

*Ignite a Life-Long Love of Learning*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**PA Meeting**

Parent Assoc. meeting will be in Pemberton this month, at Amanda Sandahl's house.  
Dec. 7th: 7:00 p.m.

**Christmas Fair**

Crafts, cookies, market, bonfire, and caroling!  
Dec. 10th: 11:00-3:00

**Shepherd's Play**

Our talented faculty perform this traditional Christmas play for the children and parents.  
Dec. 16th: 11:00 am

**Christmas Tea Social**

Following the Shepherd's Play, all families welcome for tea and goodies...and good wishes over Christmas break.  
Dec. 16th: 12:00

**First day Back to School**

Wednesday, Jan. 4th:  
8:30 a.m.

## Election follow up

**Next steps**

The intense focus over the last couple of months on the election and the lobbying efforts from our school has now eased off...and paid off!

We feel that the majority of

new councilors are well informed about Whistler Waldorf, and will be willing to work with us as we continue our efforts towards finding a solution for a permanent site.

The Administration team will

be requesting a meeting with staff to discuss the motion that was put forward by the former council, to change our lease to a more open-ended timeline.

We will keep parents posted to any updates. LS

## Board of Directors—new members and new roles

The Board of Directors held the Whistler Waldorf School Society AGM on November 24, and welcomed some new members to the table. Laurie Grant is joining the board as a director, and

Shankar Raina is joining as the new treasurer.

Fiona Cull is beginning a new term as President, and Laura Street is moving into the new position of "past president".

## Christmas Fair—Dec. 10th

Kids in Whistler can mark their calendars for a day of craft making that will suit everyone on their Christmas list...that special teacher, grandma, or perhaps a little something for themselves.

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 – 3:00, the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Children's Christmas Craft Fair will be hosted by the Whistler Waldorf School at the school and the Field House in Spruce Grove Park.

In addition to the wreath making and candle making, there will be holiday centerpieces, wood working stations

for cars, bears, and stars, wooden gnomes, folded kite paper stars, and small ornament wreaths. Lunch items will include Organic Quiche or Turkey Pot Pie, and fruit pies donated by Aphrodite's Organic Café and Pie Shop, and

hot dogs, drinks and curly cinnamon apples donated by Nesters Market. Also, the Cookie Fairy, caroling performances, a bon fire, and a Christmas market area. See you there!

**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  
Peggy Vogler—Director of Dev.  
Michelle Kirkegaard—Principal  
Vicky Bunbury—Administrator



## What is a Shepherd's Play? - Dec. 16th, 11:00

Faculty and staff from Waldorf schools throughout the world traditionally perform this Christmas nativity play for their students and communities. Assigned parts are a closely guarded secret..but our sources suggest we are in for some great surprises!

The Shepherd's play comes from a group of three plays (including a Paradise Play and a Three Kings Play) that was collected in the 19th century in Oberufer, a small island in the Danube, where they had been preserved as an oral tradition by linguistic isolation for over three centuries.

One of the traditions in Oberufer was to perform these plays each year. In fall, when the harvest was in, the players were chosen regardless of religious affiliation or status, and received their parts from an esteemed farmer who would direct the plays for years, and then pass this honourable responsibility on to his son. The songs and words were passed on by word of mouth for generations.

In the middle of the 19th century, a professor from Vienna, Karl Julius Schröer, who was researching folklore and regional traditions, discovered the



Oberufer Plays. He was charmed and impressed by them and returned a few years later to write down as much as he could. Years later this professor be-

came the teacher and revered friend of Rudolf Steiner.

Towards the end of the 19th century Professor Schröer spoke to Steiner about these plays. His enthusiasm and concern about the possible loss of such precious folkways touched Steiner, who quickly realized their beauty and proceeded to bring order to the sketchy script and the music. In 1910 the first revived performance took place in Berlin, Germany. From then on, these plays have become part of the Christmas time tradition for many Waldorf schools all over the world. They were first translated by Cecil Harwood, from England, who tried to keep intact the medieval way of speaking—the simple beauty of expression.

We hope you will "grant your hearts to hear our play" and enjoy the wonderful mix of reverence and humour... "Ut hoy!"

