



Oakland Steiner School Newsletter

December 1, 2010

School Calendar

Friday, December 3

Winter Garden
Children's Center
Time-TBD
Wintermarkt 3-8 pm (Shain Park, Birmingham)

Saturday, December 4

Wintermarkt 11-8 pm (Shain Park, Birmingham)

Sunday, December 5

Wintermarkt 12-4 pm (Shain Park, Birmingham)

Tuesday, December 7

Parent Council Meeting 9 am and 6:30 pm

Monday, December 13

Natural Playground presentation with Q & A 6 pm

Tuesday, December 14

Santa Lucia
In school celebration

Monday, December 20

Winter Break begins
NO SCHOOL

Monday, January 3

School Resumes

Monday, January 17

Martin Luther King Day
NO SCHOOL

Festivals of Light



Each year at this time, we write a little something regarding the winter festivals. This information is intended for parents as an aid.

The content should not be brought to the children. Abstract, intellectual explanations make it more difficult for the children to absorb the spirit and imagery of the festivals. There are a few surprises the children should not be made aware of as well! In this, the darkening of the year, we see around us the inward pull of the earth's energies as leaves fall to the ground, potential nutrients for next year's growth, and as seeds wrap themselves in the earth's mantle to await a new growing season when the light returns. We can view the upcoming winter festivals as preparation for a new beginning – a turning inward to find the light, and when the light is found, to carry it out into the world. Whether the labels be Judeo-Christian, pagan, or of a different origin, we can find the universal meanings common to them all.

The word Advent comes from the Latin word "advenire" – to approach. It is a time of preparation, a mood of joyful anticipation. In pre-Christian times peoples of the north suffered the archetypal loss of life and light with the disappearance of the sun. Their rituals were of wooing back the light, life and hope. Natural phenomena and spiritual mysticism were united in these people and as the sun drew away from the earth they felt abandoned (not unlike modern day seasonal affective disorder). So they slowed their activities and turned inward. Today, fostering a mood of quiet contemplation requires much effort. The forces against quiet and peace of mind are out to shatter the true mood of Advent. It requires strength of will to renew tranquility again and again from within, to hold at bay materialistic tendencies and to find the true essence of the light within.

The kindling of the light began with the lantern walk at the Harvest Festival celebrated in the Children's Center. It continues with lighting the candles of the spiral in the Winter Garden, of the Advent wreaths, and of the Menorah during Hanukkah.

In these weeks leading up to winter break, the graders are participating in Friday morning assemblies, which parents are welcome to attend. A teacher or class will present a story or music that reflects the time of year.

St Nicholas and his servant Ruprecht will visit our school on Monday, December 6th. While St. Nicholas reads the heavenly verses, each child will stand and listen with interest and respect to his or her individual message -- to strive to be the best that one can be. Ruprecht is there to remind us of that which would overtake us if we did not make a conscious effort to overcome our baser nature.

Continued on page 2

In two weeks the second graders will bring the light of St. Lucia into the darkened classrooms. The story is told of Lucia who was born in Sicily in the late 3rd century. She was a Christian, and when she refused to offer sacrifices to the pagan gods, she was taken to be executed. Soldiers, even with oxen, could not move her. They built a fire around where she stood, but still she remained unharmed. A custom developed in the cold northern countries to remember her light. The children dress all in white and the eldest girl wears a crown of candles on her head. As they walk through the house carrying a tray of coffee and buns and singing a special song, it is as if angels have come to visit.

Just before we leave for break, the upper graders will take their voices and their recorders across the street to share some holiday music with the people residing at the rehabilitation center. An act of joyful service, to be sure!

Wishing you a blessed holiday season,

Allyssa Kadlitz and Denise McCauley
For the Faculty

Holiday Bazaar Thank you

A Grand and Glorious Thank You goes out to Cheryl Turner and her Holiday Bazaar Team. From the very early stages of planning, to the hand made felted acorns that magically appeared in all the mailboxes, to the enticing vendors, the excellent food, the wonderful activities, crafts, music, and the wonderful program of the day—Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!! While final numbers are not yet in, the estimated proceeds for the wonderful day are \$9,900. The Holiday Bazaar is a wonderful event for the school, parents and families that could not be done without the many hours and some very long days by dedicated volunteers. If you have any suggestions or comments about the Holiday Bazaar please be sure to share your ideas.

Enrollment Corner

The second OSS Introductory Tour of the 2010-2011 school year is next Tuesday, December 7th. Please share this information with any interested friends, family or acquaintances. Introductory Tour flyer invites are in the main office for you to pick up and pass out to people or to leave at area establishments. Thank you for your assistance in spreading the word about our school and Waldorf education.

Toni Kovach, Enrollment Coordinator

Wintermarkt – A Charming German Holiday Market for Everyone

OSS will be participating in the first annual Birmingham Wintermarkt on December 3rd, 4th and 5th. We will have a booth there to promote our school and introduce the general public to Waldorf Education. We have a few shifts left that need to be filled at this fun event. We will be spreading the word about Waldorf education, selling items from the Gnome Home and offering the jump rope making activity. Please sign up to support Oakland Steiner School.

Also, come listen to our Upper Graders playing their recorders at 12:00 pm on Saturday.

