

Celebrating 10 years in Whistler

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Early Years Parenting Series—The Healing Power of Sleep

Wednesday, February 16
7:30—9 pm at the school

Parent Association Meeting

Thursday, February 17 at
7:30 pm at the school

Ice Break-Up Raffle Launch Party

Friday, Feb 18th
2 pm at Lakeside Park

Winter Break—Prof. Development Week

No School
February 21-25

Why Waldorf Works Parent Evening

Thursday, February 24th
at 7 pm at the school

1st Capital Campaign Planning Meeting

Wed., March 2nd at 7 pm
at the school

Open House and School Tour

Wed., March 2nd
9 am at the School

Ice Break-Up Fundraiser Barrel Launch, February 18

Even though the calendar still says winter, there is a sense of spring in the air! And there is no better way to tap into that anticipation than to dust off your crystal ball and take your best shot at guessing when the ice is going to melt off Alta Lake!

This raffle is a historic seasonal fundraiser that began in the '50s as to raise money for the Alta lake Volunteer Fire Department and was resurrected by our school with the help of parent and Whistler historian Steven Vogler several years ago. It is a natural fit as a fundraiser for the Whistler Waldorf school as we celebrate the changing

of the seasons as part of the curriculum.

If the weather cooperates we plan to “launch” this year’s fundraiser by hosting



an outing to centre ice to visit the barrel, have a cup of hot chocolate, and kick-off this year’s round of ticket sales.

Every family will receive 10 tickets to sell to family and

friends over the next month or so. (You may definitely have more if you wish!)

The way the contest works is people guess when the ice will melt and the barrel (a 45 gallon molasses barrel) will float past Cypress Point, the former site of the International Youth Hostel (and home of the Vogler family, who will keep a watchful eye). One guess costs \$3 and two guesses are \$5.

The person who guesses closest wins \$250 cash and coveted trophy inscription, second is a Family Membership and gift certificate to the Squamish Lil’wat Cultural Centre and third prize is 3 lbs of Whistler Roasting Co. coffee and a V. Massey mug.

A Show of Hands—Annual Giving Campaign Update

Thank you to those who have given generously to this year’s Annual Giving Campaign!

This year, as you have heard, we are aiming for 100% participation. What we hope to demonstrate is the gesture of giving is alive and well in our school. The size of the

donation does not matter as much as the show of support that is offered. All donations will remain anonymous and are eligible for a tax receipt.

Giving is easy! Click on the donate now button on our web site or simply drop off a cheque or cash to the office. Donation envelopes are on

the little table in the hallway.

Please count your self in and make your donation today!

So far we have received \$3,075 with 15% participation. Let’s see if we can get to 50% by next Friday!

Pre-School News

Ms Moore

*"See this little rabbit, with
his big long ears...*

*He stays so very still, but I'm
very sure he hears...*

*For I say 'little Rabbit, won't
you stop, stop stop!"*

*But away he goes, with a
hop, hop. Hop!"*

We are enjoying gentle circle songs and games in preschool, and are feeling close to the animals with stories such as the Little Lost Fox, and songs about Little Robin Redbreast. The recent good weather has meant lots of nature walks and time spent outdoors – there aren't many around, but we look for birds and animal tracks as we go! This week we will be busy in the kitchen, baking birthday cakes and Valentine cookies.

Ms Karina is the Queen of making playdough. All the children love making shapes with it! Here is her secret recipe:

- 1 cup hot water
- 3 drops food colouring
- 2 cups white flour – and extra flour to knead the dough.
- ½ cup table salt
- 2 tablespoon of olive oil
- 2 teaspoon Cream of Tartar

Combine the dry ingredients in a bowl. Add the food colouring and oil to the water, then slowly stir it into the dry mixture. Add more flour if it's too sticky, more water/oil if it's too dry, and knead the mixture well with your hands. It will keep for a week in an airtight container.