Source : Eugene Waldorf school website

## Screen Free Week—Dec. 12 to 16

As we head into the final weeks of school before Winter break—a time to reconnect by the glow of the family hearth—we invite you to consider reducing (or perhaps omitting) the other glow in our children's daily lives: the screen.

Waldorf schools have always encouraged omitting the screen from our children's daily lives. One of the foundations of Waldorf education is the understanding that the child is naturally creative. A healthy imagination is one of the essential building blocks for allowing creativity to flourish: to have the ability to dream what could

be; to solve problems; to think outside the box. Screen images are so powerful for children that they take over the imagination; they paralyze the brain's ability to

***Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.***

*- Edith Sitwell, poet*

create pictures on its own. The faculty hope that you will join us in supporting *Screen Free Week, December 12-16*. This is

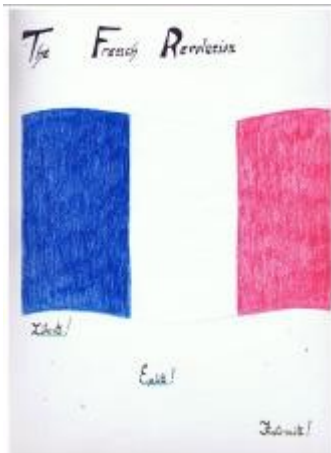
intended to be a 5 day detox of all screen time: video games, computers, and movies included! Of course it would be wonderful to extend this into the Holidays, but if nothing else, give it 5 days. A reminder email will be coming out with some great ideas to keep little hands and minds busy during Screen Free week.

Following are some links to articles about the research into affects of screen time on children, if anyone is interested in this additional information.

<http://nieer.org/psm/index.php?article=258> (Preschool focus)

## Grade 7/8/9—Mr. Morgan

Recently we have been on an historical and literary journey. Our block on 'Revolutions' spanned from the invention of the steam engine in the early 1700's to the fall of Napoleon in the early 1800's. During this relatively short period many far reaching social and political changes took place. We began by studying the effects of the industrial revolution on living standards and on the natural environment as well as its impact on modern day society. We then spent a week on the American Revolution, starting with the Boston Tea Party,

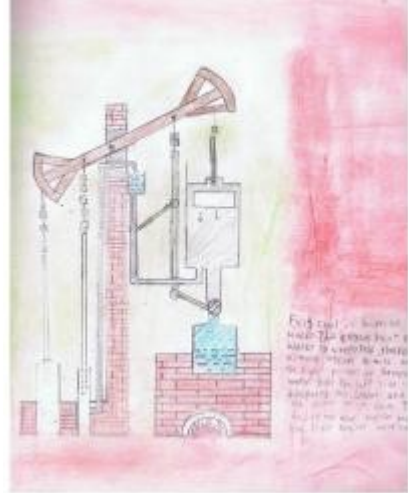


Drawing by Melissa Vogler

'Mad' King George, the oppressive British colonial rule and the alliance of the American revolutionaries with the French. We finished with an examination of the high ideals of the Declaration of Independence and despite the good intentions of the document, we had some good discussions on the irony of the fact that the immortal words "all men are created equal" were drafted by a plantation owner who himself owned slaves (Thomas Jefferson).

Moving on to a more intensive block on the French revolution we began by looking at the opulence and decadence of the court of Louis XVI and how this, along with the influence of the recent American revolution and the widespread poverty and famine that was sweeping across France made conditions for a revolution ripe. Again we looked at the original benevolent intentions of the revolution (Liberty! Equality! Fraternity!) and how after Louis' execution the country was free to try to realise these high ideals. However, with the rise of Robespierre, the Guillotine and the subsequent 'Reign of Terror' the students were given a picture of how easily these ideals can get eroded and how good intentions need to be

The Newcomen Steam Engine—by Nathan Schwarz



followed by good actions for these intentions to fully take root. We finished the block by studying the life of Napoleon and his rise to the position of "Emperor". Here there were many comments from the students along the lines of: "How is this different to having a king?" and "So, the French put all that energy into getting rid of their monarch and then end up with an Emperor?" Alongside these studies we have been reading Victor Hugo's epic novel Les Miserables which has acted as an illuminating backdrop to our history block. Next week, physics with Ms. Franklin.....

