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Oakland Steiner School News

September 12, 2011

Wish you could go too?

What exciting things our children are doing already at school. Caution: When you read this, you will suddenly long to go to school with them and sit in the back of the room so that you can participate too!

We love to hear about the amazing things our children are doing in the classrooms, but need to first be told about these things from parents and faculty. If you have something to share, please send your tidbit of information to Laura Uhlianuk (Parent Council) at leeuhlianuk@aol.com.

The 1st Grade, with Kim Greidanus

The prince and princess have taken them on a journey to discover the straight line... horizontal, vertical and diagonal as well as the curved line. With these lines, they can make the whole world. What possibilities! They had German, French, Handwork and Gym. They have all taken turns knitting, and many are eager to practice at home.

The 2nd Grade, with Marko Smith

They are beginning a language arts block that includes animal fables, Saint stories and heroic legends, all of which serve as the backdrop to developing reading and writing skills! The second graders are also maintaining daily math practice, music, movement and art.

The 3rd and 4th Grades, with Elizabeth Kata

Grade 3/4 took two short trips last week; one, to a long-standing family farm here in Rochester, Fogler's Orchard. We saw the surrounding farm and orchard and heard how they once bartered with other farmers but now exchange money for good local produce. That farm has been in the family since the 1920's. We then went to the Oakland County Farmer's Market in Pontiac/Waterford where only Michigan farmers and artisans bring goods for sale. The vendors spoke to the children about their work. On Tuesday we will go to Whole Foods to see a large-scale retail venue, and get a tour from their marketing director. This is all part of learning how money represents work in the world. During class last week the student's heard stories and discussed how bartering was used and we acted out how to make the exchanges fair. We also discussed how this progressed as people learned skilled trades, and needed to use other means of exchange, shells to money as we know it today. We practiced calculations using addition and multiplication to figure out earnings from jobs and just what a person could provide depending on their earnings.

On Thursday we will go to Greenfield Village to review some of last year's lessons and also to take a

deeper look at certain professions from farming to glassblowing and printing, to name just a few. The students are practicing their writing skills as we recap the lessons and review and develop sentence structure.

The 5th Grade with ElizaBeth Wildemaan

Due to the short notice of the request for an update about the 5th grade, we apologize that we don't have it yet, but we are looking forward to telling you about the classroom happenings in the 5th grade next week!

The 6th Grade with Maureen Shaughnessy

Sixth grade has big news...Tues.-Thurs. we will be at the Sleeping Bear Dunes and South Manitou Island. (Recently depicted on the walls of the boy's bathroom!) We will view the dunes from Lake Michigan and hike the "perched dune" on Little Manitou, which is one of the Little Bears in the Ojibway legend. This is in conjunction with our study of geology (dune formation and movement) and physics. We will climb a dune in darkness and watch the sun rise over Glen Lake to precede our study of light later this year. We will do a very long drawing to learn how to "read" the landscape as we walk away from the beach and up the dunes, taking the path of the wind and sand.

The 7th and 8th grades with Denise McCauley

Class 7/8 has begun with a Chemistry block. In the first few days of school we built a little bonfire and watched as it went through its many stages of burning. This would be a great observation exercise the first time the family lights a fire in the fireplace this winter. (The challenge is not playing with the fire!) Watch closely what happens as the chemical transformations take place. After that we burned lots of different things and described what we saw. We also carried out some very interesting candle experiments.

Gardening with Ellen Rostker

The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students are currently participating in a six week gardening block. They are busy harvesting garlic and shallots that were planted last fall. Some of the harvest will be shared with the Children's Center for their weekly soup. Part of the harvest will also be shared with Mrs. Smith and our hot lunch program. In addition, we will do an "experiment" growing rice indoors in buckets because rice is a staple food in the American diet, and most people do not know how it grows. The students will also be planting some fall bulbs that will bloom in spring as part of a cut flower garden that is being started. The flowers can be used for our May Day celebration and can be used in vases to help beautify the school indoors. Before the block is complete, the students will help put the gardens to bed for the winter. Over the course of their three years in the "upper grades" the students will come to appreciate the life cycle of the gardens, develop an increased appreciation for our earth, and learn to grow vegetables, herbs and flowers.

Around the School

Saturday Parent-Child Class

*New this year,
Parent-Child class will
now also be offered on
Saturdays!*

This is a wonderful opportunity for working parents, or parents with



Who - What

Welcome to our New Faculty and Staff

We are blessed at OSS to have a talented group of new faculty and staff joining our already amazing current OSS faculty and staff. Here is a list of those who are new. Hopefully you will get a chance to meet them all soon, and read more about them in upcoming newsletters.

News & Info

Mark Your Calendar

This week:

Saturday Sept. 17 - Board Meeting

Next week:

Thursday Sept. 22 - Pancake Social (5:30 in the Gym) and All-School Meeting (6:30-8pm).

