

Ignite your child's love of learning

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Open House Tours

Next tour: May 30 8:45-10:00 am

The last Wednesday of each month ...come see all the grades in action and ask questions.

May Fair

Friday May 11th 11:00—1:00

A school celebration of spring and renewal ...enjoy maypole dances and a BBQ.

Screen Free Week

April 30—May 6

An international effort to unplug and re-connect.

www.screenfree.org

Waldorf Olympiad

May 30-June 2

104 grade five Waldorf students from BC and AB will re-create the ancient Greek games at Spruce Grove Park.

Gala wine event

June 8th—evening

Our school's largest fundraiser of the year...wine tastings, delicious food, cool silent auction items—in a spectacular log estate home.

Tickets and info coming soon!

Spring reminders from Ms. Kirkegaard

Spring...we see the return of the green fields, the trees are budding, and there are plenty of puddle jumping opportunities!

It's wonderful to see the children so excited with the new play options now available to them at recess on the snow-free fields around the school. Quite often this play continues after school...which of course we love to see. Faculty would like to remind parents that afterschool play is unsupervised, and that it is essential that parents monitor their kids energy, play and interactions...perhaps a few parent referees for the afterschool soccer match!

After a long day at school, many kids may

not ask to go home for some nourishment and decompression time...but most, if not all, would truly benefit from this down time.

Also, parents are reminded that the drop-off zone is past the fire lane...there is no parking on the curb by request of the RMOW. With the snow gone (finally!!), we now have plenty of parking space in the lots. Many thanks for your cooperation on this.

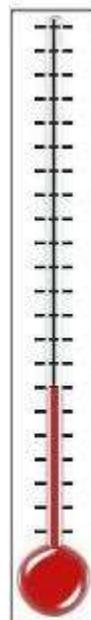
Please check the growing Lost and Found **box outside Ms. Karklin's grade 1 / 2 class!** It will be cleaned out and donated to the re-use-it centre soon.

Kind regards, Michelle Kirkegaard

Annual Giving Campaign Update

A donation to the Annual Giving is an investment in our future...please give generously... gifts received this month: \$300, \$500, \$500, \$20..

Participation rate

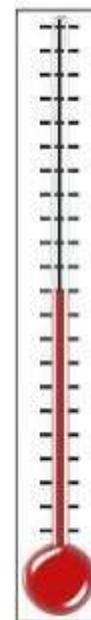


100 % participation

32%

Help us reach our goal of full participation and \$10,000 to fund the continued planning for a permanent location and a future Capital Campaign— **let's believe** in our future!

Dollars raised



\$10000

\$5210

\$0

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

Eleanor Roosevelt

Grade 7 / 8 / 9

Mr. Morgan

We have just completed a long main lesson block on Modern History which spanned from the Franco - Prussian war of 1870 through to the end of the Second World War and the creation of the state of Israel in 1948. We focused on the cause and effect of the events which took place in this period, particularly the effect of the harsh conditions of the Treaty of Versailles at the end of the First World War and how this led to the rise of fascism in Germany and the subsequent ascension of Hitler to power in the early 1930's.

We also spent time studying the emergence of communism and Bolshevism in Tsarist Russia and how the Russian Revolution brought about a deep rooted, radical change to Russian society. Through our class reader, 'Animal

Farm' by George Orwell and focus on the harsh rule of Josef Stalin we were able to see how (as in the French Revolution) constructive revolutionary ideas can easily get eroded by a desire for power.

Other topics we covered during this block were the Suffragette movement and the changing role of women in society brought about by the First World War, the formation of the League of Nations, the flawed policy of appeasing Hitler in the late 1930's, Japan in World War Two, the Manhattan Project and the development of nuclear technology, the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and finally, the Holocaust.

The students undertook biography projects on well known figures of the time such as Kaiser Wilhelm, Tsar Nicholas II, Lenin, Trotsky, Stalin and Woodrow Wilson as well as others such as Wilfred Owen, Lloyd George, Georges Clemenceau and Maria Bocharova (a First World War commander of an all female battalion in the Russian army).

