



Weekly Newsletter

February 10, 2012

“Oh, if it be to choose and call thee mine, love, thou art every day my Valentine! “
-Thomas Hood

Due to technical difficulties, the full newsletter for this week is being sent via email. All articles are also available online at <http://www.waldorfpittsburgh.org> .

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Mon 2/13-

Fri 2/17 • Mid-Winter Break, **No School, No Morning Garden, Little Friends will remain in session**, Full and half day extended care available, pre-registration required.

Tue 2/21 • Building and Grounds Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library
• Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30, Front Office

Wed 2/22 • Early Childhood Parent Discussion Evening, 5:30 pm, Morning Garden Classroom, **Please RSVP to the Front Office by Monday February 20th**

Fri 2/24 • 6th Grade Play, 5:00 pm, Auditorium

Tue 2/28 • Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Morning Garden Classroom

Wed 2/29 • **Scholarship Material Due by 3:30 pm**

Fri 3/2 • Benn Jordan Concert, 7:00 pm, Auditorium

GENERAL NEWS

A Letter from the Administrator Hiring Committee

Dear Waldorf Community,

We are pleased to announce that the school has embarked on the hiring of an administrator for our school. In brief, an administrator works with all the school's constituencies (faculty, administration, board, parents and our broader community) in

order to best advance and support our educational mission. Click the following link to read the job posting: <http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/waldorfcom/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Administrator-position-Ad.pdf>. The hiring committee chair, parent Annmarie Duggan and our board president, Alex Gruskos will be providing updates as this process unfolds.

Sincerely,
The Leadership Team,
Jeanne Crelli, Holly King and Laura Baker

Quantum Theater Productions

Today, via email, the WSP Community received a letter from the school's Parent Association Chair Veronica Harris announcing the school's hosting of the acclaimed Quantum Theater. Quantum Theater will begin preparing for their spring performance on February 27th and will continue their stay with the school through the run of the play, March 30th-April 22nd. For more information on the schools partnership with Quantum Theater and details on how this will affect the school and the Pittsburgh Music Academy please see Veronica Harris's letter at <http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/waldorfcom/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Quantum-Theater-letter-to-community.pdf>.

Benn Jordan Concert to benefit the school

Our school will be hosting musician Benn Jordan and his 2012 Live Guitar Tour on Friday, March 2 at 7:00 pm in the Chapel. There will be two opening acts prior to the Benn Jordan live set, and doors will open at 6:15 pm. Tickets are available at <http://www.showclix.com/event/BennJordanpgh>, and a portion of the ticket proceeds will support the school. Tickets will sell out fast so get them while you can. No tickets will be sold at the door. For more information about Benn Jordan and his music, please follow this link: <http://www.bennjordan.com/>

Mid-Winter Break

This upcoming week the school will be closed for mid-winter break. While there will be no classes in session, Little Friends will be in session and Extended Care is available. Full Day Care will be offered from 8:00 am -4:00 pm. Half-day is available from 8:00 am-12:00pm. Pre - registration is required to attend. **No buses will be available.**

School Expansion Update

The Expansion Committee is pleased to announce we have accepted a proposal to work with LDA (Landmarks Design Associates) Architects on our immediate facility needs for seventh and eighth grades as well as refinement of the master plan draft. We will be working directly with Mr. Ellis Schmidlapp, architect and president of LDA.

LDA specializes in preservation, rehabilitation, and adaptive use of historic buildings and new construction within existing historic neighborhoods and districts. Ellis has directed all of the firm's projects since its incorporation in 1978. Prior to establishing LDA, Mr. Schmidlapp served for nearly a decade as Director of Historic Buildings Development for Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation.

We are grateful to Bob Baumbach, architect and parent of a current third and sixth grader for re-establishing our relationship with Mr. Schmidlapp. Bob and Ellis have worked together for years and interestingly, Ellis' son attended our early childhood

program when the school was located the South Side. This is yet another reminder of our resource-rich community!

Illness Policy Update

During the winter months, we have typically seen an increase in absences due to illnesses amongst our students. As many of you are aware, Pink Eye/Conjunctivitis has been plaguing the school since late October, making its rounds from Little Friends all the way through the Sixth Grade. In the past the school has always followed the Allegheny County Health Department's guidelines for the handling communicable diseases in a [childcare](#) and [school](#) setting, and used these as a guide for maintaining the school's policy. To prevent the spread of illnesses amongst a child's classmates, extra precautions need to be taken at home and at school. As a reminder, the school's "Illness and Injury Policy" has been included for parents to review. A few updates have been made to the policy recently, including **children must be symptom-free if they have had a communicable disease such as conjunctivitis** prior to their return to the school. Please become familiar with the school's requirements for avoiding the spread of contagious diseases.

