



Friday Newsletter

December 16, 2011

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

"When Christmas arrives, a turning point is reached. The light increases, days grow longer and nature reawakens. So the birth of the light at Christmas time has been celebrated since the times when the light became the symbol of revelation in the world and man."

-Rudolf Steiner

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- Fri 12/16** • Community Winter Spiral, 6:00-7:00 pm, Auditorium
- Tue 12/20** • Finance Committee Meeting , 6:30 pm, Library
- Wed 12/21** • Grades Holiday Sing-Along, 11:00 am, Auditorium, family welcome  
• Early Dismissal 12:15, **No Extended Care**, Little Friends in session as usual. **Buses will be available, Parent pick is in the back yard as usual.** Kindergarten dismisses at 12:00 pm as usual.
- Thu 12/22-  
Tue 1/3** • Winter/Christmas Break
- Tue 1/3** • Facilities Doing, 5:30 pm
- Wed 1/4** • School resumes.

### **GENERAL NEWS**

#### **Winter/Christmas break**

The school will have an early dismissal on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:15 pm, for Christmas break. **The Extended Care Program is not open on December 21<sup>st</sup>.**

Bussing will be available. Nursery and Kindergarten children will be dismissed outside at 12:00 pm as usual. **If your Full-Day Kindergarten child normally rides the bus in the afternoons, they will be sent home on the bus at 12:15 pm during the early dismissal. If you wish for your Kindergarten child to not be bussed during the early dismissal and you intend to pick them up at 12 pm at school, please submit a Transportation Change Form.** Little Friends will operate as usual until 6 pm.

**If your Grades student normally rides the bus, and you are planning on picking them up instead during the early dismissal, you must submit a Transportation Change Form.** Pick up for Grades students is at 12:15 pm in the Courtyard. Parents who attend the Holiday Sing-Along may wait for dismissal in the Auditorium; however, **students must be picked up out in the courtyard, and not inside the building.**

Lastly, before the school dismisses on Wednesday, parents and students are highly encouraged to take a moment to clean out their cubbies and lockers. Be sure to remove any items that may contain any kind of food or perishable items.

### **School Closing and Delays Policy**

During extreme weather conditions and power outages, the school might be closed or delayed. If the school decides to close or delay the start of school, we will announce this decision through local media outlets and we will contact parents directly through the Campus Wire service.

The school will announce school closings or delays through the following:

- Local TV, radio stations and websites: WPXI, KDKA or WTAE
- A message on the school's website ([www.waldorfpittsburgh.org](http://www.waldorfpittsburgh.org))
- A phone message on the school's phone system (dial 412-441-5792 x 412)
- A message from the Campus Wire service

If you did not receive a test message from Campus Wire on November 4th and have not contacted the Front Office please do so immediately if you have not already done so to ensure your information is in the system properly. For more information on the school's closing and delay policy visit <http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/school-closings-and-delays/>.

### **Grades Holiday Sing-Along**

On Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> the Grades will host a Holiday Sing-Along at 11:00 am. Parents are encouraged to join in and sing with the children. Be sure to bring your singing voices and plenty of yuletide cheer!

### **All-Community Meeting Friday, January 13th**

Parents are invited to an All-Community Meeting to be held on Friday, January 13th at 6 pm in the school's auditorium. All parents are encouraged to attend this important event, which will:

- provide an update on the school's expansion efforts to the 7th and 8th grades
- review plans to create a new fund to protect the school's budget from enrollment losses
- address the administrator hiring process.

Childcare will be provided at the event. Please reserve your childcare spot in advance by Wednesday, January 11th through the school's Front Office by contacting Lizz Leonard at [leonard@waldorfpittsburgh.org](mailto:leonard@waldorfpittsburgh.org) or at 412-441-5792 x225. Childcare is limited and drop-in care may not be available, so pre-arranged care is necessary.

### **A message from the Winter Fair Committee**

What a wonderful Winter Fair! Special thanks to the Waldorf community and parents who volunteered their time to string cranberries, set up, post filers or donate to the Silent Auction, crafts and bake sale. In addition we would like to give special thanks to the teachers for their help and support and to the students for their lovely morning performance!

Warm wishes to all and thanks for a great Winter Fair,

Sincerely,  
Christina Frasher and Becky Wagner  
Winter Fair Committee Chairs

## EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWS

### **Early Childhood Parent Evening**

The Early Childhood Parent Evening that was scheduled to take place on Wednesday, November 16th has been rescheduled for Wednesday, January 11th. This discussion evening will be based on Kim John Payne's book *Simplicity Parenting*. We will be talking about the child's environment, and the ways in which simplifying their environment can be beneficial. In preparation for this evening we ask that parents read chapter three of *Simplicity Parenting*.

