary course of action. We are in the very early stages of this process and have not yet determined the amount we hope to raise, the scope of the campaign or the timeline. However, in our initial studies we feel that we do have the ability to move forward in developing a campaign. This effort will certainly require the wealth, wisdom and work from our entire community. We are hopeful that this news will be received with excitement, enthusiasm and inspiration. The potential for our school is great and with this opportunity we can feel confident that the Corvallis Waldorf School will continue to be an important educational alternative for the mid-Willamette Valley for many, many years to come.



Classrooms

Anyone Can Learn to Sing

- Jeff Parker, 5th grade teacher



When my mother was young, someone once told her *not* to sing. She was in school, and was, as young children often do, singing off-key. A teacher told her not to sing, but to just stand there and mouth the words. She was later told that she simply couldn't sing. For many years, she rarely sang around others.

I hear this from adults all too frequently: "Oh, I don't sing" or even worse, "I can't sing." If I were in the mood to prove a point, I might ask them to pick a vowel, speak it, and let the sound continue for a while. "Aay" becomes "aaaaaaaaaaaaay." By holding that sound, it becomes a sustained vibration; it becomes a tone. Maybe it's an F#, maybe it's a C, but regardless, they would be singing. I believe that anyone who can speak can sing. This belief guides me as I teach singing to children. When I began teaching my class in 1st grade I noticed that there were a few children who consistently sang off-key. I knew that these children would, along with the rest of the class, need daily practice.

The difficulty with singing that I have seen in children is 1) hearing when they are in tune, and 2) gaining the ability to tighten and relax their vocal

cords to accurately change the pitch of their voices.

I believe that anyone can learn these two skills, with practice. If you can make a high sound and a low sound with your voice, you can learn to make all of the sounds in between.

The first step is teaching the child (or adult) what "in tune" sounds like. If your child struggles with singing in tune, practice with her. Sing or hum a single tone and ask her to match it. If she is too low, then point up; too high, point down; just right, thumbs up! When she hits the right note, she hears it, she feels it. It might take a while, but children can learn to hear and feel what it is to be in tune.

As for number 2: this is where daily singing at school and home comes into play.

Singing in Waldorf Schools

In the lower grades, children learn to sing songs and play the wooden flute in a scale known as the pentatonic, or 5-tone scale. This scale has a floating, ethereal quality because each note harmonizes, or sounds good, with any other note in that scale. It is like a normal 8-tone major scale (think: do-re-mi-fa-so-la-ti-do) with some notes taken out.

Music played or sung in this scale has a very calming, healing effect. These songs and melodies evoke a peaceful, imaginative feeling that is appropriate and beneficial to the young child. Just listen to any early childhood teacher or lower grades singing in the hall and you may understand. Singing songs in this scale has another benefit: it teaches the child to alter his pitch in bigger, less precise steps. Singing the smaller, closer-together steps of the major scale can be more difficult for a young or struggling singer. Songs in the major scale require more subtlety and control. Ask a developing singer to raise her voice just a little, like the step from "do" to "re," and she may very well go far too high. As they become more comfortable singing in tune, and gain greater control of their voices, songs are introduced that require greater articulation and "smaller steps."

In these early grades the singing is usually done in unison. As the children get older and become stronger singers, it is time to start moving toward singing in harmony. This is when two or more groups sing the same words, but with different notes. The vibrations of the notes mingle, making a rich, full sound, like a piano or guitar chord. Think of Crosby, Stills, and Nash,

Classrooms, continued

Anyone Can Learn to Sing, cont.

or The Indigo Girls. The ability to hold one's own note and let it dance and swell with another is the skill we are working towards, and it may take a while for the child. The first step in this direction is singing "rounds."

Those of us who have sung "Row, Row, Your Boat" know that a round requires you to sing a melody and hold onto it while another group sings the same words and melody, but a few beats behind. Young singers can struggle with this at first, becoming confused and distracted by the other singers. In 3rd and 4th grade, Waldorf students will learn many rounds, and become comfortable holding onto their

part. The round brings harmony, but the simplicity of the song keeps one from being drawn away from one's own part. In my experience this skill still takes months or years to develop. When they have it, it is time to move on to harmony.

At the end of 4th grade I taught my class their first song in harmony. It was a simple, Icelandic song. I didn't tell them what we were doing, but instead, taught them one part, and practiced it for a while. Then we learned the harmony part, on its own, and practiced it for a while. When I was confident that they had each part, we put them together. I still remember the

looks on their faces at the point in the song where the harmony kicked in. They absolutely lit up, and felt the full of the power of song. We had stepped into the next level of music. To quote a student who spoke the general sentiment of the class, "Wow, that sounds really good."