## Ms Reynolds—grade 5 / 6

In addition to continuing our study of Geometry in recent weeks, one might think that the Class 5-6 had discovered ancient documents relating the historical events of the as-yet unknown City-State of Alsos. You may have heard from the students about this City State and the three ruling archon who have been leading their citizens through a number of situations. For those of you who have not, I thought I would relate some of them here.

The first records they seem to

have found related that the Alsosian people traded regularly with the ancient City-State of Corinth and were one day asked to support Corinth in battle against a fleet of unknown ships seen approaching their coast. The governing archon of the time, Polemarch Hektor (Kalem), Eponymus archon Bion (Roshan) and the archon Basileus Dimitrios (Charlie) ruled that they would send a small capable troop of 250 men to support Corinth. Meanwhile they would continue bringing in their harvest and prepare their own City-State in case of attack. The archon

also set forth ambassadors to other neighbouring City-States seeking new trading partners should trade with Corinth be jeopardized in anyway.

As it turned out, the fleet of approaching ships was in fact a group of people fleeing their native land and seeking a new home. The Corinthians refused to accept the people into the land, however, Hektor, Bion and Dimitrios had made a discovery. They had learned that these people had ancient practical skills and knowledge that the Alsosian people could earn from. Fearing that an open invitation to these foreign folk would anger the

Corinthians, the three archon prudently arranged that the foreigners leave Corinth but secretly come to Alsos where they would be welcomed. Hektor, Bion and Dimitrios recognized that Corinth might well discover their plan and redoubled their efforts to find new trading partners.

Whether the archon had had a prophecy that warned them of this, is not known, but their fears were confirmed when the Corinthians discovered the Alsosians new guests. All trade was blocked and Corinth took all Alsosian merchants captive and confiscated their goods.

The archon now faced more challenges: not only did they need to decide what to do in regards to the captive citizens but other issues were arising with the immigrants. some immigrants were being basically enslaved to in order to pay for their keep. There were also conflicting religious ceremonies of the two cultures. Again the archon met to debate what to do. It was decided to send an ambassador to Corinth to negotiate the release of all

Alsosian traders. Meanwhile at home arrangements were made that all religious rites could be celebrated at the appropriate time but in different locations. Any citizens found enslaving immigrants would have to forfeit all their goods to the state.

At this time an election was held and three new archon were elected who taken on the governing of the City State. As I cannot include here a full historical tome, I will leave off here - however the students are continuing to try their hand at making considered decisions in matters of state.

In connection to our geometry block, the students have been creating beautifully embroidered geometric Christmas cards which will be for sale

at the Christmas Fair on Dec. 10th. This is a fundraiser that will pay for a portion of the cost for one of our recent field trips to the Ecotours Tree-Trek at the base of Blackcomb. The



class also went lugging as part of their games class and to Vancouver to see a Vancouver Symphony Orchestra performance.

## Grade 1 and 2 —Ms. Karklin

Ms. Karklin's class has been working hard this month. Our first math block has the students hearing about the quality of numbers and the adventures of Paddy Plus and Milly Minus. Our friend Paddy is a greedy little gnome who always ends up with more than he started, and Milly loves to give things away. We have also been having a great

time with new clapping games like Yankee Doodle, Peas Porridge Hot, and This and That - I've heard these games being shared with the other grades and I'm sure they have been brought home and shared with your families! Each day we've been practicing our songs and getting excited for the upcoming Holiday concert.

Many warm blessings to you all over the Holidays and a very Happy New Year!



## Pre-School—Ms. Karina

As we are approaching Christmas, the children are talking a lot about it, and they have been really excited about the snow. We went on a walk near the greenhouses to make snowmen and the children loved it. Every time we go outside the children are excited to clear the snow out of

the tree house, slides and swings as well as from the other, smaller tree house and the teeter totter. We pair up with a partner to do it and they do such an amazing job.

We have been using one more color in our paintings, and the children love to see that they can make

other colors by combining the basic ones.

This week we are looking forward to making our ornaments for Christmas...look for these treasures soon!

## Grade 3/4—M. Richer



The Grade 3 and 4 are completing their first Language Art Block of the year. They started by learning a few tongue twisters to practice clear speech and proper pronunciation. Once the tongue twisters were firmly learned by heart, the students used them to build their confidence at sounding out new words and then writing and reading them. For example, the students wrote the following verse in their own handwriting:

Of all the felt I ever felt,  
I never felt a piece of felt  
Which felt as fine as that felt felt,  
When first I felt that felt hat's felt.