Please follow this link for full Illness Policy and more information on communicable diseases: <http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/illness-policy-update/>

EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWS

Valentine's Day in Early Childhood

Due to Valentine's Day falling during the Mid-Winter Break next week and the members of the Early Childhood faculty heading to the WECAN conference today, the Morning Garden, Nursery, and Kindergarten classes celebrated the holiday throughout this week. Handmade valentines and special treats were shared among each classroom and warmth and love filled the air around the school.

Photos will be available online at <http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/valentines-day-in-early-childhood/> on Monday February 13th.

GRADES NEWS

In the First Grade

Friday morning assemblies are a much anticipated time in the elementary school, because all Grades classes gather together in the auditorium to sing and share, as well as recite their morning verses. Each week, a different grade shares some of the work they have been doing in their classroom. This may be a new song, verse, poem or recorder performance that the class is working on. These short moments of performing in front of school peers demonstrate interconnectedness between the grades, and they also instill a sense of confidence in the youngest students when they begin to share their work with the older classes.

This past Friday assembly was the First Grade's first performance. Three short verses were chosen by the class to recite, and Ms. Thomas and the students were excited and eager to demonstrate what they learned and to introduce the pieces to the school. Here is a taste of what was presented:

“A Verse for the Letter ‘J’” (as students jumped in the form of a letter J at each J sound):
Jolly Joringle Jumped for Joy
Just as his Jubilant Jorinda
Joined his side

FROM THE PARENT ASSOCIATION

PA News

Thanks to all the families and students who joined us at Schenley Ice Rink last Wednesday, for making our first skating night such a success. It turned out to be a beautiful night for skating, and it was nice to share the ice with friends old and new from the Kentucky Avenue School. We look forward to doing it again next year.

When the WSP Parent Association met this past Saturday morning we made a work list for improving the “new” parent lounge and meeting room space, approved the purchase of monkey bars for the grades play yard, made additional plans for using wood from upcoming tree work to improve other play spaces around the school, and again reminded everyone to sign up for the SCRIP program (see below). Success of many of these ventures relies on parent volunteers. Please be on the lookout for a list of “spring volunteer opportunities” in the coming weeks to see where you can pitch-in. And join us for the next meeting Saturday, March 10, 2012.

FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE

Scholarship Update

Financial aid forms are due to School and Student services on February 29th. There are no more scheduled Financial Aid workshops for the year, but if you have questions about the Scholarship process, please contact Laura Baker at lbaker@waldorfpittsburgh.org.

Volunteer Service Hours

Next week, parents will be receiving a letter from the Business Office with the total volunteer service hours served thus far for the year. This letter will include information on how many hours the school has on record and how many more hours remain to be served. If you have volunteer hours to record, please have them written down in the volunteer hour log book by Monday, February 13th. If you would like to record your hours, but are unable to get to the school, please send your hours to our Front Office Manager, Lizz Leonard (lleonard@waldorfpittsburgh.org.)

There are many volunteer jobs to be completed around the school. Please follow this link <http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/volunteer/> to see what projects are available to parents to work on. The volunteer letter that will be sent out next week will also list some volunteer jobs available to parents.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Scrip Fundraiser Update

As of January 17th, the Scrip fundraiser has raised \$964.00 for grounds improvement since we started using it this past fall. It's not too late to join this easy fundraiser.

Interested families can create an account at <http://www.shopwithscrip.com> and use the school enrollment code 5B7231F928918 . Remember: the signup is a two step process that requires about a week before the account can be activated, so sign up soon if you'd like to start taking advantage of using your everyday purchases to help raise money for the school.

If you'd like additional information about this fundraiser, please visit our website at www.waldorfpittsburgh.org/development. If you have any questions or need a replacement copy of the information brochure, please contact Wendy Arons, warons@andrew.cmu.edu.

Save the date for the Mad Mex Fundraiser

A benefit dinner fundraiser will be held at Mad Mex restaurant in Shadyside. A Mexican-food dinner and drinks will be provided at this adults-only event on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 from 6:30 to 9 pm. Tickets are \$60/person with 100% of the proceeds supporting the school. Please purchase your tickets online now at <http://waldorfpittsburgh.org>, <http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/giving>, or by calling Julia Sawyer at 412-441-5792 x227. For more information please see our website at <http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/save-the-date-2/>



All articles can also be found at

<http://waldorfpittsburgh.org/tag/news021012/>