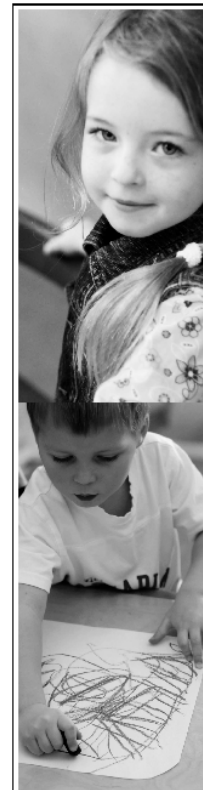
Kindergarten Update

Ms Graham

This winter the Kindergarten children have been busy like the gnomes and elves we have heard about in our afternoon stories and songs. The children love to look for crystals inside the class, as they are often hidden by the tricky gnomes and on our nature walks now that the snow is melting in different places. Some of the children have been busy working on braiding, finger knitting ropes and sewing lavender pillows. It is so satisfying for them to create something using their hands and determination.

Snow and friendships songs are part our morning circle these past few weeks. "In Holland Stands a House" is a new ring game where each child is different character of the song. This new song has brought lots of laughter and joy to our day.

I hope parents of Kindergarten and Pre-school aged children will feel inspired to come to the second presentation in the Early Years Parenting Series on Wednesday, Feb. 16th from 7:30–9 pm where we will be discussing sleep and the young child. Last months discussion on Rhythm and Routine was really great. Admission is free.



Whistler Waldorf School presents the:

Early Childhood Parenting Series

Join us for this informative series on a variety of topics on the young child.

Rhythm and Routine
Monday, January 17th
7:30–9:00 pm

The Healing Power of Sleep
Wednesday, February 16th
7:30 - 9:00 pm

Story Telling and Fairytales
Monday, March 21st
7:30–9:00 pm

Free to Play
Wednesday, April 6th
7:30–9:00 pm

**At Whistler Waldorf School
Spruce Grove Park**

For further information please
contact the school

Celebrating 10 Years in
the Whistler Community



info@whistlerwaldorf.com
www.whistlerwaldorf.com
604 932-1885

The New Year created the opportunity to unify and create a sense of oneness between the grades as we now have class one and two working together in Main Lesson as well as their subject lessons. To support the children with this transition and guide the class for their journey through the grades I will be encouraging the children (and parents) to refer to our class as Mr. Richer's class. This new learning environment has been positive and dynamic, offering both grades what they need in terms of curriculum and what they need on an individual level.

We started with a writing/reading block in which the students have created their own readers. The plot has been fashioned by blending excerpts from two songs learned in the fall and verses from our Christmas play. With this reader, Grade One's are furthering their experience with the formation of the letters and letter sounds. They are getting their first taste of reading in the classroom and developing the recognition of basic sight words such as; it, the, is and as. Grade Two's are working on

cursive writing and developing their vocabulary. We have now completed the reader and are about to embark on a new journey with a folktale from Ireland.

The King of Ireland's Son is a children's novel published in Ireland in 1916 written by Padraic Colum. It is the story of the King of Ireland's eldest son, and his adventures winning and then finding Fedelma, the Enchanter's Daughter, who after being won is kidnapped from him by the King of the Land of Mist. This story will provide for our math, literacy, rhythm and artistic work during the next 5 weeks.

I have introduced the class to a song solidly based in Quebec's folklore – "Avoine Avoine". You will probably hear them humming or singing this song through the following weeks as we are going to act it out during our morning circle. It's a pretty simple story about a farmer who plants wheat seeds, cultivates them and finally turns them into bread. It offers an opportunity for movement and actions on top of developing

their French vocabulary and ear for music. We have also been working on winter songs such as "Our Toboggan", "Winter Garden", "The North Wind" and "Whistler Mountain". A flute song learned at the beginning of the year – The Snake Song—came back into our classroom as I created lyrics to go along with the flute. It is the story of a snake charmer who is so good at charming the snakes that he actually charms himself, falls asleep and the flute players wake him up just in time to regain control on the snakes.

We continue to keep our classroom beautiful and a great environment for learning with our daily responsibilities. With spring just around the corner, we would love to bring more plants into the classroom. We have recently planted a few "Paper White" bulbs and are taking care of them as part of our daily tasks. If you have any plants our bulbs/seeds that you would love to bring to the classroom, you can be sure they will be well appreciated and well taken care of.

Our School to Host the 2011 Pacific Northwest Waldorf Olympiad!

As part of their studies of ancient cultures, Grade 5 Waldorf students study the myths and culture of Ancient Greece. It has become a tradition for many Waldorf schools around the world to take this as an opportunity to deepen the students experience of this era by holding an Olympic pentathlon often with other Waldorf schools in their region. As the students from different schools come together they make new friends, celebrate the art of movement and enjoy the camaraderie of the event while practicing and participating in five traditional events: long jump, relay, javelin, discus and wrestling.

