

## Ignite a Life-Long Love of Learning

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### Michaelmas Celebration and Work Party

Sept. 30th at 11:00 am  
at the School

### Kim Payne, The Soul of Discipline

Oct. 1 presentation  
7:00—9:00 p.m.  
SLCC

Oct. 2 workshop  
9:00—1:00

Spruce Grove Field  
House

### Early Childhood Parent Education series Every Friday in October

**1:00—2:30**

October 7th: "That same bedtime story...again? Why routine and rhythm are essential for this age group."

### Harvest Soup Contest Fundraiser

Sunday, October 9  
11 am to 3pm  
Whistler Farmer's Market  
Volunteers Needed

## Welcome Back— To Our 11th Year

### A new year with record numbers

We are pleased to be able to share our record enrolment of 100 this September, but also saddened to have turned away the many families currently on our waitlists...our 10% average growth per year means we are now at capacity in the space currently available to us, a situation the Board is actively working on resolving.

As we grow we recognize that information, communication and education is critical for everyone and this first newsletter of the year is designed 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 its 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! LS

## Kim John Payne—this weekend! Oct. 1 & 2

Come out and support the efforts of your Parent Education Committee. Parents have the opportunity to hear from a highly sought after speaker and educator on parenting and discipline styles. In his presentation and workshop he will explore

discipline styles from the past and present from the authoritarian "blind obedience" to the "good job" culture. He will outline three cumulative discipline phases: training creative compliance in the young child, building emotional skills for the elemen-

tary age, and managing critical choices for the teenager. Tickets are \$10 for the evening presentation and \$45 for the 4-hour workshop. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.whistlerwaldorf.com](http://www.whistlerwaldorf.com) or by contacting Peggy.

## Welcome from the Principal

Dear Parents,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our dedicated faculty working with our students this year. For those of you new to the school it is great to remind everyone that each teacher has the opportunity to interact with your child, whether on the playground during supervision or in a specialty class. We are given the task of being stewards for the children, removing "hindrances" and embracing their "gifts" as we support them on their educational journey. As our enrolment increases faculty

support is also important. This year we are joined by Miss Ali Franklin for our middle school math and science classes. Ali will also teach in the younger grades with classroom support and specialty classes. In-depth biographies for all our faculty will be posted on our website next week. Please join me in welcoming:

Karina Pena-Preschool lead teacher, Andree Montigny-preschool assistant

Tracy Graham- Kindergarten lead teacher, Orsa Horvath - kindergarten assistant

Riva Karklin- Class 1-2 teacher, Alison Hahn, special needs assistant

Molli Reynolds- Class 4-5 teacher

Pierre Maxime- Richer- Class 3-4 teacher

Aegir Morgan- Class 7-9 teacher

Katherine Fawcett- Music/Violin

Sylvie Pare- French teacher

Ali Franklin-Support teacher

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [michelle@whistlerwaldorf.com](mailto:michelle@whistlerwaldorf.com)

Sincerely, Michelle Kirkegaard

## 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 its own area of responsibility and is given autonomy within their area of expertise. Each realm also has its 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 Parent 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 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 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 its members.

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

The Board meets monthly:

Sept 29; Oct 27;  
Nov 24; Dec 15

The Parent Council meets monthly:

Sept 9; Oct 7;  
Nov 4; Dec 2

## The Administrative Management Team

The Administrative Management Team consists of the Principal, representing the Faculty of Teachers; the Administrator, representing the Board of Directors; the Director of Communications and the Director of Development, representing the Parent Association.

### **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 for the school. **The Director of Development is Peggy Vogler.** She is responsible for the coordination of parent volunteer work,

fundraising, building maintenance and enhancement, community relations and outreach, and the Tuition Adjustment program. **The Director of Communications is Laura Street.** Through strategic communication planning, media writing, newsletter production and other activities, she works to foster a greater understanding of WWS within the school and Whistler community.

## 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 Bunbury.

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



New grade one's are welcomed at the Rose Ceremony in September

Parent Association meetings until Christmas break:  
 Wed Oct 12—2 pm (at school)  
 Wed Nov 16—7pm (at school—AGM)  
 Wed Dec 7—7pm (Pemberton)  
 All Welcome!

## Your Parent Council and Parent Association

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 will be held on Wednesdays, and will be rotated to offer different times and locations to create opportunities for

attendance by all families. These meetings 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.

Many volunteer opportunities exist to get involved, and share your talents.

