



Friday Newsletter

November 4, 2011

This week's full newsletter can be found online at [www.waldorfpittsburgh.org](http://www.waldorfpittsburgh.org).

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- Tue 11/8** • Building and Grounds Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library
- Fri 11/11** • Martinmas Lantern Walk, 5:30 pm, Frick Environmental Center
- Sat 11/12** • Parent Association Meeting, 9:00 am, Library
- Mon 11/14** • Sixth Grade Parent Evening, 6:30 pm, Sixth Grade Classroom  
• Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm, Library
- Tue 11/15** • Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Auditorium  
• Enrollment Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm, Library
- Wed 11/16** • Early Childhood Discussion Group, 5:30 pm, Morning Garden Room
- Sat 11/19** • Fall Grounds Clean up, 9:00 am  
• Discover Waldorf Open House, 10:00 am, Auditorium  
• Morning Garden Lantern Walk, 4:45 pm, Auditorium

### **GENERAL NEWS**

#### **Campus Wire Test Message**

Today at approximately 12:20 and at approximately 12:22, the school performed a test of the CampusWire Emergency Broadcast System. Depending on the message delivery option you specified at the beginning of the year, you will have received either a text message, a phone message, or an email message. If you are satisfied with the method you chose, there is nothing further for you to do. **If you did not receive a message, or need to change your form of communication please contact the Front Office Monday thru Friday 7:30 am-3:30 pm.** With inclement weather looming on the horizon, it is imperative that every student, Morning Garden child, and Little Friend have a phone number or email on file in this system. Please contact the Front Office immediately if you did not receive this message.

#### **Baked Potato Pot-luck and Bloomfield Halloween Parade**

Thank you to all the families who came to the Baked Potato Pot-luck with plenty of food, warmth and camaraderie. The only thing we were short of was seats! It was a fun way to come together as a school, as well as a good starting point to continue on to the parade in Bloomfield. Although there were not as many spectators this year as in the past, the group representing the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh was larger than ever

(estimated at 60 people.) Again, it was a fun way to celebrate as a school, with the added benefit of spreading the word about the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh!



### **Martinmas Lantern Walk**

Each November, the school has a Lantern Walk to celebrate Martinmas, a festival of inner light in the outer darkness of the approaching winter. St Martin was a soldier in Rome in the 4th century. Legend says that one wintry night, he met a poor beggar, half-naked and freezing. Martin removed the heavy military cloak from his shoulders and, drawing his sword, cut it in two, and gave half to the beggar. That night, Christ appeared to Martin in a dream, wrapped in the same piece

of cloak Martin had given the beggar, and said: "Martin has covered me with this

garment.” Martin became the patron saint of beggars, drunks and outcasts, dedicating his life to assisting pariahs. Celebrating Martinmas serves as a reminder that each of us has a divine spark that we must ferry out into the world and share with others. The children hear the story of St. Martin, sing songs and, as darkness falls, venture out into the night with their lanterns, carefully carrying their lanterns in a mood of quiet reverence. This symbolic act brings home the deeper truth, in the words of Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism (563-483 B.C.): “There isn’t enough darkness in the entire world to snuff out the light of one little candle.”

### **Martinmas Coat & Blanket Drive**

As part of our school’s tradition of community service, extra blankets, coats and other winter gear are being collected to donate to Good Will. A collection tarp will be placed in the school’s main hallway to the left of the stairs starting Nov 1. The drive will conclude with a final collection at the Frick Environmental Center during the Lantern Walk.

### **Winter Fair**

Winter Fair is approaching and Co-Chairs Christina Frasher and Becky Wagner are looking for volunteers to help plan and organize the event. Helping with daytime phone calls to vendors and donors is very much needed right now. Please contact either Christina ([cmfrasher@gmail.com](mailto:cmfrasher@gmail.com)) or Becky ([bsquared75@yahoo.com](mailto:bsquared75@yahoo.com)) if you're able to help in the next few weeks.

The Winter Fair Silent Auction is looking for donations from the school's community members. If you have something to donate please email Emily Hanser at [imogen1974@gmail.com](mailto:imogen1974@gmail.com) or Jen Saffron at [jen.saffron@gmail.com](mailto:jen.saffron@gmail.com).

