

*Ignite your child's love of learning*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

Waldorf Olympiad  
Opening Ceremonies  
June 1

8:45 a.m.—9:15  
104 grade five Waldorf students from BC and AB will re-create the ancient Greek games at Spruce Grove Park, complete with the lighting of the Olympic flame.

Whites Reds and Blues-gala event

June 8th—7-11 p.m.  
**Our school's largest fundraiser** of the year...wine tastings, delicious food, cool silent auction items—in a spectacular log estate home.  
Tickets \$80  
www.whistlerwaldorf.com or from Peggy.

All School Year End BBO

June 15—5-7 p.m.  
At Edgewater...food and fun—more details to follow.

Romeo and Juliet  
grade 7/8/9 play

June 19 @ 5:00 p.m.  
Spruce Grove Fieldhouse  
All parents are welcome. (as play features mature issues, parental discretion is advised for younger audience members).

## New staff...and reading recommendations

The Faculty is pleased to welcome Ms. Ali Hahn as our second lead kindergarten teacher starting in September 2012. Ms. Hahn has been teaching this year at WWS as the special needs assistant for a grade two student.

As well, the Administration team is pleased to welcome Diane Riley as our new Administrative Assistant. Diane will be joining us part-time until the end of school, but will be here every day starting in September!

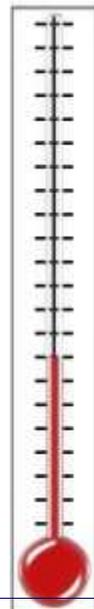
I also wanted to take the opportunity to recommend some excellent articles in the recent issue of Renewal magazine. Each school family receives semi-annually a free copy of this magazine published by AWSNA (Association of Waldorf Schools of North America). We have seen some wonderful drama productions this year with the all-school play "Voyage of the Dawn Treader",

the grade 3 /4 play "The 12 sons of Jacob Israel", and the much-anticipated "Romeo and Juliet" (June 19). I would encourage parents to read the article "Of Queens, Warriors, and Destiny", by Kim Peavey, which offers a deeper look at the reasons drama is so crucial in the Waldorf curriculum.

As well, there is a great overview of Organic Chemistry, which the 7/8/9 class just explored with Ms. Franklin, in the article "Creating interest in the world" by David Mitchell. And "Drawing with the head, heart, and hands" by Van James gives a detailed synopsis of the reasons for Art in the curriculum, including brain, social and spiritual development..."Art serves as the balance in education and a bridge to what can make us more fully human in our thoughts, in our feelings, and in our deeds."  
- LS, editor

**Annual Giving Campaign ...ONLY 2 WEEKS LEFT!**  
A donation to the Annual Giving is an investment in our future...please give generously...  
gifts received this month: \$1000, \$1000, \$35.

### Overall Participation rate

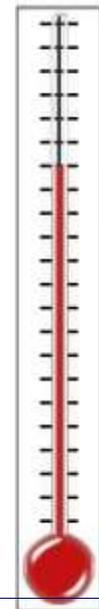


100 % participation

Participation levels by groups:

- Faculty: 100%
- Board: 64%
- Parent Council: 44%
- Parent body: 31%

### Dollars raised



\$10000

\$7605

\$0

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

Eleanor Roosevelt

## Grade 7 / 8 / 9

Mr. Morgan, Ms. Franklin



Two households,  
both alike in dignity

(In fair Verona  
where we lay our  
scene),

From ancient  
grudge break to  
new mutiny,

Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.

From forth the fatal loins of these two foes

A pair of star crossed lovers take their life,

Whose misadventured piteous overthrow

Doth with their death bury their parents' strife.

The fearful passage of their death marked love

And the continuance of their parents' rage,

Which, but their children's end naught could remove,

Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage -

The which if you with patient ears attend,

What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.'

The Grade 7/8/9 class have recently started rehearsals on our play *'Romeo and Juliet'* by William Shakespeare. This opening sonnet says it all - the 'ancient grudge' of the Montague and Capulet families of Verona propels our young 'star crossed lovers' into a 'death marked love' making this play one of Shakespeare's most well known tragedies and a love story that has endured the ages.