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

### **2011/2012 Parent Council**

Lee-Anne van Dongen —Chair

Yvonne D'arcy—Co-Chair

Jennifer Raffler—Secretary

Tracy Graham—Parent Education and Faculty Rep

Amanda Sandahl—Class Parent Rep

Peggy Vogler—Director Development

## 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 has created 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 Parent Council committees are:

1. Class Parent Committee
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!

### **2011-12 Class Parents**

Pre-school

Ghlee MacLeod

Kindergarten

Laurie Grant

Grade 1-2

Paula Jeffers

Grade3-4

Anastasia Chomlack

Grade 5-6

Amanda Sandahl

Grade 7-8-9

Shelagh Weightman

## Your Board of Directors

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

Of immediate importance to the board right now is educating incoming council members, finding a permanent home for our school, and finalizing the planning for a capital campaign.

### **2011-2012 Board Members**

Laura Street, President

Fiona Cull, Treasurer

Michelle Kirkegaard, Faculty Chair

Aegir Morgan, Faculty Rep

Lee- anne van Dongen, Parent Council Chair

Paula Jeffers, Director

Carol Tait, Director

Peggy Vogler, Director Development

Vicky Bunbury, Administrator (non voting)

## Michaelmas Festival Friday, September 30 at 11:00

We celebrate Michaelmas by getting together to share stories and song and then to help put the school "to bed" for the winter. The students make a big pot of hot soup from the garden vegetables and the Kindergarten students proudly bake "dragon bread", a huge loaf of bread in the shape of a dragon, to serve with the soup.

11:00 Procession to the front field of all students (including welcomed pre-schoolers in attendance)

Welcome to Parents and opening remarks from Faculty.

Class Presentations

11:30 Break into work parties (each class has a specific area to take care of with the help of their teachers and parents)

12:00 Soup and Dragon Bread is served

12:30 Clean up and the weekend begins!

Michaelmas is celebrated in Autumn, a time when nature's warm, bright colours announce themselves and when daylight becomes shorter and also dimmer. During this time, many cultures celebrate the Saints of Autumn in order to light our way in the darkness of winter.

Michaelmas is the festival of the

Archangel Michael who is associated with courage and strength of will. In the many legends from around the world, Michael is often portrayed as a knight who vanquishes a dragon, a victory which represents goodness overcoming the evil in the world. This story provides young children with a simple, imaginative picture which imparts the important message that goodness prevails and is given without any adult interpretation.

Look forward to seeing you there! (Bring gardening tools and gloves if you have them!)

## Grade 7/8/9—Mr. Morgan

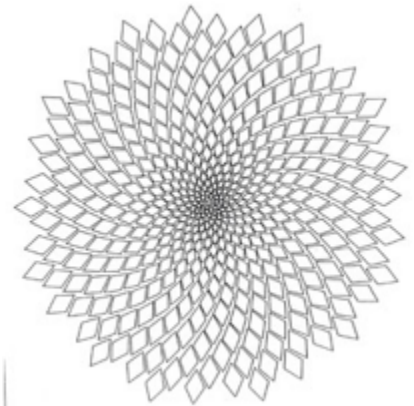
We've started the year with a geography block: *From Ice Ages to Global Warming*. We began the block by engaging in the same detective work that the early glaciologists of the mid 19th century. This was to attempt to explain the presence of 'erratic boulders', over-sized boulders, which were often found in random places such as farmers' fields or on beaches many miles away from mountains or boulder fields. The theories of the 19th century varied enormously. Many people thought they were left over from Noah's flood or a similar cataclysmic flood event, others thought they were rocks which had fallen from space. Some thought they had been carried there by icebergs which had melted long ago but finally a Swiss scientist, Louis Agassiz, conclusively put forward the theory of ice ages and that the rocks had been carried there by

enormous ice sheets which had long ago receded. This week we went on to looking at life in the last ice age and have been studying the Neanderthal and Cro-Magnon people who lived during this era of glaciation. Again, we looked at how it was more painstaking detective work by archeologists which brought us all the information we now know but importantly however, we also discussed how much we still *don't know* about this era and how many gaps in our understanding of the distant past still need to be filled in. For example, why did the Neanderthal people die out 30,000 years ago and why did Cro-Magnon artists choose to paint their murals in caves that were extremely difficult to get to?

Now we move on to global warming and the challenges we face in a world which is very

different to that of the ancients. The students are doing independent projects on countries which are likely to be severely affected by climate change and will be presenting their work to the rest of the class next week. We recently undertook a sponsored hike to upper Joffre Lake to raise money for the famine in the Horn of Africa which many believe has been partly caused by climate change. Ironically we hiked in steady west coast rain and slept in soggy sleeping bags at the foot of a very cold looking glacier but on our return had raised \$1000 dollars for our cause!