They are now completing the writing of Betty Botter and her bitter butter... an-



other twister, which provides the students the opportunity to review their vowels and again increase their self-confidence in reading and writing.

During our weekly Language Arts period, the students have been creating a list of basic sight words and used them to create their own sentences. Some students have also started to create and write their own story based on morals inspired from stories heard in class.

We are have now reached the half-way mark of our year-end goal which is to cover the times table up to twelve. The students are now covering the six times table. We have also focused our attention on some number facts such as:  $3 \times 3 = 9$ ,  $4 \times 4 = 16$ ,  $5 \times 5 = 25$ ,  $6 \times 6 = 36$ ,  $7 \times 7 = 49$ ,  $8 \times 8 = 64$  and  $9 \times 9 = 81$  so that they can use them as point of reference to ease their learning of the times table.

For the last two weeks before the Christmas Break we will be studying Time Telling. The students will create a clock and through many different activities will learn to read a clock and deepen their understanding of time. For example, with the use of sand timers, students will start to know and feel how long 5 minutes is compared to half an hour. This time of the year also brings the opportunity to cre-



*Students are working on more complex symmetry.*

ate beautiful crafts and offer them as gifts. The class will be busy making presents - not only for their



friends and family but also for the birds...

Have a Happy Holiday!  
M. Richer

## Kindergarten—Ms Graham

"Snow! Snow ! Snow! Heigh ho , heigh ho, heigh ho!

Snow ! Snow! Snow! Heigh ho, heigh ho , heigh ho!

The children go out to play, out to build a snow man. One, two three.

Snow! Snow! Snow!, Heigh ho, heigh ho, heigh ho!"

The arrival of snow has brought lots of joy and happiness to the Kindergarten class. We have been building snow men, snow houses, gas stations and other structures in the snow. Ellie even made a snow turtle as she was just in Hawaii a few weeks before the snow came. Inside we have also been modeling with beeswax and play-dough.

The children love to create with their hands and they are very focused on their daily work. Blocks are another medium that the children enjoy using.

Many of the boys are getting very detailed in their building projects, from electrical lines, to golf courses they continue to be using their imagination to create wonderful structures. As the snow arrived, so did our gnomes.

The children have been very excited to sew different coloured gnomes to make a gnome family.

With the holidays just around the corner,

we are preparing for the season by decorating the classroom and we will soon bake some tasty treats.



## Tree Trek adventures...



Charlie, Roshan, and Kate at the Tree Trek walk



Ms. Reynold's class social, following the Tree Trek walk

"...the more slowly trees grow at first, the sounder they are at the core, and I think that the same is true of human beings. We do not wish to see children precocious, making great strides in their early years like sprouts, producing a soft and perishable timber, but better if they expand slowly at first, as if contending with difficulties, and so are solidified and perfected. Such trees continue to expand with nearly equal rapidity to extreme old age."

Henry David Thoreau

## Fundraising...Waldorf Style: 2011-12 Plan

Peggy Vogler

In order to maintain the high level of education and still maintain reasonable tuition rates, fundraising for independent schools is a necessary reality. While participation is not mandatory, each family is encouraged to participate in as many projects as they are able. The benefits of helping out are many: making new friends, being engaged in the community and showing our children the value of contributing to name just a few. Our school's fundraising philosophy endeavors to compliment the Waldorf philosophy; hosting events that are meaningful, follow the rhythms of the season, and adhere to a policy of non-consumerism and environmental stewardship. This year, the Parent Council has pledged to raise \$25,000 for the school, Here is a brief run-down of all the events we have planned for this year in order to make this goal!

### **The Harvest Soup Contest.**

Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> – **COMPLETED!**

**Leads: Class 3-4, Peggy V. & Diane R.**

To celebrate the end of Summer and the arrival of Autumn's bountiful harvest!

Whistler restaurants are invited to showcase their best harvest soup by entering the contest. The contest is held in the Upper Village coinciding with the Turkey Sale/Ski Swap and the last Farmers' Market of the year. For \$5 customers can sample all of the soups and have a bowl of their favourite!

