



Friday Newsletter

January 13, 2011

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

“Are ye the ghosts of fallen leaves, O flakes of snow,
For which, through naked trees, the winds A-mourning go?”

— John Banister Tabb

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Sat 1/28**
- Grades Parent Morning, 9:00 am—**The Grades teachers are aware of the possibility of inclement weather overnight tonight. In the event that this event is cancelled notification of cancellation will be posted on the school's website by 8:00 am Saturday morning.**
- Fri 2/3**
- Re-enrollment materials are due by 3:00 pm to the Front Office
- Sat 2/4**
- Parent Association Meeting, Library. 9:00 am
 - Open House and Financial Aid Workshop, 10:00 am
- Tue 2/7**
- Facilities Doing, 5:00 pm
- Wed 2/8**
- Enrollment Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm, Library
- Fri 2/10**
- WECAN Conference, **No Nursery, Kindergarten, or Morning Garden Programs**

GENERAL NEWS

The new look of WaldorfPittsburgh.org

As some of you may have noticed, our website has a new look. It will now be much more easily navigated and there are lots of new options available that we have been wanting to implement for some time now including an interactive side bar for easy navigation, drop down menus, a parent resource area, and a bookstore to name a few.

Some things you may be looking for are the newsletter and the calendar. You will notice that on the menu bar there is a spot for Friday Newsletter. When you hover over it there is also a drop down for Mark Your Calendar. If you click on the link for the Friday Newsletter it will always bring up the most recent newsletter published in PDF format. If you click on the Mark Your Calendar you will be taken to the same calendar you have always been accustomed to. You can also find the Newsletter Archives on the right side bar under explore our school. The calendar can be accessed on the right sidebar as well under Upcoming Events

by clicking the School Events Calendar link. Lastly the calendar can also be found in the footer, should you find yourself at the bottom of the page, under Resources.

Please feel free to explore the new look of our site and check out all it has to offer.

RSF Quarterly

The Waldorf School of Pittsburgh's recent mortgage refinance was featured on page 9 of the RSF Quarterly magazine in the Winter 2012 issue. 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.

Please read our feature in this month's Winter Quarterly here at <http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/waldorfcom/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Winter-2012-RSF-Quarterly.pdf>

Extended Care News

During Winter Break 2012, February 13 – 17th from 8 am to 4 pm, full-day and half-day of care will be offered for Nursery, Kindergarten and Grades students who are already enrolled in the extended care program . Registration is required prior to February 3rd, and space is limited. For more information please contact Abigail Sanders, Extended Care Coordinator at 412-441-5792 x230 or extendedcare@waldorfpittsburgh.org.

Parent Handwork Group

A parent handwork group is forming, where all parents can come, learn and share handwork skills together. Parents can also work off their volunteer hours preparing handmade items to be donated to the school store, and this group would provide a venue and some ideas for these types of projects. The first such project for the school store will be simple hand-sewn crowns and gnomes with felt and wool. No experience is necessary and materials will be provided for that project. Parents are welcome to bring along their own handwork projects to work on in the company of other parents.

The Handwork Group will tentatively meet in the Library on Fridays after drop off in the morning from 8:30 to 11:00. Future projects may include knitting, felting, quilting, paper crafts, doll-making and more. This will be a great way to meet new families and spend time with old friends. Please join us Fridays starting February 24th. Please contact Sarah Ulrich with any questions at (412) 441-4234.

Ice Skating Party

On Wednesday, February 1, 2012, join the communities of the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh and Kentucky Avenue School of a fun-filled evening of skating under the stars. From 7-9 pm at [Schenley Park Skating Rink](#). Skate rentals will cost \$2.50 and there will be refreshments available to purchase. Call or e-mail Veronica Harris with questions. 412-781-2048 or jeffandv2000@yahoo.com. See you on the ice!

EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWS

In the Morning Garden

Many parents probably don't know that the school is able to purchase some classroom supplies with funds from the PA Department of Education. The state allots a sum of money each year, based on the number of children enrolled in the school from nursery through the grades to be used for supplies and books. There are strict guidelines as to what items qualify for state funds. Some of the items the Early Childhood program is able to order through the state include play kitchen equipment, wooden toys, dolls, cradles, silks, play yard tools, wheat grinder, sewing supplies and blocks-both logs and traditional wooden ones.



Morning Garden Transition Class children help open boxes of supplies ordered through the state and, much to their delight, and the teachers surprise, find the boxes are full of “peanuts!”

GRADES NEWS

Waldorf cello students perform on WRCT

A current Waldorf second grader, Maya Winter, and a Waldorf alumni student, Alena Roberson, both Pittsburgh Music Academy cello students, performed on WRCT's Saturday Morning Light Brigade last weekend. Alena Roberson is currently a sophomore at Ellis, and both Maya and Alena have been studying and performing cello for many years with the Pittsburgh Music Academy, which has also just opened up their East-End branch at the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh in June 2011.. A recording of their performance can be heard by following this link:

<http://neighborhoodvoices.org/yespittsburghmusicacademycellists>

PSO and Attack Theater

Yesterday, the Grades children had the wonderful opportunity of experiencing a performance of dance and music by the Attack Theater and members of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. This 45 minute dance and music concert included Stravinsky's *A Soldier's Tale* . Our 2nd-6th Graders, and those parents who were able to attend, were thrilled with this concert.