The Canadian government matched our donation, so \$2000 went to the Canadian Red Cross. Well done to the students of Grade 7/8/9 and many thanks to those of you who kindly donated!



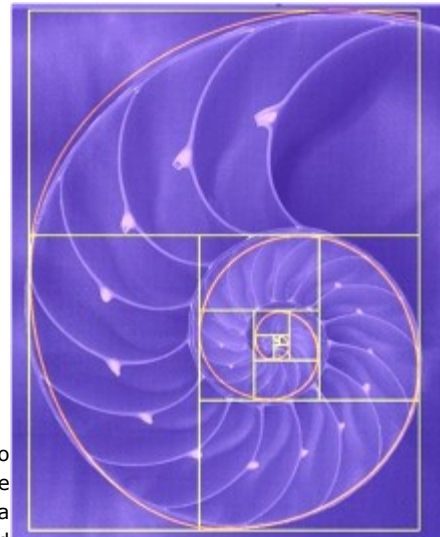
## Grade 5/6—Ms. Reynolds

There is a quote attributed to Plato that states, "God forever geometrizes." I would prefer to be fluent in ancient Greek before assuming to know what he truly intended with this statement; however, what I do take from it is the concept that there are mathematical patterns all around us in nature. This can be seen in the mathematically advanced design of the nautilus shell to the common garden sunflower. The geometry of flowers is just what the Grade 5-6 class are about to explore in their current Botany and Geometry Main Lesson block. We have been discussing flowering plants since we returned to school. We looked at the many different types of fruits and

seeds and roots and discovered that many of the commonly used terms actually have a botanical definition which differs to our common usage. It can be all very confusing, and we have been trying to sort these terms all out in our studies. (If the students have tried to trick you with questions like "When is a berry not a berry?", now you know why!

The class is now going on to look at the blossoms themselves. In studying the different flowers, we will begin to explore concepts of basic geometry on a journey through a number of different families. In a couple of weeks, I encourage

you to ask one of the students to describe which flowers love the number 4, which flowers have a strong affinity for the triangle and the number 6, or which family knows its 5 times table right down to its very 'core'!! These many botanical wonders will serve as our introduction to the world of Geometry which we will continue to study this year.



## Grade 3/4—M. Richer



The Gr.3&4 are presently learning about the Farm. As they listen every morning to the daily life of a little boy living on a farm, they have learned how the farmer makes the best use of everything and how plants and animals give everything to his family that they need to live. In return, the family gives the plants and animals love and care. As an example, in our morning stories we have heard how the farmer churns the cow's milk to make butter. The students were then amazed to see that they were also able to turn cream into butter with a simple Mason jar and some will! Sorry Parents if you now have to by cream instead of butter! They also created a homemade fiddle with empty cans that were first used by the farmer to preserve all the tasty berries harvested on a family trip in the meadows. On Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will venture on our first field trip to a farm and learn hands on about the life on a farm. In the following weeks we will learn about seven different grains – rice, barley, millet, rye, oats, corn and wheat. Among all of the foods of the earth - from fruits, meat, roots, nuts, milk and cheeses – most civilizations on earth came into being through cultivating the soil with the most common staple; grains.

Through the study of those grains we will also learn about world geography. As we write about farming in our Main Lesson book we keep reinforcing the different letter combinations like -th, -ing, -ch and recognizing basic sight words. Everything is now done in cursive writing; the focus is on keeping our lines as straight as possible and forming beautiful letters. During our morning circle we have been working on

rhythm and on group synchronicity with beanbags and balls exercises. We have also learned new songs and movements with an emphasis on crossing the middle line, which requires more balance and concentration.

In music, with Ms. Fawcett, the class has been starting to work on rounds such "Make New Friends". They have been also using their voices to accentuate the emotion within songs such as "Scotland is Burning" – a sense of

emergency, and "I Walk in Beauty" which is about the beauty of and sense of reverence for the forest. Our opening song for the morning circle– "Shalom Chaverim" is sung in Hebrew and is about welcoming our friends and promoting peace around us.

We have completed our first construction project – Sand Square. As you can see in the picture, everyone was really proud to have accomplish this big task and happy to be part of the making of a new addition to our school.

In the other picture you can see students filling one of their weekly duties; composting. The students are responsible for collecting the compost of every classroom daily. After only one week, the students were able to realize that by composting and recycling there is basically no garbage remaining to be taken away from the school. Our class has been using the same garbage bag for the last two weeks!