*We raised \$3,000 dollars this year!*

**The Christmas Fair.** Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

**Leads: Class 5-6, Mollianne Reynolds, Peggy Vogler**

The Christmas Fair is an annual tradition at most Waldorf schools, including our own. It is a chance to invite the greater community to see the school and enjoy seasonal craft making with their children. Other highlights include a magic Cookie House, a market, a bonfire and a yummy lunch with fresh baked goods, music and storytelling. All crafts are in the Waldorf genre: natural, simple and beautiful! Help will be needed at the Fair itself and making the items before hand.

*In this event, we hope to raise \$2,000.*

**The Ice Break-Up Contest!** Feb/March

**Leads: Class 1-2, Sheila and Mark Beaven/ Stephen Vogler**

Our School has resurrected this historical tradition! Back in the 40's and 50's the community of Alta Lake (now called Whistler) would hold a contest to see who could best guess when the ice on Alta Lake would melt. A barrel was placed at the south end of the lake and the winner would be decided by guessing the time that the barrel would drift past Cypress Point (the former Youth Hostel). Guesses are sold at \$3 each or 2 for \$5 and the winner receives a cash prize.

*Fundraising Goal: \$2500*

**The May Soiree/ Wine Event. Date: TBA (Spring)**

**Leads: The Committee/Peggy Vogler/ Laurie Grant**

This is an adult evening and our biggest fundraiser of the year. For the past 3 years we have hosted a wine tasting evening in an exclusive high-end home, with gourmet food and a silent auction. Everything is generously donated helping us raise over \$13,000 for the school..

*Fundraising Goal: \$15,000*

**The May Fair.** Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>

**Leads: Class 7, 8, 9**

Similar to the Christmas Fair, the May Fair is a celebration of the arrival of Spring. The whole community is invited and children can make beautiful, natural handmade crafts as well as taking part in traditional may pole dancing. Other highlights include a magic wishing pond, a puppet play, storytelling and a BBQ.

*Fundraising Goal: \$2,000*

### **Other Fundraising Initiatives**

**School Photos** – Professional Photographer and Whistler Waldorf School mom, Anastasia Chomlack graciously shoots our school photos and donates 100% of the proceeds to the school! Her pictures are stunning; a nice alternative to the old traditional ones we have known over the years! – *Last year we raised over \$2,500*

**Pizza Lunch** – Every Thursday is pizza day for the grade school. Last year we raised over \$2000 thanks to the generosity of Creek-bread pizza! - *Last year we raised over \$2,000*

### **Annual Giving**

Annual Giving is practiced in Waldorf Schools worldwide as a way to generate additional funds to enhance and support the school's mission. Donations go to physical upgrades and equipment, and for capital expansion. In our school we measure the success of our annual giving campaign on the participation level of our families (including faculty and board) not on the dollar figure raised. Last year we raised \$8,354 with 66% participation.

*Our goal this year is 100% participation and we hope to raise \$10,000.*



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Ignite a Life-long Love of Learning

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[www.whistlerwaldorf.com](http://www.whistlerwaldorf.com)

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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.



## 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 first 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!

### **Winter clothes for Sale**

Boys Burton Jacket (Red)

Size XS and

Boys Burton Pants x 2 (Red and Black)

Size XS

Fit age 5-6 (or big 4 yr old). Good Condition. \$50 the lot.

### Burton Helmet

(White)

Youth Large (53-55cm)

Brand New \$40

We also have an assortment of kids Ski and Snowboard equipment. call: Brian or Abbie Finestone 604 938 6321





# December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 School Concert, 5:30-7 pm	2	3
4	5	6	7 Parent Association Meeting, 7:00 pm Pemberton	8	9	10 Christmas Fair, 11 am – 3 pm
					16 Last Day of School Shepherd's Play, 11 am ; 12:00 Tea Social	17
11	12	13	14	15		
					23 School Closed for Winter Vacation	24
18	19 School Closed for Winter Vacation	20 School Closed for Winter Vacation	21 School Closed for Winter Vacation	22 School Closed for Winter Vacation	23 School Closed for Winter Vacation	24
25	26 School Closed for Winter Vacation	27 School Closed for Winter Vacation	28 School Closed for Winter Vacation	29 School Closed for Winter Vacation	30 School Closed for Winter Vacation	31