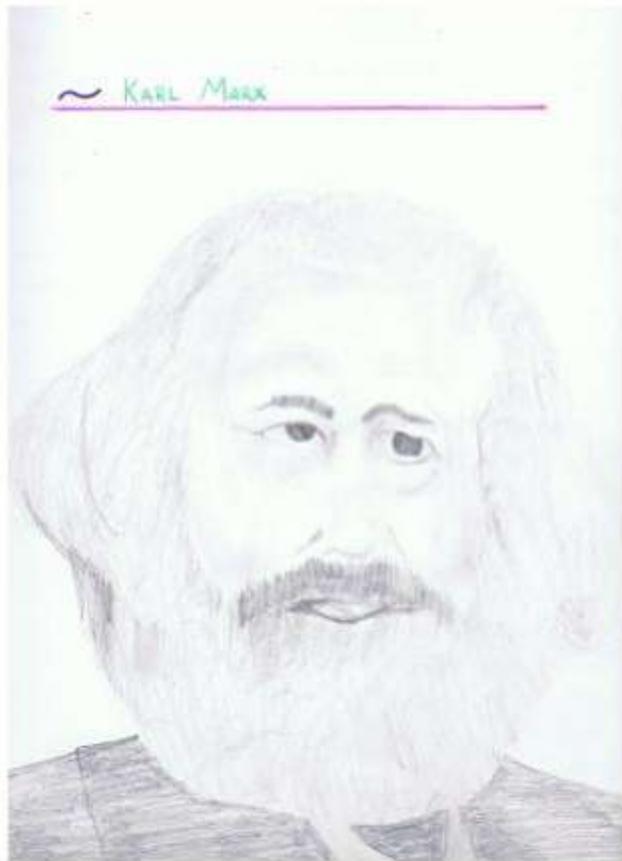
Before the Easter break we received a visit from the Grade 8 class from the Sunrise Waldorf school near Duncan and teamed up for a winter hike to the Red Heather hut in Garibaldi park as well as some cross country and downhill skiing. We were also treated to a first class per-



Drawing by Katie Vogler—grade 9

formance of 'Twelfth Night' by the Sunrise class which will hopefully inspire us to put on a solid production of our own, 'Romeo and Juliet', later in the year.

The class have now moved on to a three week Chemistry block with Ms. Franklin.



Pencil drawing by Melissa Vogler—grade 9

Grade 3 / 4

M. Richer

The Grade 3 & 4 returned from Spring Break with many adventures to share. It sounds like everyone had a great time. To start our last stretch before the summer break, the Gr. 3 & 4 class has begun their first "true" *Grammar* block - now that they have written hundreds of sentences in their Main Lesson books and started to create their own stories, it is time to look at a few basic concepts of grammar such as:

- what is a sentence?
- nouns
- verbs
- adjectives
- basic punctuation

The class has also started a *Buddy Reading* activity with the Kindergarten class. Each Thursday, at the end of our Main Lesson, the students partner with their Kindergarten students to read them a simple book. **It's a beneficial activity that** fosters relationship building between the different grades and it gives the Gr. 3s & 4s an opportunity

to put their reading skills into practice in an authentic and meaningful way.

This grammar block will last for two weeks and then we will go back to *Measurements* using **liquids this time. We'll be doing** plenty of *Baking* to experiment and play with the different methods used to measure volume. The students will discover how many pints it takes to make a quart and how many quarts are in a gallon. Some smaller fluid measurement such as the teaspoon, tablespoon and the cup will also be part of our measurement and culinary experiment.

The Gr.3 & 4 class is also in the process of completing their *Bird-houses*. After drawing different house floor plans and using their rulers to measure and draw straight lines, they are finally ready to put those linear measurement skills into practice and build something tangible. Take the time to look

around the school in a few weeks; you might be able to see some birds poking their heads out of **the student's bird-houses**.

It will soon be time to revisit our first block of the year - *Farming*, with the advent of spring. This time, instead of harvesting, we will work and learn on what is necessary to create a beautiful lush garden (at the school) in order to complete the cycle from seed to har-



vest. The class is also planning a *Camping-Farm trip* to Pemberton in June to experience the farm work required at this time of the year.