The class have begun to wrestle with the often cryptic Shakespearean prose/poetry and have been busy learning what sometimes feels like a new language and way of speaking. We started reading and editing the play many months ago, so the text has been living with us for a while. However, working on the right way to deliver lines such as "I'll look to like if looking liking move" and "God 'i' good e'en" (not to mention the meaning of 'doth', 'thither'

'thou' and 'thy') has proved to be a demanding, albeit rewarding, challenge to take on!

Of course, amongst the more complex dialogue there are also passages and well known lines which many of the children already know as so much of this play has been so embedded into popular consciousness. Also, with the various sword fights, the banter, innuendos, romance and even a party, there is something in this play to meet every teenager.

We'll be performing the play outdoors (weather permitting) on the terrace behind the Field House at 5pm on Tuesday 19th June so please do bring a blanket or a cushion and come and enjoy our play. As the play features mature issues parental discretion is advised.

We hope to see you there!  
Mr. Morgan

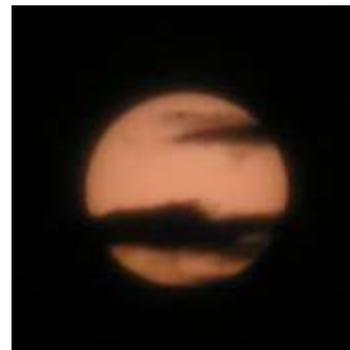
**S**cience block: What do carbohydrates, proteins, and oils have in common? A tremendous amount grade 7,8 and 9 students discovered during our recent organic chemistry block. They are all created through the processes of photosynthesis from **nature's plant "factories" and are** composed of varying amounts of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen, the building blocks of nature. Through laboratory demonstrations and classroom discussions we studied the role of carbohydrates (sugars and starches), oils, fats and proteins in nature and their importance in the role of human nourishment. We used reagents to test for the presence of various substances in foods. Through this process we examined a spectrum of sugars from raw cane sugar to highly processed and synthetic sugars, and discussed the differences between saturated and unsaturated fats and oils.

During the final week of the science block we moved our focus to physics and the study of aeromechanics, the nature of air and its effects. Through demonstrations and experiments we were able to observe that we are living within an ocean of air, and that ocean of air has weight, exerts a pressure and offers resistance to moving objects. We completed the week with demonstrations showing that an absence of that air will create a vacuum strong enough to crush cans.

### Upcoming Science Event

On June 5<sup>th</sup> from approximately 3:05pm until sunset, we will be able to observe the transit of Venus as it passes between Earth and the sun. The next time this event will occur will be in December 2117. As it is impossible to view the event directly with the naked eye, interested students from grades 5-9 will be making pinhole projectors at lunch on Wednesday May 30<sup>th</sup>, in order to safely observe the phenomena (weather permitting). As the event is taking place after school, any interested in observing the transit of Venus are welcome to use the apparatuses under parent supervision. Fingers crossed for a sunny day!

Ms. Franklin





Drawing by Leo Bennett, grade 6

There is much afoot in the Grade 5-6 classroom. They have just finished a Main Lesson block on Ancient Rome with Mr. Morgan in which they learned about the legendary story of the founding of this great Empire and onwards through the biographies of many of the ruling Caesars. You may have seen the students out practicing their military troop formations under the strict instruction of Centurion Morgan, striving to work together like a well-oiled machine as the Roman troops would have done in days gone by.

The students have now entered a Physics block in which we are practicing our powers of clear and accurate observation. Approaching Physics through careful observation

of the phenomena requires the students close attention as we work through aspects of Sound, Light, Warmth and Magnetism. After observing a variety of demonstrations and experiments, the students are developing an understanding based on the phenomena observed. **So don't be surprised** if you see these students wandering about with a fork tied to some string and plugging their ears. Or asking you to pull out the good crystal wine glasses. Or walking around blind-folded. Or collect-

ing balloons, rubber bands, containers and/or boxes to create musical instruments. **So long as they don't**

interfere with dinner preparations or walk into a pole or keep you up all night tuning their newly created string instruments, all should be good!