Bring yourselves and your children, hungry and ready to eat a delicious pancake feast! After the meal, content

other daytime commitments, to have a chance to attend parent-child classes. Please forward the links below to anyone outside the school who may have an interest in learning more about Waldorf Early Childhood Education through Parent-Child class, or who would simply enjoy a lovely guide morning with their child and a wonderful group of parents and young children.

The parent-child class will be offered this year on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays (class offerings dependent on enrollment).

For information on Parent-Child class, click on the following link: [Parent-Child Class](#)

For the application which includes dates and times: [Application with dates and times](#)

Recognition Corner

We all work hard as parents, faculty and staff at OSS. We do it for our children, so that they may have a wonderful education that prepares them to go out into the world as capable human beings, able to achieve their heart's desire. Thus, most of what we do for the school, we do selflessly, and we do it on top of all the other things we must do in our busy lives. Because of this, we owe it to each other to give recognition for all the hard work, love and dedication that we give to the school. We can't all be there to see each and every thing that every volunteer does for the school, so within this newsletter we should recognize those efforts, big and small. As you observe someone (or even yourself, we won't tell!) doing wonderful work for the school, please submit their (your) name and a short description of their contribution, so that we may

Abigail Gavulic is our most recent addition to OSS. She is an OSS graduate, and the daughter of Mark and Debbie Gavulic who have three other OSS children. Abigail will be joining Allyssa Kadlitz in the Sun class, as the Sun class assistant.

The other new hires to OSS were introduced in the back-to-school letter, but here again are their names and positions:

Mary Chris Foxworthy - part-time Outreach and Development Coordinator, with an extensive background in school marketing and development.

Theresalynn O'Connor - Math and Handwork Teacher for Grades 6-8 - a highly educated former math literacy coach and teacher of high school math and computer programming, who has a love of sewing and crafts (an amazing and lovely combination!).

Erin Bobola - Tuesday and Saturday Parent/Child class teacher. Erin is a certified Waldorf Teacher who previously assisted in the grades classes with Mrs. Shaughnessy and Mrs. Kata, and has taught beeswax modelling and form drawing.

Michael Robinson joins Merlyn Brandon in providing aftercare. He is a student at Oakland University majoring in Public Administration and Psychology.

Alumni Buzz

Seriously seeking updates and photos from our OSS Alumni OR their parents or former teachers!

No excuses! Parents and Teachers of former OSS students, we would love to hear

with full stomachs, learn about upcoming changes and improvements planned for our school through the newly adopted OSS Strategic Plan that will be introduced at the All-School Meeting.

Forms Reminder

You've had a week (almost!) Please turn in your Child Info Record (Emergency Card), Health Appraisal, and vision screening, as applicable, to the office (see back-to-school letter or office staff for listing of requirements based on child's grade). This is a state licensing requirement, and the timely turn-in of your forms saves our office staff from having to repeatedly request your response. If you have any questions about how to complete these forms, or the requirement to complete them, please see the office staff.

Questions?

If you have a question that you'd like to submit to the **NEWSLETTER**, please e-mail it to noellefrerichs@gmail.com

For general questions, see your **CLASS TEACHER** or the **OFFICE**.

For questions, comments or concerns directed through the **PARENT COUNCIL**, please put a note in the parent council mailbox (wooden box on top of the parent mailboxes, on the right side).

For questions that don't have an apparent home or procedure, or if you need to utilize our concern process, contact the **FACULTY CHAIR**, Martina Preczewski, through her faculty mailbox, or by e-mail at martinap@oaklandsteiner.org

Newsletter Submissions

recognize them in the newsletter. You can submit to the Frerichs mailbox at school, or to noellefrerichs@gmail.com

Volunteer Info

Remember to record your volunteer hours as you accumulate them, and think ahead to plan what you would like to volunteer for. Volunteers are a valuable and necessary part of maintaining and beautifying our school, as well as supporting it financially, to the benefit of all who are a part of OSS, especially and most importantly our children. Click the links below to download the volunteer log sheet, with which to record your volunteer hours, and the service handbook which details many of the OSS service opportunities.

[Download Volunteer Log Sheet](#)
[Download Service Handbook](#)

about what your children/former students are out doing in the world. Please brag about them in the newsletter by submitting a short write-up, telling all about how wonderful they are (we do really want to know!). This is far better than nagging them to do it themselves - we all know that they don't want their parents telling them what to do anymore!

Drop a note in the Frerichs parent mailbox, or send to noellefrerichs@gmail.com

OSS Photo Requests

We are always in need of pictures of activities at the school for the web site and various printed materials. If you have pictures, you may e-mail 1 or 2 photos or the link to your web based photos to Mary Chris Foxworthy, Outreach and Development Coordinator at marychris@oaklandsteiner.org. If you prefer, you can put photos on a disc or flash drive, and leave it in her mailbox. The disc or flash drive will be returned to you, so be sure to write your name on it!

If you would like to submit content for the newsletter, please send it via e-mail to noellefrerichs@gmail.com

"Why Waldorf Works"

A great website for answering your questions about Waldorf Education

Visit or Contact us:

(248) 299-8755
www.oaklandsteiner.org

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