Sometime during 3rd or 4th grade I walked around the classroom and listened to every child singing. It was the first time that I realized that every child was singing perfectly in tune. Though some children still falter, those who might have believed that they couldn't, can indeed, sing.

Painting the Town

- Traci Mc Merritt, CWS 7th & 8th grade parent

Partnering with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition and the South First Alternative Co-op, our eighth graders are participating as contributing artists for the water interpretive area. Huge 2,000 gallon tanks will capture rain from the roof of the meeting room owned by the South Co-op. The water will then be accessible for family enjoyment and discovery with pumps, watering systems, waterfalls and picnic area. The murals that the eighth graders have completed are on wood fence boards that will surround the front of the huge tanks. This will provide a beautiful backdrop for the interpretive area, showing the source of Corvallis's drinking water, the Eastern Cascades and Western Coastal Mountains with Mary's Peak. All six of the eighth graders explored land formations,

water sources, color studies, art design and large scale transferring of their inspired paintings. Three students each worked as a team to produce one of the two mural panels. Ty Stalford, Benjamin Merritt and Sage Fisher designed and painted the Cascades. Ian Black, Brandon Tegan and Aja Millison designed and painted the Mary's Peak Scene. The mural installation is scheduled, after school, **on March 4th 2011 at the South Co-op Store.**



Alumni News

"Interviews with alumni give testimony to the friendships and community developed and nurtured by CWS"



Whitman Craig, CWS class of 2007, is a senior at The Portland Waldorf School. As a senior, Whitman is busy working on his senior project that will be presented to the Portland Waldorf community this spring. For his project he is making a film – he is the writer, director and producer of the fictional screenplay that recently shot on location in Corvallis. To add to his film portfolio, Whitman has generously agreed to film a video for the Corvallis Waldorf School that will be debuted in early spring. When not filming, Whitman also keeps busy playing on the Portland Waldorf School basketball team and

is looking forward to again participating in track and ultimate Frisbee in the spring. He is also very active in his school's theatre group.

After graduating from CWS in 2007, Whitman attended Corvallis High School for one year. Whitman did not find the academics at CHS difficult but did miss the Waldorf rhythm, the enthusiasm of the Waldorf teachers, and the artistic and purposeful projects that are part of a Waldorf education. In order to continue his Waldorf education, his family moved to Portland before the beginning of Whitman's sophomore year so that he and his two siblings could continue to attend Waldorf schools.

When asked about special memories from his many years at CWS, Whitman says "I have so many fond memories of my Waldorf education, that it's hard to compare one unique experience with another. I loved the plays, the art, the creative freedom and just being allowed to be a kid. In fact I loved almost all my classes."

Whitman is still deciding what he will do for the year following graduation from the Portland Waldorf School. He knows he definitely wants to take a gap year but is uncertain about what he will do during this year. What he does know for certain is that he "wants to go out and DO THINGS!."

Following the gap year, he would like to continue his education in film or creative writing.

Seeking CWS alum!

If you are an alum or have contact with an alum, we want to hear from you.

Please contact

Susan McDonald
(1susanmcdonald@comcast.net)

Share your story with us!

Community, continued

Simplicity Parenting Lecture and Workshop

-presented by the Portland Waldorf School



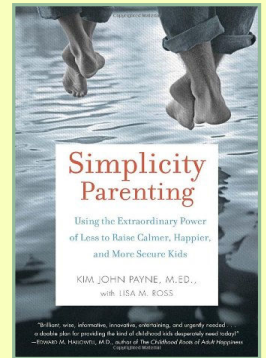
Kim John Payne, M.Ed.

"[Kim Payne] is like a master closet reorganizer for the soul." - Time Magazine

A consultant and trainer to over 110 North American independent and public schools, Kim John Payne has been a school counselor, adult educator, researcher and educator for nearly thirty years, and a private family counselor for more than fifteen years.

www.simplicityparenting.com

Simplicity Parenting is widely available at booksellers and libraries



Lecture : 7 - 9 pm Friday, February 25, 2011

First Unitarian Church, 1211 SW Main Street, Portland OR
\$10 advance ticket; \$15 at the door

Workshop : 9 am - 1 pm, Saturday, February 26, 2011

The Portland Waldorf School, 2300 SE Harrison, Milwaukie OR
\$35 advance ticket (recommended); \$40 at the door

Buy tickets online at www.portlandwaldorfschool.org
or call Brown Paper Tickets 1-800-838-3006

Event Details

Please arrive at least 15 min early if you have will-call tickets. We are doing a PR blitz, so could get a large crowd impacting the parking situation -- another good reason for ALL to arrive early. Paid Parking is available in nearby lots, or as metered parking on the street (free after 7 PM). Go to the PWS website, for details.

PWS parking / Tri-Met info will be available on the school website's Simplicity Parenting page. www.portlandwaldorfschool.org. Box lunches may be ordered before the session. You're welcome to stay for a networking hour from 1 - 2 PM.