And just to add a little more excitement into the mix, the Grade 5 students are also preparing themselves for the upcoming 2012 Pacific Northwest Olympiad which is being held here in Whistler again this year from Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. This event wraps up their studies of Ancient Greece which we studied this Fall. The students will be welcoming over 90 other students from other Waldorf School in the region to compete in this traditional pentathlon.

You are welcome to come by on Friday to watch some of the events taking place between 9:30 - 4:00pm!



Pacific Northwest Olympiad in Whistler 2011

A few days ago, I escaped the constant blossoming of creativity and chaos of my household and found myself by the bank of the Cheakamus River, realizing that another school year was coming to an end. What were the essentials of this particular school year for the Grade Three and Four? Did I meet **the children's needs? Did I offer** them opportunities to discover something new about themselves and the world? These are questions which are always present in a teacher's mind but definitely come back stronger towards the end of the year as we reflect and prepare to wrap up and move on to the next grade.

A small bird carrying twigs back and forth between the river and his nest reminded me of one of the most important aspects of the Grade Three and Four curriculum; the profound neurological and psychological shifts that occurs between 9-10 years of age. To support and help the children as they go through these times of psychological uncertainty, the curriculum suggests the teaching of many practical life skills to fulfill their need of assurance. These skills will reassure the children that they will be able to take care of themselves one day. So like the little birds, I saw our Grade Three and Four class running back and forth from the forest to their teepees with different natural building materials to make their teepees stronger and more beautiful. And from making one of

the world's oldest toys – a Jacob's Ladder, to building birdhouses, building a sand square, making a ruler, compost collection, gardening, knitting, daily responsibilities, making butter and food to building scales for weight measurement, the Grade Three and Fours had many opportunities this year to use their hands to learn in a practical and experiential way.

As I was thinking about all this, a

by *Laura Ingalls Wilder*" as the class is getting ready to go on its end of the year Class Farm Trip. The class has recently planted carrots, beans, potatoes and lettuce in the garden beds at the back of the school – hopefully we will be able to see the first little sprouts before leaving for summer break. You will also notice the Grade Three and Four efforts to preserve and replant the grass at the front of the school.



Grade 3 and 4 students weeding around the community greenhouses

Over the remaining few weeks, the class will be experimenting with weight measurement and we will have a Language Arts block for the next weeks to come. For example, we will try to figure out how many kilos of compost we have been composting over the year, and will put into practice our grammar study into our Nature Journal.

As I was making my way back from the riverside to my beautiful-creative-orderly-chaotic-nest, I

had a good feeling of accomplishment for all we have done over the year, and especially anticipation for the next year.

Thank-you for all your support and have a great summer!

-  
*Pierre-Maxime Richer*

little Chipmunk ran behind me on a log and, who knows why, it made me think about our Main Lesson stories which also help the children build inner strength for what lies ahead as they leave the paradise of childhood and go out into the world and discover how to live with other people. We are now completing the last stories of the Hebrew Scriptures with the prophets Jonah, Heliodorus, Judas and John the Baptist. We will conclude the year with "Farmer Boy"

## Grade 1 / 2

Ms. Karklin

June already! What an enjoyable year full of new experiences, friendships, and stories. Looking back on the year there are many highlights. The trip to North Arm Farm in the fall was such a great first field trip. Five parent chaperones and 22 students loaded into the Camp of Champions mini



bus and set off for a day of visiting the farm and picking pumpkins and other veggies. The raspberries were ripe for the picking and we went home with two palates full of the delicious fruit that we picked ourselves. The homemade soup with North Arm Farm veggies and the raspberry crumble with the (literal) fruits of our labor will go down in the history books as a fun and tasty experience!

Another fond memory was watching the grade one and two students perform at the Christmas con-

cert. The children worked so hard to perfect their performance, and had to draw on deep reserves of courage to get up in front of a crowd to per-

form – the strength of these students has left a lasting impression with me.

Watching the students grow and learn together has been beautiful this

year. One recess, after a HUGE snowfall, I overheard some students discussing how they could get a giant snowball up the stairs of the play structure. After some conversation, the students decided to get a long piece of wood to use as a lever. They rolled the snowball up to the first stair, levered it onto the second, and went all the way to the top. Watch-



ing them work together to solve their snowball dilemma was such a joy and will be something that comes to mind when reflecting about this year.