We are happy to announce that our school will be hosting this year's Pacific Northwest Olympiad on June 1-4. Watch for further announcements as our Olympiad committee prepares to welcome the Grade 5 classes from Calgary, Nelson, Kelowna, Duncan, Vancouver and Squamish as well as visiting dignitaries from the region.

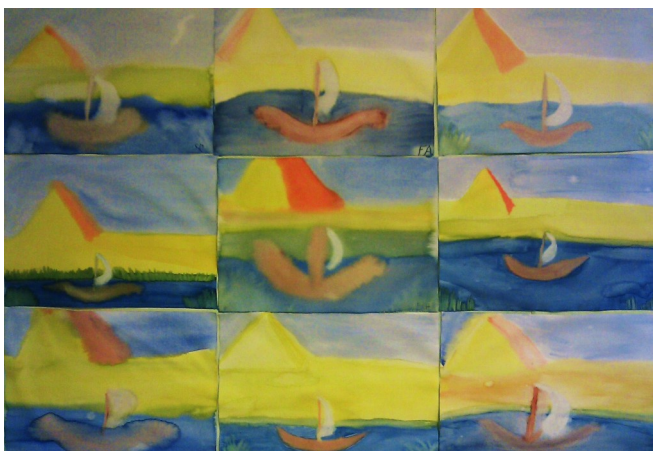
Class 4-5 Update

Ms Reynolds

Ms. Reynolds' class has recently emerged from a 6-week long block on ancient cultures. We have been hearing legends not quite lost in the mists of time from Ancient India, Persia, Mesopotamia and Egypt. We took a moment to imagine how many generations back in time we could represent with the students in the class and were astonished to learn we only managed to reach back 400 years, whereas many of the stories we were hearing have been passed down to us from over 8000 years.

Through the creation myths and legends of Ancient India and Persia, we touched on the geography and lifestyle of the region.

We then continued our westward journey with a stop in Ancient Mesopotamia where we heard the legend of Gilgamesh and Enkidu. This was a particularly exciting moment for me as we discussed some of the ancient ruins of that region and the mysteries people have puzzled out answers



to based on archaeological findings.

We have now paused our cultural exploration in ancient Egypt hearing the myth of Osiris and Isis and about the mysterious and impres-



sive pyramids and the remarkable climate and geography of the Nile Valley.

The class has enjoyed seeing and trying to write in ancient scripts this year. We began the year with the Norse Rune stones. Then just before Christmas, we had a visitor (Jacinta Mousset-Jones) introduce us to Sanskrit. We have tried our hand at imprinting a few ancient Sumerian letters and have also drawn a few Egyptian hieroglyphs.

We have now taken off our travelling cloak and settled down to review

and expand on our study of Fractions, practicing addition, subtraction and multiplication of fractions. We are learning to recognize and calculate equivalent fractions as well as expand and simplify them to facilitate our calcu-

lations. And as much fun as we have eating all different size fractions of cake and pizza and determining whether it better to have one HUNDRETH of a pie or (only) one sixth, we have also recognized that fractions can be used in many other areas of life. For example, we have looked at calculating fractions of larger numbers like $\frac{1}{3}$ of 36 or $\frac{1}{8}$ of 64 when "tiling" a floor. In the coming weeks, we will take the leap into the world of decimals – or as I like to picture it, place value "on the other side of the point".



Class 4/5 continues to enjoy playing the "Russian Dance Song". We are gradually increasing the tempo on it which proves to be a fun challenge. We have even tried it as a round with various students taking turns leading the second group.

Our new song is the beautiful "Ode to Joy" by Beethoven. This is a familiar piece to most of the students which has made learning it even easier.

We continue to play with partners and the students like that opportunity to perform for their classmates.

The 6/7/8 string class has been working hard at a couple of new songs. One is "The Rustic Song" which is a fiddle piece with two violin parts and we have also added a cello part. The counting is difficult but the class seems to really enjoy the song and are determined to master it.

The other new song is Mozart's "Ave Verum Corpus" which is originally a choral piece but we have an arrangement of it for a string quartet. It is full of sharps and flats and all kinds of tricky notes but the group is doing very well at learning it.