LIMITED childcare program available ONLY to PWS & other Waldorf families attending the Simplicity Workshop (ie -- not advertised to the general public). This will be for kids ages 4-11 (separate groups for Kindergarten and grades 1-5). An adult will be lead caregiver of each group, with HS students assisting. Parents may pay on a sliding scale (\$15-30 per child). Spaces will be filled on a first-requested basis, so pre-register early! We cannot guarantee childcare for walk-ins. To register, please contact Sue Conlon (by FEB 15, is recommended): sueconlon7@yahoo.com.

Out-of-town Waldorf parents and teachers attending both programs, who wish to stay overnight with a local family, should contact Virginia Berg ASAP: virginia.berg@portlandwaldorfschool.org. She will do her best to match you up with a compatible family, so you can work out your arrangements directly. (Please specify if you require a home with no pets, accessibility or other specific needs.) Virginia will also have hotel suggestions available.

Hope to greet many of you at these Kim Payne events! - Michelle Marcyk

What is Simplicity Parenting?

Simplicity Parenting offers a clear and effective pathway to simplify four areas of home-life: environment, rhythms & rituals, schedules and filtering adult concerns. This reduces stress on children, allowing more time and energy for connection, creativity and relaxation.

The Benefits

Parents learn to worry and hover less, and find that children:

- Are calmer and happier
- Do better socially and emotionally
- Are more focused at school
- Find it easier to comply with family rules
- Become less picky eaters

Parent Council

A View on Volunteering

- Katherine Sanders, Volunteer Coordinator

It is hard to believe we are already in February! Yes, we are now fully in the year 2011. Preparations are underway for the Spring Soup Invitational and Auction, as well as Grandparent's Day, among other things. As we move further in to the year's events, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the service activities at our school in the final months of 2010.

First, a thanks for the fruitful efforts of the wreath sales, led by Sara Hartstein, in November. Followed by the CWS Annual Giving Campaign in November and December. The campaign was a huge success this year due to the energizing efforts of the four-person committee. Many thanks to Kyle Cole, Susie Brubaker-Cole and Stephanie and David Bernell.

Lastly, December always brings our wonderful Winter Light Festival. This event is one of a kind and offers so much to our school families and the greater community. We call upon all the families at the school to accomplish this holiday time gem and surely it is only with many service

hours that such an event can be achieved. But how many hours, you may wonder? Well, the committee itself logged around 160 hours in pre-festival preparation. And then there was the help needed for set up, the festival day shifts and final clean up. That 24 hour period alone generated approximately 450 volunteer hours from our community. Wow! And I am sure there were more hours that were not accounted for, particularly from the festival's fearless leader, Lindsay Myers, without whom it could not have happened. Thank you Lindsay and the whole WLF committee!

And thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who keep CWS alive and well. The field trip drivers, the kitchen organizers, the classroom assistants, the grounds keepers, the office

helpers, the cookie bakers...the list goes on and on. We appreciate you and your time given to this fabulous school. It truly would not be the same without you!

Summary of Volunteer Hours

2010 – 2011 School Year

As of this newsletter release our families, teachers, and friends have contributed more than 3200 hours of volunteer time to the CWS classrooms and events. This is surely an underestimate of true number of hours provided and is still a demonstration of the remarkable commitment our community has for our school. Thank YOU!

Below is a summary of some of the larger volunteering categories:

Event	Hours
Festivals (Halloween, WLF, Fall)	817
Classroom Volunteering	463
Field Trips	450
Parent Council	277
Board of Trustees	200
Fundraising	123.5
Building and Grounds	118

Video Testimonials Wanted

The Development committee is interested in capturing parent, teacher and alum perspectives about why and what they like about our school. If you are interested and willing to participate in this project or would like more information please contact Lonnie at administrator@corvalliswaldorfschool.org.

Committees

Open House Week – Spread the Word

Our annual open house week is scheduled for March 14-17. Please help us make this open house successful by spreading the word. We hope that the events scheduled for the week will be useful to both prospective as well as our current families. Come check it out!

Schedule of Events

Tours

Monday March 14

- 8:45 AM Walk Through Early Childhood

Tuesday March 15

- 8:45 AM Walk Through the Grades

Friday March 18

- 11:15 AM – 12:30 PM: Our annual Spring Assembly

Evening Seminars

Monday March 14

- 6-7:30 PM Early Childhood Teachers present “**How is the academic foundation laid in a Waldorf Kindergarten?**”

Tuesday March 15

- 6-7:30 PM Grade 1-3 Teachers present: “**How does Waldorf Education ready children for the world?**” (Why knitting, why arts, why mental math etc.)