This spring the class had some favorite saint stories including Saint Odilia, Saint Columba, Saint Brigid, and Saint George. As the students became more active outside with different games, the saint stories have brought lessons about helping others and doing the right thing in a tough situation.

As the year is coming to an end, I **look forward to next year's new experiences, new students joining our class, new friends, new joys, and...new highlights to reflect upon!** Thank you to all my parents and students – I hope you all have a wonderful summer.

Riva Karklin

## Kindergarten

**"Here's a branch of snowy May, the branch the fairies gave me.**

Would you like to dance today with the branch the fairies gave me? Dance away, dance away, holding **high the branch of May!"**

The Kindergarten children skipped and sang some May Fair songs at the beginning of the month. With big smiles and strong hands we practiced our songs for this Spring celebration. The children were also busy making cards and gifts for their wonderful mothers during these first few weeks of May. As the sun warmed up the ground the children were delighted to find worms, wood( pill) bugs and spi-

ders. This led us to start sanding and building wooden bug houses. Many children have used their will to sand away the rough edges on the cedar wood. The children were eager to help hammer the nails into the box as we began to assemble the pieces.

The kindergarten has enjoyed the **"buddy reading" visits from the grade 3 / 4 class on Thursdays.**

As we enter into June the children will plant herbs and flowers in the classroom and in the garden close to the playground.

Dane (grade 3) and Kai (kindergarten) enjoying buddy reading day.

Ms. Graham



## Lessons from Silence

I stood in front of 20 fifth and sixth grade violin students last Thursday and held up a page with the following message, written in large, black letters:

**"I have lost my voice. I cannot speak or even whisper. Please respect my condition."**

The class wondered what was up, chattered a bit, gathered their instruments and settled into position with their Stand Partners. We checked our tuning together, played a few scales, did some ear-tests and a warm-up number, and moved on to practice the two main pieces we are preparing for the end-of-the-year concert. I used some sign language, wrote a few more notes on my notepad, adjusted a few students hand/arm positions physically, and smiled.

As most of you know, sound carries in the Spruce Grove Field House. Even a slightly boisterous violin class, right after lunch recess, can sound downright chaotic. But that day, something magical happened. It was the most calm, focussed and **relaxed class I've taught all year**—a truly delightful 45 minutes of music, with emphasis on proper form and posture, attentive rhythm and pitch, ending with a beautiful solo performance by one of the more advanced students. The 7-8-9 violin class was similarly amazing, and **Mr. Richer's 3-4 class** as well.

All without the teacher saying a word.

Whether this loss of voice was from overuse, a response to a compromised immune system, a reaction to stress or a message from the universe is unclear. Whatever the cause, there has been no pain, I have simply been virtually mute. **It's felt like I've been scuba diving** through my life. With the go-ahead from my doctor and the support of

my co-workers, I taught about half of my classes last week. Here is some of what I discovered:

- Smiling is important. A sincere smile can say what needs to be said when words are not there.
- **Loss of voice doesn't mean** loss of authority.
- Silence can be more meaningful than small talk, gossip **and chatter that just "fills the space."** Unfortunately, **silence of throat doesn't always** translate to silence of the mind. But it helps.
- Most people are instinctively quiet and gentle when you are gentle and quiet. They come closer, they lean in, and they seem to reduce their own personal noise. Empathy breeds empathy. Yelling breeds yelling, and whispering breeds whispering. Kindergarten teachers already **know this.** (However, it's interesting that some people **assume that if you can't speak, you must be hard-of-hearing, so they yell at you. Or they don't bother talking to you at all.**)
- Playing music with friends can be more fun than talking.
- Everyone should learn to whistle with two fingers.
- It makes no difference whether I yell and nag, or we get ready in silence—we still arrive exactly one minute late for school each morning.
- **Dogs and cats don't care if you can't talk.**
- **Most of the time, kids don't care if you can't talk either.**

## Katherine Fawcett

They just want your presence, not your opinion, praise, direction, or nagging.