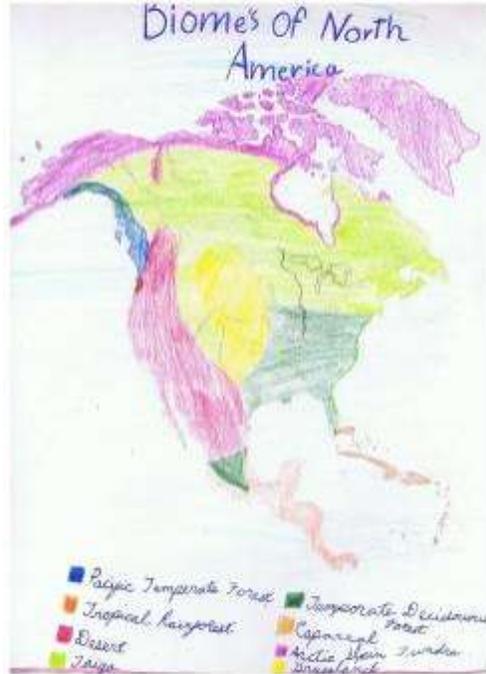
Grade 5 / 6

Ms. Reynolds

The Grade 5-6 have recently been "travelling" around North America, learning about different regions based on the study of biomes. In addition to working on biome projects with their classmates, we discussed these regions together as well. We compared the differences between the Pacific Temperate Rainforests, Eastern Deciduous Forests, Boreal Forests and Tropical Rainforests. We heard about how different the desert regions of North America are to these forested regions. We tried to imagine standing in the midst of the Great Plains of North America with the flat lands stretching out all around us. The cold northern Tundra regions was also a very different landscape to the lush forested regions.

In order to study the biomes, we began with a look at the physical landscape and the weather and water systems that distinguish

the different regions. The landscape and the weather and water are im-



portant factors when considering the plants and trees that grow in each area. Next we took a look at

how the animals in each region have adapted to their surroundings:

How do the desert animals cope with the heat and dry weather? How can some animals in the Tropical Regions live their whole life without touching the earth below? Only after discussing this did we begin to look at the history of human activity in the area.

The students will begin a related project soon where they start a "North American Journal" that we hope to send around the continent to meet other students and hopefully hear back from them about the experiences they have of their immediate geography.

Music and violins

Dear Parents: Please note the following music schedule:

Monday: Regular Violin Class for Grades 7-8-9 and 5-6; plus extra recorder help for 5-6 students who need it

Tuesday: Violin Club, at lunch: (extra help for those who need or want more practice--mandatory for students who forget their violins at home over the weekend)

Thursday: Regular Violin for Grades 7-8-9 and 5-6

Friday: Extra Lessons for Beginners, before recess (when possible.)

Every OTHER week is Band Practice--check with a teacher on Thursday if you are in Band and

unsure whether to bring your instrument.

Just a reminder that all violin students are to take their violins and their music folders home to practice on the weekends, and bring them back to school on Monday. Of course, if you are going away on the weekend and you KNOW there will not be an opportunity to practice, please leave the instrument at



By Katherine Fawcett

school. And as always, treat the instruments with great care and respect, as they are very fragile.

I have noticed that some students are without rosin in their cases. Every bow needs to have rosin applied before playing. Rosin is available from Vicky or Peggy for \$10 in her office.

Also, the current 3-4 class (Mr. Richer's students) will be starting violin next year, so if your child has outgrown their instrument, let me know and I'm sure we can find someone who needs one.

Thanks!

Sincerely,

Katherine Fawcett

Grade 1 / 2

Ms. Karklin

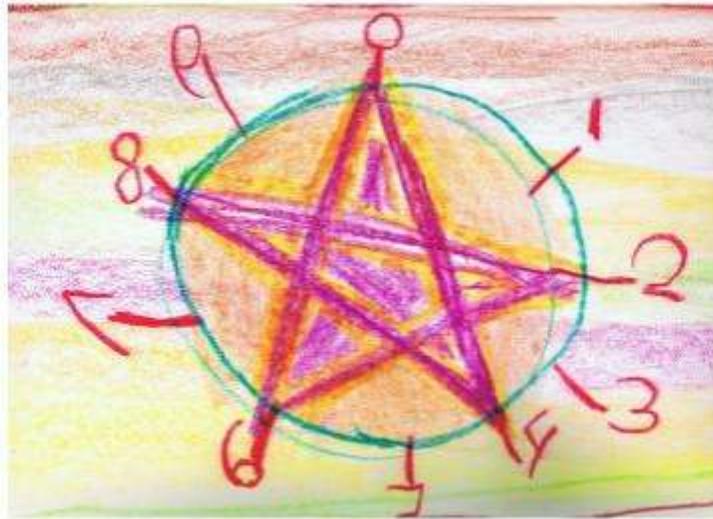
"If two witches were watching two watches, which witch would watch which watch?" "Five fat fish frolicking through the foamy waves." "Black bug bit a big black bear. But where is the big black bear that the big black bug bit?" Try saying those 10 times fast.

Our class has come out of a math block where we have been active with a lot of games and activities to experience math. We've been singing the 3 times tables and marching to the beat to practice the 2 and 4 times tables. Math BINGO was a helpful game for getting extra practice with adding and subtracting, and we all had a good snack with some grapes that we EVENLY shared to practice dividing!