### **Winter Greens Sale**

In the lead up to Winter Fair, the Parent Association will once again sell winter greens for home decoration. The brochure/order form is attached to the newsletter email, and a paper copy will be sent home next week. These are beautiful, long-lasting, locally-produced greens that will bring the outdoors in once the snow has blanketed the outside.

Please also consider purchasing greens as a donation to help decorate the school for Winter Fair. The deadline for orders this year will be November 28th.

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWS**

### **Halloween Journey**

On Thursday, October 27th, students from the Early Childhood programs explored the school’s campus for the annual “Halloween Journey.” Along their way, children met many friends that are often heard of in classroom stories but are seldom seen around the school. The children delighted in visiting with a fairy, hearing the song of a farmer, witnessing a Wizard’s fiery magic, and encountering some delightful gnomes.

### **In the Sundrop Kindergarten**

Every Thursday, the Sundrop Kindergarten enjoys a hearty snack of Cornmeal Waffles. The children delight in helping Miss Penny mix up the batter and enjoy watching as Miss Penny and Miss Jennifer cook up enough waffles to feed 16 hungry Kindergarten children.

Recipe: Seriously Homemade Cornmeal Waffles (serves 8)

**Ingredients:**

$\frac{3}{4}$  Cup flour  
3 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
2 tablespoons sugar  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
 $\frac{1}{8}$  teaspoon nutmeg  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups corn meal  
2 extra large eggs, separated  
1  $\frac{1}{4}$  cups milk  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup melted butter

**Directions:**

1. Sift flour, and add baking powder, salt, sugar, nutmeg and cinnamon.
2. Add cornmeal to flour mixture and stir with whisk or spoon until all is combined.
3. With egg whites separated, beat egg whites until stiff but not dry; set aside momentarily.
4. Beat egg yolks and add milk, melted butter, and vanilla extract.
5. Pour beaten egg yolks into flour mixture and stir.
6. Gently fold beaten egg whites into batter.
7. Cook using a waffle iron, according to iron's directions.
8. Enjoy...yum!

## **GRADES NEWS**

### **Halloween Hoe Down**

Last Thursday, October 27th, the Grades program held its annual Halloween Hoe Down. Students in grades 1-5 dressed in hoe down regalia and participated in fun folk dances such as Jolly is the Miller, Old Brass Wagon, and Here Comes Sally. Following the dancing and singing, the 6th grade presented a Halloween-appropriate radio play as the other children ate popcorn. It was a fun afternoon for all and a great way to celebrate this time of year together.

## **FROM THE PARENT ASSOCIATION**

### **Parent Association Meeting**

The next WSP Parent Association meeting will be on Saturday, November 12, 2011 from 9 - 10:15am, in the Library. Among other topics, we will have updates on Winter Fair and other volunteer opportunities; the proposed agenda can be viewed [here](#). If you have questions, comments, concerns or feedback about recent events (Michaelmas, Open House, Potato Pot-luck) please contact your class PA Representative, listed below, or Veronica Harris [jeffandv2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffandv2000@yahoo.com). All current parents are welcome to attend.

### **Class Parent PA Representatives**

Following is a list of the parents who have volunteered to attend Parent Association (PA) meetings, keep their classes informed of PA happenings, and bring (non-classroom) concerns to PA meetings for discussion.

Little Friends and Nursery: Kirsten Runge  
Sundrop Kindergarten: Paige Wiegman & Laura Macia  
CoralBell Kindergarten: Katie Secrest

Grade 1: Tori Rhoades  
Grade 2: Katie Secret  
Grade 3: Wendy King & Kris Kloss  
Grade 4: Wendy Arons  
Grade 5: Jamie Feliu  
Grade 6: we still need a volunteer!

## **VOLUNTEERING & DONATIONS**

### **Fall Grounds Cleanup**

Okay folks it is that time of the year when we really show the school our value as a committee. We rake leaves, and lots of them. The school is looking for as many people as possible are available for raking on **Sat. Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00 am till 1:00 pm. Hope to see you there!

### **Additional Front Office Volunteers Needed**

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 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/newsletter11411/>