



Friday Newsletter

October 7, 2011

This week's full newsletter can be found online at www.waldorfpittsburgh.org.

"The woods are full of fairies; the sea is full of fish; the trees are full of golden leaves; let's make an autumn wish."

-Anonymous

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Sat 10/8** • Parent Association Meeting, 9:00 am, Library
- Mon 10/10** • No School-Columbus Day, Little Friends and Extended Care are not in session
- Tue 10/11** • Building and Grounds Committee Meeting, 5:00-6:00 pm, Library
- Sun 10/16** • Second Annual Waldorf Family Portraits, 10:00 am-5:00 pm, Auditorium
- Tue 10/18** • Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm, Library
• Enrollment Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm, Front Office
- Wed 10/19** • Early Childhood Parent Discussion Group Evening, 5:30-8:00 pm, Library/Auditorium
- Sat 10/22** • Bulb Planting Party, 9:00 am-12:00 pm, Grounds

GENERAL NEWS

Dear Waldorf community members,

This past June, the Rudolf Steiner Foundation—Social Finance (RSF), a pioneering non-profit financial services organization, recognized our school as a socially responsible organization characterized by strong commitments to excellence on the part of our administrators, faculty, board and parents. As a consequence, RSF agreed to help us restructure what was becoming a cumbersome mortgage into one that enhanced the school's long-term stability.

RSF partners with the groups it invests in to ensure both the groups' success as well as a return on the investment. In this way, RSF seeks to use investment dollars to advance its social mission of supporting the real human goals of an organization. As part of the loan restructuring process RSF asked our community to demonstrate its allegiance to the school by collectively investing \$50,000 in an RSF-held 5-year term Guarantee Community Fund (GCF). In response, more than thirty members of our broader community came together to meet this obligation.

On behalf of the whole school, I'd like to thank those who contributed to this endeavor for their generosity and their enthusiasm for our children's education. This giant step toward a better future just would not have been possible without you. But I also want to thank RSF for its dedication to using our community's dollars (the \$50,000 and loan repayments) to invest in ecological stewardship, agricultural sustainability, holistic education and the arts--all endeavors consonant with our school's values. As the school continues to grow, RSF has pledged to continue offering the priceless gifts of guidance and assistance. We could not have asked for a better partner at a better time.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Gruskos,
Board Chair

Expansion Coordinator Hiring

The Leadership Team is happy to announce that Kirsten Christopherson-Clark will be working as the school's Expansion Coordinator to facilitate the addition of seventh and eighth grades to our elementary school program. Please welcome Ms. Christopherson-Clark back to the school. We are excited to work with her on the next stage of our school's development. *For full article visit <http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/expansion-coordinator-hiring/>.*

Second annual Waldorf Family portraits

Forth grade parents, Barbara Doyle and Vince Noe, will be offering portrait sitting sessions in the auditorium on Sunday, October 16th from 10 am to 5 pm, providing school families an opportunity to sit for family photos for the holidays. These sessions are open to all current, as well as alumni, families, and all family members are welcome, including pets and distant relatives! *For more information visit <http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/family-portraits-2/>.*

EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWS

Lavender Nursery Corn Meal Biscuits

3 ½ cups 50/50 flour
½ cup cornmeal
1 tsp salt
1 tsp baking soda
2 tsp baking powder
2 tbsp Sucanat/cane sugar
12 tbsp (1 ½ sticks) margarine
1 ½ cups rice milk

Preheat oven for 350° F. Whisk dry ingredients together. Cut in margarine. Stir in rice milk. Turn onto floured surface and knead lightly. Press out by hand or roll out flat on floured surface. Use cook cutters to make biscuit shapes. Bake for 15-20 minutes. Serve plain or with butter or honey.

Simplicity Parenting Discussion Group

The first Early Childhood Discussion Group is fast approaching on October 19, 2011 from 5:30 - 8P.M.

If you requested a copy of Simplicity Parenting be ordered for you, these books have arrived and are available from Barbara Grance. Please give book payments to the Front Office and contact Ms. Barbara if you have not yet received your copy (bgrance@waldorfpittsburgh.org).

Please RSVP to Lizz at "Lizz Leonard" lleonard@waldorfpittsburgh.org by Monday, October 17, 2011 to let us know that you will be joining us for a discussion and craft.

For full article visit <http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/discussion-group-2>.

Donations Needed

The Early Childhood program is in need of a large chest freezer to hold the grains that we use for baking. If you have a freezer to donate, or if you know of a place where we can find one for a discounted price, we would be very appreciative. Please contact Christina Chirdon-Jones at cchirdon@waldorfpittsburgh.org with questions or if you have a freezer to donate.