Stay tuned for a performance of these songs March 10th at our Spring Concert!

"Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, gaiety and life to everything. It is the essence of order and lends to all that is good and just and beautiful." ~ Plato

Message from the Faculty: School Sports Equipment

Due to much of our school sports equipment going missing and not being looked after as well as we would like, we have decided to limit the use of the equipment to games lessons so as preserve (and encourage a new level of respect for) what we have. Therefore we will be asking that children bring their own items to school with them, clearly labeled, for use during recess time. We would appreciate your support with this matter and hope that you will encourage the children to bring in their own equipment to share with their friends and community.

Many thanks, The Faculty

Building Our Future—Capital Campaign Planning

There was a strong turnout for the talk by Martin Novom on January 24th, with approximately 25 parents in attendance. Martin gave a broad overview of the work and planning that needs to take place in advance of a capital campaign (a more detailed summary of the talk will be available soon). The formation of a Planning Committee which will undertake the feasibility and planning stages is paramount. These stages will include feasibility surveys, creating a timeline, researching donor prospects, crafting a case statement and campaign materials, and creating a budget.

These two stages are completed well in advance of the "implementation stage" or launch of a campaign, and can be well underway before a final selection for a site is identified. We recognize that having a site identified is an integral part of launching the campaign but quite often much work needs to be done in advance of this announcement. In fact, it is possible that when a site is finalized we may need funds quickly to purchase, move or build - and waiting until then to start a "planning stage" would put us under a great deal of time pressure. This is why we are starting the work now, so we can hit the ground running when the time comes.

A meeting for parents interested in this Planning Committee will be held on **Wednesday March 2nd at 7:00 p.m.** Be part of this exciting project and find out how your skills, past experience, or drive and enthusiasm can contribute to our future. Contact Peggy or Paula for more information.

Grade 6, 7, 8 Update

Mr. Morgan

After our November Algebra block the class went on to study Meteorology. The children were asked to keep daily weather diaries and some of the topics we studied included the layers of the Earth's atmosphere, air pressure, the Beaufort scale, cloud types and extreme weather including tornados, lightning and why *hurricane, typhoon and cyclone* all mean the same thing.

Since Christmas we have been working on our class play, *Marco Polo*, which will be performed on Friday 4th March. It tells the story (which we covered in our earlier history block) of one of the first great European explorers who opened up overland routes to faraway lands. It was Marco's father and uncle who first opened up a trade route to what was then called Cathay and who established trading relations with the great Kublai Khan who ruled over the majority of Asia at that time.

Marco himself travelled with them on their next trip in 1274 at the age of 17 and soon became a trusted member of the Khan's court, some even say he was made a government official. On his return home to what was then the republic of Venice he was captured by the Genoese and whilst in jail he wrote down his adventures in a book which he called

'Travels'. It became a bestseller and paved the way for the establishment of the famed 'Silk Road' which changed European society for ever and

opened up trading interests which then fueled later expeditions and conquests. Our play is a lighthearted 'fantasy' and imagines a story that might have been.

We took a field trip to Vancouver last week to visit the Planetarium (one of our

upcoming grade 6/7 blocks is Astronomy), the Maritime Museum and then after a lovely meal at Aphrodite's Cafe we went to see the UBC Opera production of 'Cendrillon' at the Chan Centre. We enjoyed a back stage tour led by the director and had a chance to meet some of the singers as they prepared. We were blessed with front row seats and so enjoyed being able to look straight down into the orchestra pit as well as see the singers performing a few feet in front of us. It was a great treat to see such a lavish performance with eye-catching costumes, flamboyant sets and such wonderful young talent.

In other lessons we are studying classic short stories by Guy de Maupassant, Mary Shelley and Elizabeth Gasckell as well as con-



tinuing with consolidating algebra skills and reviewing fractions and percentages.

Here are some excerpts from the children's reviews of the Opera:

"The actors' costumes were very very exquisite and eye-catching and the wigs had a lot of colour. I was surprised by how well they could project their voices and that they could sing so high."

Andrew

"The evil stepmother's costume was very funny, she looked like a big pink cream puff! Cendrillon was so beautiful, she looked like she was glowing. But the most fabulous was the fairy godmother, it was like they took a star down from the sky and sprinkled it on her."

