



Newsletter

September 24, 2010 Edition

Ignite a Life-Long Love of Learning

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Michaelmas Celebration and Work Party

Sept. 24th at 11:00 am
at the School

Kim Payne, Simplicity Parenting Workshop

Sunday, Sept. 26
9 am to 1 pm
Cedar Valley Waldorf
School, Squamish
cedarvalleyschool.com

Eugene Schwartz

Lecture for Fathers Only
Tues, Sept. 28
7:00 pm @ the school
More info TBA soon!

Special Guest Evening with Eugene Schwartz

Thurs. Sept. 30
7:00 pm @ the Spruce
Grove Feildhouse

Harvest Soup Contest Fundraiser

Sunday, October 10
11 am to 3pm
Whistler Farmer's Market
Volunteers Needed

Welcome Back Everyone!

We are thrilled to be embarking on a new year at the Whistler Waldorf School. This year is not just any year, but our 10th anniversary (so be prepared to celebrate)!

A Brief History

In the summer of 2000 the Alta Lake School Society was formed by four families and their five young children after a year of homeschooling cooperatively with a Waldorf home-school curriculum.

By the end of our first official year, there were ten students and one full time teacher in a one room school house, on the shores of Alta Lake.

The following year a second class and second full time teacher was added bringing our student base to 24.

In 2002, the year the school moved to our current home in Spruce Grove Park, there were 49 students and 3 full time teachers.

In 2009, after receiving official status from the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America we changed our name to the Whistler Waldorf School.

This year, 2010, we are proud to say we have 85 students, 6 full time teachers, and 6 support teachers!

Parents, Faculty and Administration working together

It's been quite a journey and it wouldn't have been possible without the support and courage of everyone involved: Parents, Administration and

Faculty.

As we grow we recognize that information, communication and education is critical for everyone and this first newsletter of the year is deigned to introduce, or re-introduce, parents to communication channels and the roles and responsibilities of the various dedicated groups of people who share in making this school and it's students thrive.

Communication

This newsletter is also a way to communicate about upcoming events, share student's work and learn what is happening in the classroom. We hope you take the time to read, enjoy and stay connected!

PV

Harvest Soup Contest Fundraiser—October 10th

One of the most anticipated community events signifying the arrival of Fall in Whistler is the annual Harvest Soup Contest. This fundraising event has been hosted by our school every Thanksgiving Sunday at the last Farmer's Market of the year for the past 9 years!

Local restaurants are invited to showcase their best harvest soup by entering the

contest and for \$6 customers can sample all of the soups and have a bowl of their favourite!

Past participants include the Fairmont Chateau Whistler, the Dubh Linn Gate Irish Pub, The Mix by Ric's (the winner two year's running!), Ciao Thyme Bistro, The Four Seasons, Araxi and Gone Village Eatery to name just a few.

Volunteers and Participants Needed

In order for this event to be a success we need a number of volunteers and restaurants to participate. A volunteer schedule will be posted soon and if you have any connections to a restaurant that would be interested in participating please come get an information package from Peggy at the school.

How Our School is Governed—Three-Fold Governance

The Whistler Waldorf School, like many Waldorf schools around the world, is governed in a three-fold manner. Meaning there are three distinct realms within the school that synonymously yet harmoniously work together, almost like a living system. Each realm has it's own area of responsibility and is given autonomy within their area of expertise. Each realm also has it's own "Servant Leader", a person who informs, serves, and represents each realm.

The three realms are:

1. The Board of Directors
2. The Faculty of Teachers and
3. The Parent Council and Par-

ent Association

The Board of Directors

The legal and financial responsibilities for the School rest with the Board of Directors. It is the Board's responsibility to make possible, physically and financially, the educational initiatives undertaken by the faculty.

The Servant Leader of the Board is the Administrator.

The Faculty of Teachers

The Faculty of Teachers is responsible for delivering the Waldorf curriculum to the students. The faculty foster the spiritual well being of the school.

The Servant Leader of the Fac-

ulty of Teachers is the Principal.

The Parent Council and Parent Association

The purpose of the Parent Council and Parent Association, is to foster a creative energy and environment, which supports all members of the school community throughout the classes and activities of the school, allowing the life of the school to be warm and inviting to all of it's members.

The Servant Leader of the Parent Council is the Development Coordinator.

To learn more about the roles and responsibilities of these three realms, please refer to the Parent Handbook.

Parent Association meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month at 7:30 at the school

The Administrative Management Team

The Administrative Management Team works together to support the teachers, board of directors, parents and the smooth functioning of the daily operations of the school.

The team consists of the Principal, representing the Faculty of Teachers; the Administrator, representing the Board of Directors and the Development Coordinator, representing the Parents.

The Administrator is Vicky Bunbury. She is accountable to the Board and is responsible for ensuring our school is run in a legally and fiscally responsible way.

The Principal is Michelle Kirkegaard. She is responsible for the health and safety of students and teachers and holds a picture of the whole school, supporting faculty, staff and parents. She is the

spokesperson and rhythm keeper of the school.