GRADES NEWS

In the Second Grade

The second grade class performed in their first St. George Play to kick off the Festival of Courage on September 23rd. In addition to the hard work of practicing and remembering all the words of the play, they also created shields for Saint George and crowns for the princesses to wear. [...] We'll be practicing our times tables rhythmically, learning them as we snap, clap and pass bean bags. We will also be given opportunities to remember what we have learned rhythmically, and figure out the answer to word problems. We'll be discovering place value as we tackle the problem of counting up many of something - like all the apples in an orchard or basket full of buttons. [...] For full article visit <http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/in-the-second-grade-3/>.

FROM THE PARENT ASSOCIATION

Calling all Families

Join the Parent Association on Thursday, October 27, 2011 for the Baked Potato Potluck in the school's auditorium and for the Bloomfield Halloween Parade on Liberty Avenue.

Baked Potato Potluck

From 5-6:30 pm, the Parent Association will be sponsoring a potluck dinner for all families at the school and will be providing baked potatoes, butter, salt and pepper, as well as plates, utensils and cups. [...] Please RSVP to pa@waldorfpittsburgh.org by Wednesday, October 19th so that enough potatoes are prepared. For more information visit <http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/baked-potato-potluck/>.

Bloomfield Civic Council's Annual Halloween Parade

After the baked potato potluck, please join the school (in costume) for the Bloomfield's Family Night Halloween Parade. [...] From 6:45-7:15 pm, Waldorf families can assemble on the NE corner of Winebiddle and Liberty Ave (across Winebiddle from Shadyside Honda). [...]

Please remember to wear costumes that reflect our school's values (no excessively gory, violent, or media-inspired characters). For more information visit <http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/bloomfield-halloween-parade-2/>.

If you have questions or would like more information about either of these events, call Veronica Harris, PA Co-Chair, at 412-781-2048, or email at jeffandv2000@yahoo.com.

Earn Free Materials for Our School—For Small Hands Catalog Promotion

Please help raise money for classroom supplies by participating in the For Small Hands catalog promotion. Any individual's total purchase order over \$25 will give the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh a 10% merchandise credit toward future school orders. [...] When

ordering, please give them the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh's customer # 139195 when asked if you wish to credit a school. [...] *For more information visit <http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/for-small-hands-promotion-2/>.*

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

The school would like to thank all of you who supported the Annual Fund by contributing through pittsburghgives.org on October 4th. When the Development Office learns how much was given and the percentage of the match that will be added, it will be happily announced.

If you have not yet contributed to the Annual Fund, please do so now! Every gift---large or small---makes a real difference in the daily lives of our students. Our goal is 100% community participation---many parents and the school's staff, faculty and board have already made their pledges. Join us!

If you have questions regarding contributions you would like to make to the school, please contact the Development Coordinator at 412.441.5792 x 227 or jsawyer@waldorfpittsburgh.org.

Finally, please check out the "[Other Ways to Support Your School](#)" tab at the bottom of the Giving page on our website. Each year, revenues from these programs support small school initiatives (including support for teacher training, landscaping, and student field trips). Please sign-up! Your participation in these programs is easy and is meaningful for the school.

VOLUNTEERING

Business Office Volunteer

Volunteers are needed to help with Business Office on a regular basis to completed tasks including filing, shredding and materials compilation. Please contact Laura Baker at lbake@waldorfpittsburgh to inquire about volunteer jobs.

Front Office Volunteers Needed

In addition, please consider signing up for a time below to assist the Front Office by on Wednesdays at lunch time from 12:20 to 2 pm. A volunteer is needed to sit at the Front Desk to answer the phones and doors and help students who may be sent down to the office while the Office Manager attends a meeting. The schedule for now through Christmas Break is as follows:

October 12th – Elena Nelson
October 19th – Elena Nelson
October 26th
November 2nd
November 9th
November 16th
November 23rd-tentative (day before Thanksgiving)
November 30th
December 7th
December 14th
December 21st-tentative (day before Christmas break)

Please contact Lizz Leonard at leonard@waldorfpittsburgh.org to sign up for a Wednesday lunch time substitute position.

Additional Front Office Volunteers Needed

The second request is that the school is looking to create a list of Front Desk subs that may be called upon in the event that the Front Office Manager need to take a personal, sick, or vacation day. These shifts could range from AM only shifts, PM only shifts or whole day. Please look at your schedules and see if you have any available days or time slots that could be added to the list.

Donations Requests

- New/Gently Used washing machine
- New/Gently Used Digital Camera
- New/Gently Used Chest Freezer (Early Childhood)
- Tissues and Cough Drops for the Classrooms (Early Childhood and Grades)

All articles can be found here at

<http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/tag/newsletter100711/>