## Grade 1 and 2

Fairy Tales and Legends are the theme of Ms. Karklin's class this fall. We're using these stories to explore different form drawings and to discover letters. We have also been going for many nature walks while the sun is still shining. We've found many treasures on our walks that have been specially placed on the nature table for everyone to enjoy. Coming up in October, we will be taking our first field trip of the year to North Arm Farm where we will spend the day at the farm to watch harvest time in action. Our class is full of singers and we've been practicing our autumn songs like "Yellow the Bracken" and "Come Little Leaves", as well as our classic Michaelmas songs "A Knight and a Lady" and "Michael". We've even started learning some new songs that we can sing AND play the flute to! We look forward to seeing you all at the Michaelmas festival on the 30th.



Ms. Karklin welcomes her grade one class

## Kindergarten

The Kindergarten is finding its rhythm as we enter our second week. The children have been busy discovering slugs and other creatures on our morning walk and they are busy catching grasshoppers in the warm afternoon sun.

During the day we have been singing songs about the orchard and we just started a Michaelmas story about a princess and a dragon. We have made apple muffins and we are looking forward to making crab apple jelly in a few days.



Washing up in the kindergarten!

## Preschool

We have been blessed with nice weather since the beginning of the year which allowed us to spend some time outside and the children really appreciate it. Now we are starting to settle into our regular routine. The children were thrilled to start baking on Monday and Thursday and to be able to bring the bread home to their families - they were even happy to help us wash the dishes afterwards. We introduced bees wax on Monday and Tuesday to the same enthusiastic response. We also started learning some songs (*My Friend the Squirrel* and *Whiskey*

*Frisky*) and telling *The Autumn Story*. The children really enjoy dancing as we sing the songs. We did some painting as well; the children can't wait to do it again.

We will be doing those songs and the story for a few more weeks, and will include some themes about pumpkins as well, until we move on to our winter songs and stories.

Parents, please note that the sign in sheets will be kept outside the preschool to the left of the door, either on the shelf or pinned to the wall.



## Whistler Waldorf Adult Choir

Calling all singers: Friday Morning Coffee Choir begins next week (Sept 30, yup, it's a Friday) at 8:40 in the preschool room. Experienced and in-the-shower singers welcome; both men and women.

There's nothing like singing with a group -- come join us! Connect with other Waldorf parents in a really fun way, and start your day with a song.

Hope to see you there! (No need to sign up, just show up!)



M. Richer's grade 3 and 4 class harvesting carrots last week at the farm

## Early Years Parent Education Series—Fridays in October

Parents will have the opportunity to workshop with Tracy Graham every Friday in October to discuss key areas of child development for the preschool and kindergarten age children.

Tracy is the Kindergarten lead teacher and has worked at Whistler Waldorf since 2003. She has over 18 years experience working with young children through ski schools, preschools, and daycares in Nelson and Whistler. Her education includes ECE certification from Capilano College, a Bachelor's of Edu-

cation from UBC, and the Waldorf Teacher Training - Early Childhood Program.

The workshop series begins on October 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 2:30. Space is limited to 10 participants, so please see Tracy or Peggy to register.

Child care will be available. Please register for this in advance.

### Early Years Series

**October 7<sup>th</sup>:** "That same bedtime story....*again*? Why routine and rhythm are essential at this age".

**October 14<sup>th</sup>:** "To TV or not to TV...that is the question. Making choices about media influences for the young child."

**October 21<sup>st</sup>:** "The magic healing of sleep. Why young children need so much."

**October 28<sup>th</sup>:** "What are they *learning* by just playing? Child development milestones and the importance of Play."

## Harvest Soup Contest Fundraiser October 9th

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 10 years!

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

\$5 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 is now posted 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.



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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!

**Piano Lessons** available for both children and adults. After school in The grade 1 classroom. Contact Katherine Fawcett at [bob-kath@telus.net](mailto:bob-kath@telus.net)





# October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 The Soul of Discipline Presentation with Kim John Payne, 7 pm, SILC
2 The Soul of Discipline Workshop with Kim John Payne, 9-1 pm	3	4	5	6	7 Class 3-4 Parent Meeting, 12:30 pm Early Childhood Parenting Series 1:00 pm	8
9 Harvest Soup Fundraiser 11-3 Farmer's Market	10 Thanksgiving Day School Closed	11	12 Parent Association Meeting, 2:00 pm at the school	13	14 Early Childhood Parenting Series 1:00 pm	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Early Childhood Parenting Series 1:00 pm	22
23	24	25	26 Open House Tour, 9 am	27	28 Early Childhood Parenting Series 1:00	29
30	31 Pre-School and Kindergarten Pumpkin Patch, in school hours					