The Development Coordinator is Peggy Vogler. She is responsible for the coordination of parent volunteer work, fundraising, facility maintenance and enhancement, community relations and outreach, newsletter creation and distribution, and the Tuition Adjustment program.

Who do I speak with when....?

Parents are to feel supported in their choice in education and everyone is encouraged to seek clarity when questions or concerns arise.

When you have questions about your child, the curriculum, or anything pertaining to the classroom you are encouraged to

speak directly to your child's teacher. If for some reason you are not satisfied with the information you have received, please then contact the Principal, Michelle Kirkegaard.

If you have questions regarding fees, registration, policy, or attendance, please contact the Administrator, Vicky Bun-

Questions about fundraising, special events, volunteerism, communication, or any Parent Council related topics should be directed to Peggy Vogler.



Mr. Richer helps with the apple harvest at the farm in Birken

Your Parent Council and Parent Association



Ram helps with the carrot harvest

All parents who have children enrolled in the school are automatically members of the Whistler Waldorf School Parent Association (formerly known as the Parent Support Group).

Monthly meetings are held on the last Thursday evening of the month and are a great forum for learning

more about Waldorf education, what is happening in the life of the school and in the classroom, and to meet and connect with other parents.

The elected body that serves the Parent Association is referred to as the Parent Council.

The Parent Council is

charged with many responsibilities in the social, economic and practical realms of the school.

To ensure we meet these important mandates, the Parent Council is in the process of forming committees and working groups to help bring more parents in to share the work. (See article below.)

Thank you to these parents who have stepped forward to serve on the Parent Council!

Diane Riley—Chair
 Sheila Sherkat—Co-Chair
 Lee-Anne van Dongen—Treasurer
 Jennifer Raffler—Secretary
 Mollianne Reynolds—Parent Education and Faculty Rep

Amanda Sandahl—Class Parent Rep
 Karen Hunt—Director
 Yvonne D’arcy—Director
 Peggy Vogler—Development Coordinator (non-voting)

Are you interested in being involved with the Parent Council?

As the saying goes: “many hands make light work” and donating time to your child’s school is one important way you can teach them of joys and rewards of community service. There are big jobs and small jobs and most can be accommodated by a minimum of time commitment.

The Parent Council is in the process of creating five different committees that will work together to serve the school in various areas. If one of these areas is of interest to you, let a Parent Council Rep know!

The committees will be:

1. Class Parent Committee (already est.)
2. Fundraising Committee
3. Maintenance and Beautification Comm.
4. Social Committee
5. Parent Education Committee

Your 'Class Parent' Representatives

Each classroom has a Class Parent who has volunteered to assist the Class Teacher with practical needs within the classroom.

As well as serving the Class Teacher, this group of parents also forms the Class Parent Committee, working together to ensure teachers have the practical support they need so they can continue to focus on our children.

The Class Parent also helps the

teacher organize class social events from time to time, helping to foster positive social connections within the class' parent body.

The Class Parent is not responsible for physically doing all of the work, but is there to help find assistance when needed, so be prepared to receive a call one day, whether it be to help raise a shelf or sew a costume for the class play!

2010-11 Class Parents

Mon/Wed Pre-school

TBA

Tue/Thu Pre-school

TBA

Kindergarten

Joanne Graham

Grade 1

TBA

Grade 2

Anastasia Chomlack

Grade 4-5

Amanda Sandahl

Grade 6-7-8

Katherine Fawcett

Your Board of Directors

As mentioned earlier, the Board of Directors is the legal entity that operates the school. The Whistler Waldorf School Society is a registered non-profit society with charitable status. It is responsible, physically and financially, for making the school possible.

The board is currently represented by parents, faculty, and members of the community at large.

Of immediate importance to the board right now is finding a permanent home for our school. You will definitely hear more news on their progress throughout the year.

2010-11 Board Members

Laura Street, President

Fiona Cull, Treasurer

Teresa Bouchard, Secretary

Michelle Kirkegaard, Faculty Chair

Christine Cook, Faculty Rep

Diane Riley, Parent Council Chair

Paula Jeffers, Director

Carol Tait, Director

Peggy Vogler, Development Coordinator

Vicky Bunbury, Administrator (non voting)

Reminders from the Teachers

A few quick tips to help your child have the best possible day at school.

1. Make sure your child eats a good breakfast. Oatmeal or hot cereal is always a good option.

2. Please arrive at school no later than 8:25 am. This will allow your child to enter school calmly rather than running from the parking lot.

3. If your child is late, please knock on the door quietly and wait for the teacher to invite them in. This allows the teachers to complete the activity or song they are doing and to properly

greet your child for the day.

4. Please pack a healthy, wholesome lunch and snacks. Children need energy to learn and whole foods help to fuel active bodies. Please pack lunches in reusable containers whenever possible, avoiding prepackaged processed foods. To cut down on garbage, unwanted smells and unwanted critters in the school, the children will be packing out everything they pack in garbage wise.

5. Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing for outdoor play. The children are outside a minimum of twice a day and they

should be prepared for the weather. Raincoats, gumboots, snowsuits and snow boots in winter. Layers are a good idea when afternoons in the fall warm up from chilly mornings. If a child is not dressed appropriately they will not be allowed to participate in outdoor activities.