There has also been a shift in the dates of the remaining parent evenings. The revised dates are as follows :

Environment	January 11, 2012
Schedule/Rhythm	February 22, 2012
Filtering Out the Adult World	March 28, 2012

Discussion evenings will take place from 5:30 pm until 8 pm and are open to parents of children currently enrolled in Early Childhood Programs. If you would like to attend please reply to Lizz Leonard at [leonard@waldorfpittsburgh.org](mailto:leonard@waldorfpittsburgh.org) by Monday, January 9th.

### **St. Nicholas Day**

St. Nicholas, also known as Nikolaos the Wonderworker, is a 4<sup>th</sup> century Christian Saint. Believed to be the inspiration for the modern Santa Claus, St. Nicholas was known for leaving gold coins in the shoes of children as a special treat around Christmastime. Today, countries around the world celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas on December 6<sup>th</sup> by having children leave their shoes outside their doors to receive special treats in the night.

The WSP celebrated St. Nicholas Day on December 7<sup>th</sup> with a special visit from St. Nicholas himself. During his visit he brought a special treat for every student and made a visit to each of the Early Childhood classrooms.



## GRADES NEWS

### **Grades program needs musicians**

The Grades Program is seeking musicians to help with our annual Holiday Sing-Along. If you play an instrument and would like to join us for festive revelry at 11:00 on Wednesday, December 21 in the auditorium, please email James Hare at [jhare@waldorfpittsburgh.org](mailto:jhare@waldorfpittsburgh.org). Also, if you'd like to suggest any particular songs, please let Mr. Hare know.

### What's happening in handwork?

With the winter holidays fast approaching it is the time for presents. Our early grades have been learning and practicing handwork for a few months, and so many a beautiful handmade treasure has been created. Some of these lovely handmade treasures will find just the right person this holiday season as a special gift.

The first grade's first knitted project was the knitted ball. Surely one or more of these precious first efforts will become a gifted treasure from a beloved first grader.

The second grade made lots of knitted washcloths. For this, they had to learn to increase stitches and then decrease them. It took a lot of keeping track of stitches to get it just right. The washcloths are all cotton, and they will work so well for cleaning or bathing. . Of course, a number of students made more than one!

The third grade is now crocheting. That was not easy to learn. Our first project was a hexagonal mat, a hot pad or trivet. They've come in several sizes, and they're sure to find their way to a special recipient as a gift this year. Ask your third grade friend to show you how that crocheted stitch is made. He'll surprise you with his skill.



### Grades performance at PPG Place

On December 7<sup>th</sup> the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades performed Holiday carols at PPG Place downtown.



## **ENROLLMENT NEWS**

### **2012 Enrollment Timeline**

- January 13** Re-enrollment forms & tuition information mailed out to current families by this date
- February 3**
- Newly Entering/Nursery/K applications due\*
  - Re-enrollment forms due for current families
  - Little Friends Summer applications due for current families
  - Summer Camp applications due for current families
- February 6**
- New applicants notified of space available
  - Little Friends Summer open enrollment (non-current families)
  - Summer Camp open enrollment (non-current families)
- February 29** Deadline for submitting financial aid materials
- March 15** Nursery deposit of \$400 due for newly entering Nursery students
- March 27** Scholarship award letters mailed
- April 10** Scholarship Appeal letters due
- April 24** Contracts due for Kindergarten and Grades programs and \$400 deposit due
- June 1** Materials fees due for Nursery, Kindergarten, and Grades

\* Visiting Days (2-day visits for Nursery or Kindergarten, 3-day for Grades) and Parent-Teacher Interviews will occur February – April, 2011

### **FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE**

#### **Financial Aid Workshop**

A Financial Aid Workshop will be offered for parents of currently enrolled families at the next Open House on Wednesday, January 18th at 6:30 pm in the school's library. Materials will be distributed to families currently receiving financial aid on Friday, January 13th but are also currently available in the Business Office for those who would like to have a head-start on the forms. Information about the Financial Aid process at the school is available on-line through the school's website at [www.waldorfpittsburgh.org/scholarship](http://www.waldorfpittsburgh.org/scholarship). Please RSVP to Laura Baker at [lbaker@waldorfpittsburgh.org](mailto:lbaker@waldorfpittsburgh.org) if you would like to attend the workshop or if you have questions about the process.

All articles can be found here at

<http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/tag/newsletter121611/>