We're now starting to experience language with these tricky tongue

twisters and the children have begun creating their very own book with some classic tongue twisters and some that they have created themselves.

The calming legends and Saint sto-



ries are also accompanying this Language Arts block and the children will be experiencing the stories of St. Mary, St. Jerome, St. George, and St. Francis (for example).

As the weather is warming up and the snow has melted, there are many (very fun) puddles and muddy areas around the school. Please make sure to send rain pants and jacket and/or a change of clothes to school with your child.

Here are a couple more tongue twisters to challenge your mouth! "A canner, exceedingly canny, one morning remarked to his granny, A canner can can Anything that he can; But a canner can't can a can can he?" "A tutor who tooted the flute, tried to tutor two tooters to toot. Said the two to the tutor, 'Is it harder to toot or to tutor two tooters to toot?'"

Kindergarten

Ms. Graham

Spring has sprung in the Kindergarten these past few weeks. The children are climbing higher on the Eiffel tower and discovering their strength and balance as they climb the jungle gym in the playground. As the children grow physically and emotionally their natural instinct is to go up. Many are able to pump their legs on the swings to send themselves high in the air, as they are feeling a new awakening in their bodies.

The end of March we worked on some Spring projects, such as sewing

bunnies and owls. We heard a story about Patrick and the leprechaun and made green lemonade. We also painted egg cup holders for our Easter bunny we made out of hard boiled eggs.



The children constantly amaze us with their intricate and well balanced building projects they create in the mornings. It is during this time that the social harmony of the class has a buzz as everyone is working together to create detailed block structures. As well as block building the children love to fingerknit and some are knitting small blankets and treasure bags. There is a hustle and a bustle in the kindergarten as the children engage in all of our daily activities with joy!

Alta Lake Ice Break contest results

By Stephen Vogler

The winter of 2012 may well be remembered in Whistler for its March powder, but on the whole it offered a rollercoaster of differing weather systems, all of them held like an archaeological record in the ice pack of our local lakes. There were the early snowfalls of November, the freeze ups in December, January and February that resulted in three excellent skating periods, and of course the four metres of snow in March that turned everyone's attention toward the alpine.

By the Easter weekend, the distinct layers of freeze and thaw on Alta Lake began to amalgamate into one gigantic slushy, and it was anyone's guess when it would melt. In fact, there were nearly a thousand guesses in this year's Alta Lake Ice -Break Raffle vying for the \$250 first prize, bragging rights, and their name inscribed on the beautiful, hand-crafted Ice-

Break trophy. The tradition of guessing when the ice melts and the 45 gallon drum placed near the south end of the lake floats past The Point (former hostel) goes back to the early 1960s. Originally a fundraiser for the Alta Lake volunteer fire department, it was brought back to life by the former Alta Lake School (now Whistler Waldorf School) in 2002 after a 20-year hiatus.

This year, the lake cracked across the middle on Friday, April 13. The slushy ice pack on the northern half then floated toward the River of Golden Dreams on Saturday, but it wasn't until Sunday, April 15 at 2:33 pm that the southern half of the ice left the lake and the barrel floated past The Point.

First place this year goes to Jodie Petruzzellis of Pemberton with her guess of 2:42 pm; the second place prize of three locally-authored

books goes to Tom Streetfield-James; and the third place prize of three pounds of organic Whistler Roasting Co. coffee goes to Kristina Nedelak. Randy Goodwin missed the podium by just one minute with a guess of 2:05 pm.

Jodie Petruzzellis was thrilled to be the winner this year and in true community spirit has generously offered to donate her prize winnings back to the school's fundraising efforts.

For selling the most tickets, Aiden O'heany received a gift certificate donated by Creekbread, and for selling the winning ticket, the Achenbach family received an Ice-breaker merino wool scarf donated by Escape Route.

We raised \$2160! Proceeds from the raffle will go towards sports and playground equipment at the Whistler Waldorf School.



Parent Council—monthly update

The date for the Wine Tasting Gala event had been set for Friday, June 8th, at "Cedarstone", a fabulous 6.8 million dollar estate property on Alta Lake Road near Tamarisk. We will be looking for volunteers, in many different areas to help for the schools biggest fundraiser of the year. If you have any contacts for silent auction donations or wine or restaurant participants, or would like to volunteer at the actual event please contact Peggy Vogler for more information. And of course, invite all your friends, especially those wine lovers!

