



Friday Newsletter

December 2, 2011

*"There are many things from which I might have derived good by which I have not profited, I dare say," returned the nephew, "Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas-time, when it has come round-apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that-as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!"*

*--Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol*

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

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- Sat 12/3** • Winter Fair 11:00 am-4:00 pm
- Mon 12/5** • No School, Little Friends in session as usual, Extended Care available—please schedule in advance with Ms. Abigail.
- Tue 12/6** • Facilities "Doing" 5:30 pm
- Fri 12/9** • Third Grade Muffin Sale, 10:30 am, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Mezzanine  
• Hot Lunch 11:45 am
- Sat 12/10** • Parent Association Meeting, 9:00 am, Library
- Tue 12/13** • Building & Grounds Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library
- Fri 12/16** • Winter Spiral, begins at 8:30 am (an all day event,) Auditorium (Please check with your child's teacher for times if you wish to Attend your child's class Spiral.) Community Spiral times TBA.  
• Third Grade Muffin Sale, 10:30 am, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Mezzanine
- 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.**

## GENERAL NEWS

### **Waldorf education in the news**

Waldorf education was featured on the NBC Nightly News recently to follow-up the story from the New York Times article, which featured high tech executives who send their children to Waldorf schools in the Silicone Valley. See why Google executives chose to send their children to Waldorf Schools by following the following link:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/23/technology/at-waldorf-school-in-silicon-valley-technology-can-wait.html?\\_r=1&hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/23/technology/at-waldorf-school-in-silicon-valley-technology-can-wait.html?_r=1&hp)

And see what NBC has to say about Waldorf Education by following this link:

<http://video.msnbc.msn.com/nightly-news/45500354/#45500354>.

### **Winter Fair**

Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> is the WSP Annual Winter Fair. Festivities will include performances from the Grades children, a marionette show, live music and winter storytelling, horse-drawn carriage rides, taffy making, felting, and a craft for the little ones. There will be a Bake Sale in the 1867 Tea Room as well as a Silent Auction in the solarium and as always the Forest Garden Shop will be open to shop for unique holiday gifts.

The Winter Fair event has been posted on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/sVOLHn>. Please visit our site and send this invitation to your circle of Facebook friends.

### **Winter Greens Orders**

The Winter Greens Orders are available for pick up starting Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Greens orders can also be picked up during Winter Fair on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> through Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> of next week. **The school is asking that all Greens Orders be picked up no later than Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup>**. Greens can be picked up in the Carriage House.

### **Equal Exchange Orders**

Equal Exchange orders will be available for pick up at Winter Fair on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. In addition, you may pick up your orders throughout next week at the school. **The school is asking that all Equal Exchange Orders be picked up no later than Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**.

### **Use GoodSearch.com this holiday season**

GoodSearch is a search engine which donates 50 percent of its sponsored search revenue to the charities and schools designated by its users. You use GoodSearch exactly as you would any other search engine. Because it's powered by Yahoo!, you get proven search results. The money GoodSearch donates to your cause comes from its advertisers — the users and the organizations do not spend a dime!

As a member of the WSP community you are encouraged to utilize this search engine this holiday season in an effort to get donations for the school. Please direct your browser to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and then specify the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh as your choice for charity. In addition to Good Search, other ways to support the school are listed at <http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/development/>.

### **Winter Spiral**

This special and solemn celebration of the Advent and winter season is designed to remind us that even in the darkest of winter we can still find light to lead us on our way. In a darkened room, all will enter in silence. A pine bough spiral will grace the floor and candles will glimmer. Each child will walk the spiral alone in the darkness, carrying an unlit candle placed in an apple holder. The child progresses toward the center of the

spiral towards a glowing candle. The student then lights their own candle from the center light and walks out of the spiral, placing their candle in the spiral along the way.

This year's Winter Spiral will take place on Friday, December 16th throughout the day. Parents are welcome to attend, but please check with your child's teacher for their class's time slot and please be sure you are here exactly on time. Late comers will not be admitted. A community spiral will be held on the 16th as well, times to be announced.

### **Substitutes needed**

The Waldorf School of Pittsburgh is currently accepting applications for substitutes in our Early Childhood and Grades programs.

Applicants must have a BA in the Early Childhood/Elementary Education or Human Services field. Experience in childcare or working with children ages 18 months - 6 years is preferred for Early Childhood applicants, but not required to apply. Similarly, experience with children ranging in age from 6 to 12 years old is preferred for the Grades program. Applicants must possess a PA Child Abuse Clearance, an FBI background check, and FBI Fingerprinting. Applicant must be available from 7:45-3:00 pm. If you are interested please send a resume, cover letter, 3 references and copies of your clearances to [employment@waldorfpittsburgh.org](mailto:employment@waldorfpittsburgh.org).

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWS**

### **Stone Soup Celebration**

On Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Coral Bell and Sundrop kindergarten classes came together for the annual stone soup celebration. Parents and grandparents were invited, and all brought a vegetable to make our soup delicious. Before we could celebrate together and enjoy the soup, the children prepared the meal by chopping vegetables and making bread and butter.

The story of stone soup begins with a traveler who is hungry and comes into a town in search of some food. At each house, the traveler is told that there is not enough food, and that he should ask someone else. Finally the traveler makes his way to the center of town pulls out a pouch containing a single stone. He places the stone into a pot full of water and tells the curious villagers that he is making stone soup. The villagers watch in wonder as the mysterious traveler appears to make soup from a stone. After some time the traveler tastes the soup and says that it would be more delicious than it already is with the addition of some beans, and someone from the town goes into their house and gets a hand full of beans. The traveler continues tasting the soup and suggesting food that would make it taste even better. Eventually everyone in the town contributes something to the soup, and they have so much soup that they are all able to eat some of the delicious soup.