Raffle Winners

The Uhlianuk Family are the winners of this year's knitted farmyard blanket. Their lucky ticket was drawn on Wednesday, December 1st, as a crowd of excited children and parents looked on. The school sends a warm and wool-y thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets. Ticket sales were brisk over the holiday weekend, earning a total of \$740 towards our new playground. Special thanks to the Sehi Family

for printing the raffle tickets, and the Urda Family for organizing the event. Please turn in unsold raffle tickets to the Urda Family mailbox, so we can finish the report for the State of Michigan.

Parent Council

Please join us on December 7th at 9 am or 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The group will offer two different times this month so everyone has a chance to attend.

Save the Date

On Monday, December 13th Parent Council will be sponsoring a presentation with the Natural Playground Company. The presentation usually runs about 1.5 hours (depending on how much interaction there is). It will begin at 6 pm, there will be an introduction, a slide show of what this company has to offer our school and then time for questions and answers. Please check out their website and come prepared with any questions or concerns you may have.

Parent/child Classroom

Our new classroom would love donations of used wooden toys and furnishings. This class is an introduction to Waldorf education and our school, for children ages 0-3 years and their parents. Please see Karyn Smith with donations or questions. Thank you!

The Cold Weather is here!

Please send your child to school with warm clothes for outside recess, including winter coat, snow pants, hats, gloves or mittens and winter boots. Please remember to keep a dry change of clothes in your child's cubby. Also, a couple extra pairs of socks and mittens are always a good idea!

MANY THANKS AND LOTS OF GRATITUDE TO OUR SISTER SCHOOL!

The Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor wishes to express their gratitude to our sister school, Oakland Steiner, for making it possible to have more than 1 jump rope winder for our events. Special thanks to Al Provenzano (jump rope builder) and Debbie Gavulic (idea maker and facilitator) for their big part in making this happen. We look forward to working together with Oakland Steiner in the future.

"Nutcracker Suite"

Abbey Schneider and the OSS orchestra invite everyone to come and enjoy a performance of "Nutcracker Suite" at 2:15 on December 16 in the gym.

Scrip available in the Gnome Home

With the holidays fast approaching, remember to use our scrip to purchase the gift cards you need to make that special person feel special! There are a few different ways to purchase your gift cards, please email or call Janalee, stop in the Gnome Home or catch Paula Wishart in the hallway next week.

Right now we have the following cards in stock:

\$25 AMC	\$25 T J Maxx/Marshalls	\$10 Starbucks
\$25 Speedway Gas	\$25 Walmart/Sams Club	\$25 Barnes & Noble
\$10 Noodles & Co.	\$25 Qdoba	\$25 iTunes
\$25 Applebees	\$100 Whole Foods	\$100 Speedway Gas
\$25 Aeropostale	\$25 Starbucks	
\$25 Bravo/Brio	\$10 Subway	
\$20 Mongolian BBQ	\$100 Walmart/Sams Club	

Newsletter Article Submissions

If you wish to send an article for the newsletter, please send by email if possible. Send to janalees@oaklandsteiner.org and put "newsletter" in the message line. Submit by Monday, December 13th to be in the next newsletter.

Personal and Parent-to-Parent



Kundalini Yoga classes start this Friday, December 3!

What is Kundalini Yoga? Kundalini Yoga is the yoga of awareness; to know thy Self is to know infinity. Experience a joining of your self with your higher consciousness through the synchronization of movement with sound (mantra), posture (asana), hand position (mudra) and yogic breathing (pranayam). The kriyas (exercise combinations of mantra, mudra, asana and pranayam) balance the glandular system, strengthen the nervous system and enable us to harness the energy of the mind and emotions, so we can be in control of ourselves rather than being controlled by our thoughts and feelings.

The Instructor, Guru Tera Kaur (AKA Bonnie Taube, parent of Montana Taube-White, 8th Grade), completed the Master's Touch Kundalini Yoga Teacher's training, led by the Master of Kundalini Yoga, Yogi Bhajan, in Espanola New Mexico in 2001, and is certified by The Kundalini Research Institute (K.R.I.) as a Level-I Instructor.

Time/Date: 11:30 am Fridays. (No Classes Dec. 24 and 31.)

Location: 204 Stoney Creek Rd., Oakland Township. At the home of OSS parents, Thomas & Barbara Mackaman (parents of Niccolo, Sun Class and Sophia, 2nd Grade).

Cost: \$11 (Sliding scale available.)

The Oberufer Shepherds' Play
Sunday, December 19, 3:30 PM
at
The Christian Community
1320 Carnden (at Wanda), Ferndale, MI
Donations Welcome
Further Information: Michael Brewer 248-629-4961

Holiday Classics
with the
Detroit Waldorf
Community Chorus

Please join us for a choral celebration of the holidays,
including works by Handel, Praetorius, Berlioz,
Mendelssohn, Rutter, and others. Our conductor
and guest artists are from the University of Michigan
School of Music.

Friday, December 10 at 7:30

Saturday, December 11 at 3:00

Tickets \$ 12 adv./ \$ 15 door

Purchase tickets:

Detroitwaldorf.org (click "tickets" link at top of page) or by check
To "Detroit Waldorf School".

Please include name, email, phone, address, and concert date.
Tickets will be on a will-call basis at the concert: no mailed tickets.

Detroit Waldorf School
2555 Burns, Detroit, MI 48214
(secure parking)
dwcommunitychorus@gmail.com
dwcommunitychorus.wordpress.com
detroitwaldorf.org