Our school will again be hosting the Pacific Northwest Olympiad May 30 – June 2nd. Over 100 grade 5 students from 9 BC Waldorf schools will be attending and we will be looking for helpers in the kitchen and various other roles. If you are interested in taking a shift to help out at this excit-

ing event please contact the volunteer coordinator, Julie Hamilton, or Ms Reynolds.

A big thank you to Diane Riley and Kim Davis who have stepped up to prepare the hot lunch on Thursdays! The kids and parents really appreciate it!

National Screen Free Week starts April 30th for 1 week and the whole school is invited to participate in this event. We are also encouraging Mums and Dads to forgo their screens for the week (as much as possible) too (which should be much easier now that the Canucks are out of the playoffs!).

As the snow melts and the weather fines up, we would just like to remind all our families with pets to please keep your pets leashed and clean up

after any "accidents" around the school grounds. The warmer and dryer weather also marks the start of our grounds clean up preparations. The grounds and beautification committee are always looking for helpers willing to start clean up of the garden beds in preparation for May Fair.

Our next Parent Council meeting will be held May 18th. If you do have any items you would like to be brought forward please contact our Parent Liaison, Megan (see "Bring it to the table" box below).

Lee-Anne van Dongen
Parent Council Chair

Reminder: "Bring it to the table" opportunity

Bring your questions, ideas or input for the Parent Council about events, fundraising, social initiatives, the grounds, or other Parent Council activities. Please submit your questions to Megan at: megstar5@telus.net

Whistler Waldorf School
Parent Council
Lee-Anne van Dongen —Chair
Yvonne D'arcy—Co-Chair
Jennifer Raffler—Secretary
Ghlee MacLeod—Treasurer
Tracy Graham—Faculty Rep
Amanda Sandahl—Class Parent Rep
Megan Fullerton— Liaison
Sheila Sherkat— Parent Education
Laura Street—Director Comm.
Peggy Vogler—Director Dev.

Board of Directors—monthly update

The Board met on April 19th, and opened the meeting with a presentation from Doug Player about the Whistler U plans. In particular, he outlined the developers plans to include an international high school campus and the scope of that part of the plan. The Board is considering whether this would be a good fit for our future plans, and whether to submit our interest.

Other site discussions included an update on the proposal being prepared for the RMOW with regards to giving consideration to Spruce Grove as a permanent site for the school. And finally updates on the application for Crown land which is currently moving through the provincial channels.

The Board heard updates on new applications that are being processed and the many interviews taking place with new families and our faculty. We are tracking an impressive 40% increase in enrolment for September.

At the end April, the Board and Faculty will meet for the second strategic planning session with regards to our future high school.

Next month, the Board will be reviewing the organization's strategic plan, evaluating past goals and objectives, as well as setting new objectives for next year.

Kind regards,

Laura Street , Past President

Whistler Waldorf School
Board of Directors
Fiona Cull—President
Shankar Raina—Treasurer
Paula Jeffers
Carol Tait
Laurie Grant
Lee-Anne van Dongen—PC rep
Aegir Morgan—Faculty rep
Laura Street—Past President/
Secretary
Peggy Vogler—Director of Dev.
Michelle Kirkegaard—Principal
Vicky Bunbury—Administrator



Ignite a Life-Long Love of Learning

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Fax: 604 932-1876
E-mail: info@whistlerwaldorf.com

www.whistlerwaldorf.com

Our Mission:

Our mission is to educate each child with reverence and respect; to nurture wonder, confidence and initiative, so they may participate in the world guided by a sense of truth and responsibility.



School Community Classifieds

This space is set aside for the school community to share their talents, needs and wants. Submissions should be sent to communication@whistlerwaldorf.com by the third Friday of the month.

Never Ending Bottle Drive! You can now request your bottle return money be donated to the Whistler Waldorf School! Just tell the attendant at the Whistler Bottle Depot you would like them to put it on the Waldorf School account!

NEWS FLASH!! Nesters Points
You can now donate your Nesters points to the Whistler Waldorf School. Just ask at the cash...our little chip cards should be at the till.

SEEKING VIOLIN

Mark and sheila are interested in purchasing a 3/4 size violin for Roshan,

if your son or daughter is out growing their violin please let us know - mark_beaven@yahoo.com





May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	M Screen Free Week	1 Screen Free Week	2 Screen Free Week	3 Screen Free Week	4 Screen Free Week	5 Screen Free Week
6	7	8	9	10	11 School Festival: May Fair	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 School Closed for Victoria Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Grade 5 Olympiad Open House Tour, 8:45 a.m.	31 Grade 5 Olympiad		