ENROLLMENT NEWS

NEW APPLICATIONS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD (NEW Nursery or Kindergarten and Morning Garden 2012-13) and RE-ENROLLMENT FORMS DUE NEXT FRIDAY, FEB. 3.

We welcome each and every one of our existing students back next year – but please do not miss the February 3, 2012 deadline to guarantee enrollment for 2012-13. As a bonus, \$50 will be discounted off each family's materials fee (Nursery and older) when the re-enrollment application is received on time and your contract is in by April 24, 2012. These deadlines are essential this year as we are growing and expanding our school. Advanced application or re-enrollment of existing students for next year helps us to ensure we have the appropriate spaces, programs, and faculty. Our Early Childhood and Grades programs alike have interested outside applicants, and our space is limited.

We have a robust wait-list for a majority of our school classes and will begin calling outside applicants to let them know of space availability for 2012-13 starting February 6, 2012. Open enrollment for Camp Waldorf for non-Waldorf

students also begins on this date. Please contact Devon at dwood@waldorfpittsburgh.org, if you have any questions.

LITTLE FRIENDS RE-ENROLLMENT FORMS COMING SOON

Information for Little Friends Summer and 2012-13 school year will be mailed today. We apologize for the delay. We are excited that twelve Little Friends children are age eligible for Nursery for next year. Many already have applied to be in our program - we look forward to welcoming your children in this program!

Our Nursery is a wonderful, warm, and rich experience for children ages 3 by June 1, 2012 - age 4. Scholarships are available for 5-day Nursery children. Please consider attending a tour any Thursday morning at 8:45 AM to see the class in action. Contact Devon Wood at dwood@waldorfpittsburgh.org for a Nursery application or to reserve a spot on a tour.

Financial Aid Workshop

A Financial Aid Workshop will be offered for parents of currently enrolled families at the next Open House on Saturday, Feb 4th in the school's library. Information about the Financial Aid process at the school is also available on-line through the school's website at www.waldorfpittsburgh.org/scholarship. Please RSVP to Laura Baker at lbaker@waldorfpittsburgh.org if you would like to attend the workshop or if you have questions about the process.

Tuition Protection Plan

At the All-Community Meeting on Friday, January 13th, parents heard about the school's upcoming plans for expansion and for hiring an administrator. In addition, the details of the new Tuition Protection Plan were shared with the community. Details about this plan were sent home with the re-enrollment packets on January 14th, and an FAQ will be published in the next newsletter to begin to address questions that parents may have about this new fee.

Why Waldorf Works

Does Waldorf Education prepare children for the "real" world; and, if so, how does it do it?

It is easy to fall into the error of believing that education must make our children fit into society. Although we are certainly influenced by what the world brings us, the fact is that the world is shaped by people, not people by the world. However, that shaping of the world is possible in a healthy way only if the shapers are themselves in possession of their full nature as human beings.

[...]

Waldorf Education recognizes and honors the full range of human potentialities. It addresses the whole child by striving to awaken and ennoble all the latent capacities. The children learn to read, write, and do math; they study history, geography, and the sciences. In addition, all children learn to sing, play a musical instrument, draw, paint, model clay, carve and work with wood, speak clearly and act in a play, think independently, and work harmoniously and respectfully with others. The development of these various capacities is interrelated. [...]

Preparation for life includes the development of the well-rounded person. Waldorf Education has as its ideal a person who is knowledgeable about the world and

human history and culture, who has many varied practical and artistic abilities, who feels a deep reverence for and communion with the natural world, and who can act with initiative and in freedom in the face of economic and political pressures.

There are many Waldorf graduates of all ages who embody this ideal and who are perhaps the best proof of the efficacy of the education.

—From "Five Frequently Asked Questions" by Colin Price; originally printed in Renewal Magazine, Spring/Summer 2003

For full article visit

http://www.whywaldorfworks.org/02_W_Education/faq_about.asp

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Mad Mex Fundraiser

The Waldorf School of Pittsburgh will be hosting a benefit dinner at the Mad Mex restaurant in Shadyside on Tuesday, March 6 from 7-9 pm. Tickets are \$60, and the event is for adults only. To purchase tickets or for more information, please contact our Director of Development, Julia Sawyer at jsawyer@waldorfpittsburgh.org or at 412-441-5792 x 227. This event will be raising money for our expansion efforts and will directly benefit classroom and programming enhancements.

SAVE THE DATE !!!

**TUESDAY MARCH 6, 2012 7-9 PM
BENEFIT DINNER AT MAD MEX, SHADYSIDE**

100% of proceeds support
classroom and programming enhancements
\$60 per person (Adults Only)
Purchase your tickets now
online at <http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/giving>
or by calling Julia Sawyer at 412.441-5792 ex 227

<http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/waldorfcom/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Savetheday2.jpg>

All articles can be found here at

<http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/tag/newsletter012712/>