- Stomping your feet on the ground in frustration is not **effective, it's just funny.**
- **"Background noise" is simply** irritating for those who struggle to express themselves.
- Being misunderstood and unable to efficiently express yourself is an extremely frustrating place to be (especially for a Leo.) Watching things happen that you are unable to **"fix," (but feel that you could** fix with simply a few words) is painful. However, seeing problems resolve themselves without, teaches patience and humility.
- **Don't answer the phone if you can't talk.**

Words are gold, but many times we treat them like tinsel and toss them carelessly about. Having a voice is a gift—perhaps the one we are most likely to take for granted and take advantage of. I have promised myself that when my voice returns, I will try to use my words more carefully, more sparingly, with more love and more attention. I will close my mouth more, and open my ears wider. I will remember that the mouth leads to the brain, but the ears lead to the heart. And I will try to listen even more **carefully to those who don't say much.**

Thanks to all the students and teachers who leaned in a little closer to me this week.

**"The quieter you become, the more you can hear."**  
— [Baba Ram Das](#)

## Parent Council—monthly update

Tickets are now available to the Whites, Reds and Blues gala event on June 8th! Please invite your friends and join us for a wonderful value-packed evening of tastings, of both the liquid and food varieties, fun enticing silent auction items and great musical entertainment.

The Pacific Northwest Olympiad is in full swing this week...we are hosting over 100 students plus their teachers, some parents, and other volunteers from May 30 to June 2. Please come out and see the opening ceremonies on Friday June 1 at 8:45 a.m...It is a wonderful sight.

A big thank you to all the parents that are donating their Nesters points ...in just a couple months we have raised \$250 in points! Every dollar helps when buying food for festivals and celebrations, so again a heartfelt thank you.

The All-parent survey was completed last week. Thank you to all our parents that took a few moments to share their skills, interests and volunteer ambitions. Committee chairs and organizers will follow up with you soon. Also, it was encouraging feedback to see that 100% of the parents that took the survey indicated that **they were either "Extremely likely" or "Very likely" to recommend Whistler Waldorf School** to other families.

Please mark your calendars for the end-of-year BBQ on June 15th! We look forward to gathering as a community to reflect on the wonderful events of this past year, and send everyone off for a fantastic summer...however remember the last day of school is Thursday June 21st!

With kind regards,

Peggy Vogler, Director of Development

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

With the summer holidays fast approaching the Board of Directors have continued to focus on both the Operations plan for the next school year and longer term facility and High School planning.

The Operating budget for the 2012/13 year has been approved by the Board ready for the July 1<sup>st</sup> start of the new financial year. Discussions were focused around how to best support our faculty and staff during this exciting growth phase, including a detailed compensation review, whilst continuing to operate the school in a financially sustainable manner.

Facility rentals for the next school year are currently being finalized with the RMOW. The Board is currently working with administration and faculty on a business plan for a High School, and will be hosting an information meeting with families with older grade students before the end of

the school year.

A presentation to council and staff is being planned for the summer which will be an exciting opportunity for the School to present a long term vision and plan to remain at Spruce Grove. We will keep everyone updated as events progress.

The Board is pleased to welcome and thank Harvey Lim (parent of Kai and Hana) who has agreed to join us starting in August.

One last reminder: please invite your family (adults only) and friends for a great night of *Whites, Reds and Blues* at the wonderful 'Cedarstone Estate' on Friday June 8<sup>th</sup>. This Event is our major annual Fundraiser and will **feature some of BC's best wineries**, showcase the amazing talents of local chefs all accompanied by Juno award winning Blues music. Your support (of any kind) is truly appreciated.

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

Kind Regards,

Fiona Cull , President



*Ignite a Life-Long Love of Learning*

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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.



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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:mark_beaven@yahoo.com)





# June 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Grade 5 Olympiad— opening ceremonies 8:45	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Whites, Reds, Blues gala 7–11 p.m.	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 End of year BBQ at Edgewater 5-7	16
17	18	19 Romeo and Juliet grade 7,8,9 play 5 p.m.	20 Summer Solstice Celebration—in school event for students 2:30 p.m.—parents welcome.	21 Last Day of School Fun Day!	22 Summer Vacation Begins	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30