



Oakland Steiner School Newsletter

January 12, 2011

School Calendar

Monday, January 17

Martin Luther King Day
NO SCHOOL

Saturday, January 22

Board Meeting
9am – 12pm

Tuesday, January 25

Natural Playground
presentation with Ron King
6:00-7:30pm

Wednesday, February 9 and

Thursday, February, 10
Parent Visitation
(Grades Only)
8:30 – 10:30am

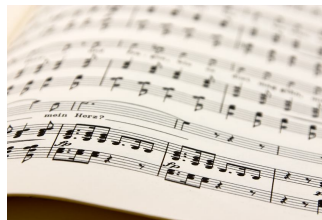
Saturday, February 12

Board meeting
9am – 12pm

ALMUMNI SNAP-SHOT

By Shannon Wolf

I volunteered to feature an Oakland Steiner School graduate each month in our newsletter. One of our favorite babysitters is a graduate from OSS. Since I have her cell phone number, I decided to kick-off this project by calling Nora Leon. When I called Nora at the end of December, she was sitting in a coffee house in snowy New York. She readily agreed to give me a couple minutes of her time. Nora graduated from OSS in June, 2003. She went on to attend Roeper High School where she earned a 3.8 GPA. Besides excelling in academics, Nora was President of Amnesty International, a member of the Sierra Club, Choir, and played on the soccer team. Nora earned a full scholarship to the University of Michigan where she is a senior majoring in architecture. I asked Nora if she thought her Waldorf education helped her in her studies and life. Nora replied, "Every year that I get older, I value my Waldorf education more and more".



Welcome Back and Happy New Year from OSS!

We hope you had a happy and restful break. Welcome back to school and the every day routine!

We are pleased to announce that Eurythmy lessons will replace the Gym classes for 5 weeks. Eurythmist Sarah Kimball is visiting OSS from her home in Columbus, Missouri. She is a graduate of the School of Eurythmy in Spring Valley, New York, and spent an additional year of graduate studies in eurythmy performance and pedagogy after her graduation. She is presently completing a Bachelor's degree program in Eurythmy in Oslo, Norway. Sarah has taught blocks at the Cincinnati Waldorf School and has been involved in Waldorf education since kindergarten. We are very excited to have this block of eurythmy as a part of the curriculum at the Oakland Steiner School.

Welcome

Please give a warm welcome to Sarah Kimball. Sarah is staying with Mrs. McCauley while she is in town and would appreciate any assistance available for transportation to and from school. If anyone lives in or passes through the Bloomfield area and would like to assist with transportation, please notify the office.

We are happy to welcome 3 new children to the Children's Center Star Class.

Sophie Hanawalt
Jennifer & Edward Hanawalt

Ella Rajda
Jenny & Aaron Rajda

Katherine Shunyia
Jennifer & Peter Shunyia

Plus, we are happy to welcome back to the States and to OSS a former student of our Children's Center, who is now in 2nd Grade.

Mauï Baba
Kicco & Yoshito Baba

Please take a moment to greet all of them as the newest members of our community!

Dismissal

Parent and carpool drivers, please pick your children up by 3:05 or they will be sent to aftercare. Upper graders will be sent to aftercare even if you are in the building, but have not checked out the children you are responsible for. The adult is required to make contact with the supervising dismissal person. Thank you for your caring help and support.

Enrollment Corner

January is "Pre-School Fair" month and OSS is participating in four pre-school information events in Oakland County this month. At each event one faculty and the Enrollment Coordinator are present to answer questions about our school and the Waldorf Curriculum. Please feel free to support our efforts by distributing our three brochures: the OSS brochure, the OSS Children's Center brochure and the OSS Parent and Child Class brochure, at your favorite venues. Copies of the brochures are available in my office. Thank you for your efforts in spreading the word about our wonderful school. Toni Kovach, Enrollment Coordinator.

OSS AUCTION EVENING SET FOR MARCH 26, 2011

Preparations have been underway since last fall for the annual "An Enchanted Evening" Oakland Steiner fundraiser auction! You will be receiving notices and updates in your parent mailboxes soon. The "Save the Date" flyer will be there this week. Please take some extra flyers from the table in the hall to either post at your favorite store or restaurant, or to forward on to friends and family.

This is the biggest fundraiser for our school every year, and we hope to make this one even more successful than last year. We will need help in many areas from every family, faculty and administrative member. Watch for the volunteer opportunities and gift your time and talents to this important event. If you have any ideas or questions, please contact Susan Saroli, Auction Committee Chair, at 248.672.7239 or email at wspirit3@charter.net or leave a letter in the Saroli parent mailbox. What a wonderful way for OSS to welcome spring!!!

Save the Date

On Tuesday, January 25th 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.

Feed the Homeless

Grades 2 & 3 are continuing their community service efforts with the N.O.A.H. project. On January 26th, Mrs. Kata will lead the class in making bag lunches for 200 homeless/shelter people. Everyone in the school is encouraged to donate toward this worthy cause. Every penny counts! The class will purchase supplies for making sandwiches with the money collected. There is a donation box at the classroom door. Thank you!

Scrip available in the Gnome Home

There are a few different ways to purchase your gift cards, please email Janalee (sjanalee@hotmail.com), call Janalee (248-546-0992), stop in the Gnome Home or order online. (shopwithscrip.com)

Right now we have the following cards in stock:

\$25 Amazon.com	\$10 Borders	\$25 Red Robin
\$25 Speedway Gas	\$25 Old Navy/Gap/BR	\$25 Barnes & Noble
\$10 Noodles & Co.	\$25 Kohl's	\$25 iTunes
\$25 Applebees	\$25 Starbucks	\$100 Speedway Gas
\$25 Bravo/Brio	\$10 Claire's	\$25 Spa Finder
\$20 Mongolian BBQ	\$25 Walmart/Sam's Club	\$25/50/100 Nino's

Alumni News

Over the holiday break a gathering for Oakland Steiner Alumni was held at OSS. Below is an article which appeared in the Oakland Press, 12-29-2010 edition:

“Class reunions aren't that unique over holiday breaks but would you visit your elementary school over Christmas break?”

You might if you spent eight years with the same classmates and teacher as they do at Oakland Steiner School (OSS), 3976 S. Livernois Road, Rochester Hills.

The miracle is that 57 percent of the alumni since 1999 attended the first school homecoming, many with their parents.

“We know that our alumni communicate constantly and are best friends; this bonding occurs through the developmental years,” said Bill Kennis, event coordinator.

OSS employs the concept called “looping,” whereby the main lesson teacher grows with the students, experientially learning new material with students she knows well. This nurturing environment fosters a love of learning. Many of their devoted alums attribute their success to the critical thinking skills and reverence for life that OSS instilled.

Blake Schmidt, from the class of 2003 states: “I was truly excited about reuniting with all my friends and class teacher.

“Over eight years Mrs. Shaughnessy helped me tap my inner creative abilities, core values and creative thinking skills that have set me apart from my fellow students.”

The event featured non-alcoholic “mock-tails,” homemade goodies and a jam session featuring dozens of alumni musicians and singers who played until nearly midnight.

Said Kennis: “Going into the event only a few students RSVP'd, but the social networking buzz made us cautiously optimistic and we never dreamed we'd attract nearly 100 guests.”



Press staff reports”

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, January 24th to be in the next newsletter.



Personal and Parent-to-Parent



Kundalini Yoga classes resume 1 pm Friday, Jan. 14 in Oakland Twp. Come join us!

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.

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.)



I am looking for a pair of size 13 used or new figure skates for a girl. If anyone has a pair gathering dust please call Catherine at 248-996-2669