## **GRADES NEWS**

### **In the First Grade**

"Busy bumblebees buzz boldly  
As they bounce and balance  
Between big, beautiful bluebell blossoms."

...and thus the journey began in the land of letters.

After a few weeks of form drawing while the children gained confidence sitting at their desks, using main lesson books, and hiding crayons, we were ready for the first of many grand letter adventures.

The story of the Queen Bee brought alive the image of the bee, which we drew and discovered it actually looked quite similar to the way grown-ups write the letter "B". For days afterward we practiced our poem about the bee as we made lists of words that had the letter "B" in them. This rich, multi-layered process took us through the entire alphabet of consonants; in addition to discovering why we cannot hear the King (K), when little Nimmy (N) is around, such as what we find in words like "knit" and "knight."

By Winter Break, the first grade will not only have been introduced to all of the letters and vowels, but will also have worked with numerals up to 12, met Daphne Divide, Penelope Plus, Manuel Minus, Equatios Equals, Maxwell Multiply, and have counted to 100! WHEW!! And they have just begun their journey!

## **ENROLLMENT NEWS**

The school's Open House on Saturday, November 19th was a great success, and all of the visitors to our school that day submitted applications to our programs. The school would like to extend its thanks to the many volunteers helped out with the preparations for the Open House event; their work was essential to the success of the event.

Last week, a letter was sent home to parents, which contained information about the re-enrollment process at the school. Please look over those materials and consider attending the next Open House, on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at 5:30 pm. These Open Houses are open to current parents, and are a great opportunity for parents to learn more about the next step for their children. Early Childhood parents of Nursery and Kindergarten students are especially encouraged to come and learn more about the Elementary school programs.

In addition, the parents of children in the Early Childhood programs are strongly encouraged to make an appointment with the Enrollment Coordinator, Devon Wood ([dwood@waldorfpittsburgh.org](mailto:dwood@waldorfpittsburgh.org)) to discuss the next steps for their child for the 2012-13 school year. While not required, it is helpful to have a conversation with Devon about your family's enrollment intentions for the following school year. Applications for 2012-13 from non-currently enrolled families are pouring in, and a wait-list situation is expected for the next school year. Priority for spaces in 2012-13 classrooms is given to families who are currently enrolled at the school, but unfilled spaces will be opened up to outside applicants beginning Monday, February 6th.

Re-enrollment will begin on Friday, January 13th, and forms will be sent home at this time to all currently enrolled families. Current kindergarten families who anticipate that their child will be moving up to first grade in the next year do not need to fill out a new application for their child, and can simply indicate their intentions on the re-enrollment form (on January 13<sup>th</sup>).

Please feel free to contact Devon Wood at [dwood@waldorfpittsburgh.org](mailto:dwood@waldorfpittsburgh.org) if you have any questions about the school's programs.

### **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.

### **FROM THE PARENT ASSOCIATION**

#### **Hot Lunch Friday**

A PA-sponsored hot lunch will be held on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 12 until 1 pm.. The lunch will include cheese pizza from Spak Brothers restaurant on Penn Avenue, carrots, and apples for a price of \$4 (\$1 each for each additional slice). Please send your child with plate & napkin. Proceeds from the PA hot lunch sales will be used to build and beautify the outdoor play spaces for the school.

#### **Parent Association Meeting**

The next Parent Association meeting will be on Saturday, December 10th, beginning at 9 am. We will have a quick review of Winter Fair (there will be a more comprehensive review once final figures are in), and solidify fundraising, parent education and community building plans for the second half of the school year. Please join us if you can.

Questions and comments can be directed to Veronica Harris ([jeffandv2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffandv2000@yahoo.com)).

### **VOLUNTEERING & DONATIONS**

#### **Winter Fair Volunteering**

Volunteer sign-up sheets are posted on the Front Office bulletin board for help with set-up and tear-down and for activities during the fair. (We will not be using Doodle for sign-

ups at this time.) Working a volunteer shift helps ensure the success and everyone's enjoyment of Winter Fair. It takes many hands to decorate, oversee crafts, serve the food, monitor the silent auction and clean-up afterward. Please see where you can offer your time to make this a fun and successful event and gather those much needed volunteer hours.

### **Baked Goods for Winter Fair**

If you are a baker, we would love to have your baked goods. The Parent Association needs your homemade \*NUT FREE\* baked goods dropped off at the school in the library on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> or by 10 am Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please include an ingredient list. We also need donations of popcorn and cranberry strands to help decorate the school. Stringing popcorn and cranberries is a fun and easy way to fulfill some of your volunteer hours at home. You may drop these in the library also.

Craft donations: To make our crafts successful and enjoyable for the children we are soliciting the community for the following items. They can be dropped off anytime this week by Friday evening in the Front Office? Or Library?

Wool for felting  
Thick sponges for felting  
Cooking butane canisters  
Wax paper  
Sugar  
Ground cinnamon  
Applesauce  
Elmer's glue  
Ribbons

Please contact the Winter Fair Co-Coordinators, Christina Frasher ([cmfrasher@gmail.com](mailto:cmfrasher@gmail.com)) or Becky Davidson-Wagner ([beckyjdw@yahoo.com](mailto:beckyjdw@yahoo.com)) if you have any of these items for donation.

All articles can be found here at

<http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/tag/newsletter12211/>