Thursday March 17

- 6-7:30 PM Grades 5-8 Teachers present: “**How are Waldorf students prepared for the transition to High School?**”

Soup Invitational and Artisan Auction

- Traci Mc Merritt, Parent Council vice chair

The Soup Invitational is our school’s biggest fundraisers and takes place **Friday March 11**. It is an evening of celebration that includes a soup competition by local restaurants as well as a silent and live auction.

The Soup Invitational showcases eight local restaurant soups and this year we are hosting the event at the CH2M Hill-OSU Alumni Center with OSU catering. This will welcome many folks to support our school in a spacious and beautiful venue. We will have a professional comedian and auctioneer, Sean Kelly, emceeding the event, who specializes in non-profit fundraisers. Later in the evening we will be enjoying the exciting sounds of



Committees

Soup Invitational, continued

the **Maharimbas**, a NW famous marimba band. This year's auction will have a Waldorf style with a focus on donations of professional art, hand-crafted items, creative services and community donations. Live auction items include several Northwest, Hawaii and international vacation opportunities; an autographed President Obama baseball; a B.B. King autographed guitar and many more wonderful items.

New this year we will offer a raffle for 10% of the proceeds, up to \$1,000 cash. Tickets are \$20 each and the drawing will occur at the event. This is an event that we hope to have all of our Waldorf community and supportive family and friends to attend, not only to support our school, but to enjoy one another during a fun night on the town.

Tickets for dinner, auction, and live music are \$15 each before the event, or \$20 @ the door (CWS families can purchase tickets for \$20 per couple in advance only). They will be sold at the Corvallis Waldorf School office, Grassroots Bookstore, Cosmic Chameleon and Corvallis Brewing Co. A charity donation from the evening will be given to Stone Soup, a local soup kitchen feeding the hungry. Come have fun and support our exceptional Waldorf education in the Willamette Valley.



The Maharimbas will perform at this years Auction



News and Announcements

This section is a place for school-related announcements and appreciations. See submissions details below.



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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.CorvallisWaldorfSchool.org

Submissions

The CWS Newsletter is published monthly, September - June. We accept all non-commercial articles, announcements and classifieds, via email to:

CWSnews@corvalliswaldorfschool.org

by the 24th of the preceding month.

Articles should be ready to publish and submitted electronically.

Donate



www.corvalliswaldorfschool.org/giving_

Please Help Sell Raffle Tickets

This year we are holding a cash raffle as part of the Soup Invitational and Artisan Auction on March 11. **Our goal is to have our community sell 500 raffle tickets.** At \$20 each, this would yield a \$1000 prize for a lucky winner, and \$9000 for the school! To get there, we **need a little bit of help from every parent.** There are two ways you can help:

- 1) Stop by the office and sign out tickets to sell. If every Waldorf parent sold from 3-5 tickets, we'd reach our goal. You are free to buy raffle tickets, but our hope is to use the raffle to engage people from outside the Waldorf Community with the school.
- 2) Do you need school volunteer hours, or just want to help out? Sign up to volunteer for a ½ hr of hallway raffle ticket sales NEXT WEEK. Contact Jed Irvine at 541-740-5633, or jediry@gmail.com with questions or to volunteer.

Video Testimonials Wanted

The CWS Development committee is interested in capturing parent, teacher and alum perspectives about why and what they like about our school. We will be conducting video taped interviews the week of February 28th to be included in a video project about our school. If you are interested and willing to participate in this project or would like more information please contact Lonnie at administrator@corvalliswaldorfschool.org.

Needed: African Hand Drums for 6th Grade

The 6th Grade is looking to borrow Djembes or other types of African hand drums to support their Geography Block. All Drums will be handled with great care and be used for about 4 weeks. Please contact Mr. Highfield if you can help.

First Grade Ready Meeting

All Early Childhood parents are invited to attend a very special meeting to learn about how, in the Waldorf curriculum, we look at the first grade ready child. This meeting is on **Monday, February 28th from 6pm-7:30pm.** It will take place in the current first grade classroom. Ms. Mary and Ms. Anne Marie will be discussing the physical and emotional changes that the first grade ready child goes through. As well, we shall be discussing the six year change and what that means. There will be time for questions at the end of the meeting. All early childhood parents are welcome, even if your child will not be going on to first grade in the autumn. Please watch in coming All School Announcements for the availability of childcare. Thanks so much. Hope to see you all there!

Apple iMac For Sale

For Sale: Brand new Apple iMac desktop. 21.5 inch screen. Bought at the OSU bookstore in late October. Certified "perfect condition, in original box and packaging" by the Mac store techie. For a picture and specs look at the top left of this page:

http://store.apple.com/us/browse/home/shop_mac/family/imac?mco=MTcyMTgwNTQ.

Contact Barbara Bradford for more information (541-230-1174).