Kalea

"Nancy Hermiston gave us a speech about how they taught opera to the students and told us that they even travel to China to perform their operas. I thought the performance was very funny and dramatic, I would definitely go to another opera."

Ren

"The set was huge. It was so magical and worked perfectly for the opera. The auditorium was also huge and was built like a cello. It would carry sound so well that if you opened a candy wrapper in the

back row you could hear it all the way at the front."

Charlotte

"When the conductor came out and the opera was starting it was awesome. The conductor just came out and waved his hands so fast he started sweating - it looked like he was being attacked!"

Liam

"Back stage we got to meet some of the singers / actors / actresses and see all the props that would be on stage during the performance. After the tour of back stage we got to go on stage. The set was beautifully done. It was painted and gilded in the most extravagant ways."

Katie

"The opera was amazing, even though it was in French. The most amazing part was how even though the actors didn't know French they could remember and sing hundreds of words in French."

Carly

French Class Grades 1-4

by Mme Cook

Class 1 has shown a great deal of interest and enthusiasm when it comes to learning this new language. They have learned some important basic vocabulary through songs, poems and written work, now that they have their letters. They are eager to recall the songs and the new words they have learned in class. All their work is then re-created through their own artistic bookwork.

Class 2 have been recalling some of the important language they were introduced to last year and now have a solid understanding of those initial concepts, such as numbers, colours, days of the week., parts of the body. Lately we have been working on "Quel temps fait-il?" and earlier on in the year we had great fun learning all the names for Farmyard animals through songs, poems, written work and beautiful drawings. We are now beginning to familiarize ourselves with the members of our family with "Ma famille".

This year class 4 and 5 are ready and showing themselves very able to start using what they know to complete exercises in French. We have studied a play "Boucle D'or" and this allowed the class to learn new vocabulary, grammar and sentence structure. The class also completed a block on "Quelle heure est-il?" which they found a challenge that they enjoyed working through. Presently we are looking at posing questions using Qui, Quel(le), Qu'est-ce que, Ou. The class continues to practice their speech and pronunciation through song and poetry. It is an exciting step for the class to now be moving towards reading and writing in French with increased knowledge and understanding.

FOUNDATION COURSE IN ANTHROPOSOPHY AND THE ARTS

Starting on March 4th we will be offering a Foundation Course in the philosophy which lies at the heart of Waldorf Education (Anthroposophy). This course will give participants an opportunity to explore the ideas and deepen their understanding of the development of the human being (body, soul and spirit) through study of some of the works of Rudolf Steiner, the founder of Waldorf Education.

The course consists of 2 semesters.

Semester #1	Friday, March 4th - June 10 th (11 sessions – breaking for school holidays). 1 pm to 3 pm at the school \$350 (includes all study materials) Registration deadline Friday, February 18
Semester #2	Begins September 2011 – details to follow \$350 (includes all study materials)

Upon completion of both sessions, a Foundation Studies Certificate will be issued. For more detailed information on this course follow the link <http://www.sophiainstitute.us/OnlineCourses.htm>.

The weekly seminars will be focused on group discussion and collaborative study of specific texts along with personal and group artistic work. This course is the first step, the foundation work, and will be relevant to all those wishing to explore themes such as the essential nature of the human being, their own personal development and growth through conversation, on-going group work, artistic activities, and individual assignments which will allow for personal reflection. Together we will create a learning community through which we can deepen our understanding of how best to meet the needs of those children in our care and the world around us.

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Ignite a Life-long Love of Learning

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.



More ancient Sumerian tablets created by Ms Reynolds' class last month.

School Community Classifieds

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

Baby Gear Needed

If you have any unwanted baby items hiding in your basements, attics, crawl-spaces or garages then please get in touch! We are particularly looking for a crib, cradle, stroller, infant car seat and clothes or anything you think two baby novices like us may need....

Many thanks,
Aegir and Christine (Mr. Morgan and Ms. Cook)
604 894 6362
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aegirmorgan@gmail.com

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!

A reminder that there is absolutely **no parking in the drop off zone or in the fire lane** in front of the Fieldhouse. If you are getting out of your car you must park in a stall and walk your child to class.

Anastasia Chomlack would like to let everyone know that **it is not too late to order your school pictures** if you didn't have time to order yours before Christmas. If you need an order form just let

Peggy know. All the proceeds of the photos will go to the school! So far we have raised over \$2300! Thank you!