6. A reminder from the RMOW: There is no parking in the drop-off zone or fire lane in front of the Field House and school. If you are going to walk your child to class please park in a designated spot.

Our Fundraising Plans for 2010-11

Fundraising is a reality if we want to maintain a high level of education and still maintain reasonable tuition rates, but , within the school community there is a recognition that there is a deeper social mission for why we undertake these activities.

It has been a long serving goal of the school that the fundraising events we host fit within the values of Waldorf education. For instance, most of our fundraisers are meaningful ways to celebrate the natural rhythms of the earth. Our events have become seasonal traditions that impart a feeling of reverence and community spirit.

Here is a brief run-down of all the events we have planned for this year in chronological order:

The Harvest Soup Contest

As a way to celebrate the arrival of autumn and the season's bountiful harvest, we invite local restaurants to showcase their best harvest soup at the last Farmer's Market of the season and the Thanksgiving long weekend. For \$6 customers can sample all of the amazing soups and have a bowl of their favourite with all proceeds going to our school.

The Christmas Fair

A seasonal favorite for children and parents alike. We invite the greater community into our school to partake in seasonal craft making, food, music and story. This lovely event is not a huge fundraiser, but is a tradition that brings good old fashioned fun to the holiday season.

The Alta Lake Ice Break-Up Raffle

The Whistler Waldorf School revived this traditional fundraiser that originates from the by-gone era of Alta Lake, the early name of the community now known as Whistler. In the old days, as a fundraiser for the community, town members would place a 50 gallon barrel at the south end of Alta Lake and sell tickets to see who could guess when Alta Lake would melt in the spring, signifying the end of winter. When the barrel floats past Cypress Point (the former home of the Cypress Lodge and the Whistler Youth Hostel) the time is noted and the closest guess is the winner of the grand prize.

The May Fair

Similar to the Christmas Fair, we also celebrate the arrival of spring by inviting the community to join us in season craft making, food, story and song. Traditional May pole dancing is a highlight of the day, as well as a visit to the wishing pond fairy to make a wish for friends and family.

The Big Gala

This adult only evening is an invitation to our school community and the greater community of Whistler to raise the roof in support of our school and the efforts to bring a choice in education in Whistler and Pemberton. Silent auction donations are procured and a huge celebration of our organization ensues.

Annual Giving

The school consciously operates on a balanced budget

based on annual tuition fees and Ministry of Education funding. However, there are many capital improvements and special projects that are needed to make our school a thriving, physically appealing workplace and organization. We humbly ask each family to make a donation of any amount, as a true gift to the school, to help us fund these projects that we all benefit from.

Annual Giving is also used as a measurement tool to indicate the level of support we have within the parent body. We ask families to make a donation that they feel they can afford, whether it be \$5 or \$5,000. We measure the participation rate, not the amount raised. (Although the amount raised determines what capital projects we can offer.)

Participation Expectations

While participation is not mandatory, each family is encouraged to help out in as many fundraising projects as they can. The benefits of helping out are many (beside the obvious benefit of raising funds); meeting new people, being involved in the community and sharing with our children the value of being in-service to others.

Parents are highly encouraged to share additional fundraising ideas, but please recognize that, as mentioned earlier, all events should fit into the values of Waldorf education. We do our best not to sell "stuff" that has a negative impact on the planet or promotes unnecessary consumerism.

My favorite fundraiser is the Christmas Fair. It warms my heart to see the kids so excited deciding what gifts they will make for their friends and family each year.

Parent, WWS



Class 1-2 visits the McDonald farm in Birken



Guest Speaker

Eugene Schwartz

Presents

**THE COMPLEXITY OF THE
NINE TO FIFTEEN YEAR OLD**

*Practical Advice on
What to Expect And What Works*

Thursday, September 30

7:00 pm

**Spruce Grove Fieldhouse
Spruce Grove Park**



A graduate of Columbia University, Eugene Schwartz has worked with all stages of life. In addition to his thirty years of experience as a class teacher, high school teacher, and educator of Waldorf teachers, Eugene now works worldwide as an educational consultant and lecturer.

Eugene was awarded a prestigious Teaching Fellowship at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in Princeton, NJ as well as lecturing on innovative ideas in education at Harvard, Columbia, University of Tennessee Medical Center, Roehampton University in London, and the Aspen Institute.

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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.



Last year in Handwork class, the class 5/6/7 made a beautiful farm scene quilt and raffled it off raising over \$300 for Variety—The Children's Charity.

School Community Classifieds

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

Wanted: 3/4 Violin. Please contact Tammy at peavoyt@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!

Piano Lessons available for both children and adults. After school in The grade 1 classroom. Contact

Katherine Fawcett at bob-kath@telus.net

Library Helpers Needed! If you have a spare hour here and there, there is some easy work in the library that we could use. No experience necessary. We just need help with sorting and labelling our growing collection! See Peggy, Ms. Reynolds or Ms. Cook for more information.

