



Oakland Steiner School Newsletter

March 16, 2011

School Calendar

Saturday, March 19

Faculty/Board Retreat
9 – 12 pm

Wednesday, March 23

And

Thursday, March 24

Grades 6, 7 & 8 Play
A Midsummer Night's Dream
6:30 pm

Saturday, March 26

Auction – Royal Park Hotel
6 pm

Thursday, March 31

Parent Teacher Conferences
School ends at 12:30 pm
Children's Center dismissal
12:15 pm No Aftercare
Pre-register for childcare

Friday, April 1

Parent Teacher Conferences
NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, April 12

Parent Evening: Grade 1, 2, 3
& CC
6:30 – 8 pm

Wednesday, April 13

Parent Evening:
Grade 4 & 5
6:30 – 8 pm

Thursday, April 14

Parent Evening:
Grades 6, 7 & 8
6:30 – 8 pm

Oakland Steiner School. Education can be a beautiful journey.

These are no ordinary classrooms. The Oakland Steiner School, located in Rochester Hills in a historic building at the corner of Livernois and South Boulevard, accommodates children from preschool through the eighth grade. (Parent-child classes are available for parents with infants and children up to three years old.) A glance into one classroom after the next reveals something here is very different. Absent are jarring bells, buzzing projector screens, cartoony laminated alphabet charts. In their place, elements of nature; music played on violins and recorders; and artwork created by the students reflecting the lessons of the day.

The Oakland Steiner School is one of three Waldorf schools in the metro Detroit area. Waldorf schools are an educational system developed by Austrian philosopher Rudolf Steiner. This method, proven through use since 1919, utilizes Steiner's profound understanding of human development and brings learning in line with the needs of children as they grow and develop mentally, physically and emotionally.

Imagine attending a school where on a typical Monday morning, the preschool children are returning from a walk around the school grounds, rain boots glistening with dew, hands filled with large oak leaves, chestnuts and other various treasures found among the school's inviting garden pathways. First grade students are settling in to their math block, learning equations through physical movement, then through stories, and then play exercises. The second grade class is writing and illustrating a fable in their lesson books. Upward through the grades, these students, who each year become increasingly confident speaking before their classmates in English, French and German, are developing a deep and rich education fostered in true joy of learning. This results in Oakland Steiner School eighth grade students being equally comfortable discussing hydraulics and thermodynamics, Gandhi's world view and performing Bach's Brandenburg Concerto on the violin. In an age where standardized testing has supplanted much of education's heart and soul, Oakland Steiner School exemplifies how education, in its purest form, was meant to be.

This article, written by Jennifer Thomas, appeared in the March 10, 2011 Oakland Press Choices in Education Newspaper supplement.

Open House Thank You

Six families attended the OSS Open House on Sunday, March 6th. The visiting families were welcomed with refreshments, a presentation on the Waldorf Curriculum by Elizabeth Kata and Denise McCauley, and the opportunity for visiting children to make a beautiful jump rope with their choice of colors. Our guests toured the school and spoke with faculty in their classrooms. The afternoon was a wonderful event for interested families to see our school and speak with faculty.

I extend a warm thank you to all the parents, staff and faculty who helped make this Open House happen.

Toni Kovach, Enrollment Coordinator

Financial Aid Applications - Early Tax Return Preparation

It is our wish that each child be able to attend Oakland Steiner School, regardless of financial ability. For those families unable to pay full tuition, a need-based policy has been developed to allow consistency and fairness. Every effort will be made to find an affordable tuition for families willing to follow the schools procedures. Our guiding principle is that a family is expected to pay according to its financial capabilities.

Financial aid applications must be accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for 2009 and 2010. (If we have your 2009 returns from last year's application, we do not need those again.) The financial aid policy and application form for the 2011/2012 school year will be available next week on the website and in the office. The deadline for applying for Phase 1 of financial aid is Wednesday, March 30, so those who will be applying need to get their tax returns prepared early. Please address any questions to Katherine Thivierge.

Faculty/Board Retreat

The Faculty and Board of Trustees will be meeting on Saturday, March 19th to begin the planning process for updating our strategic plan. As this session is a working session and not a regular Board meeting, it will not be an open meeting.

Auction News!!!

Reminder- Auction tickets must be purchased by this Friday March 18th, in order to receive the discounted price of 1 for \$30 or 2 for \$50. Starting March 19th tickets will still be available to purchase but, the price will be \$40 each.

- We are still in need of donations in order to reach our \$60,000 goal.
- Please sell or purchase your raffle tickets and bring money and any unsold raffle tickets to the office by Friday, March 25th.
- We need you to volunteer, please sign up at the wall. (We really need help with the live and silent auction set up.)

If you have any questions please call Susan Saroli at 586-940-0202

Thank you!

The 8th graders would like to thank the OSS families and friends who supported them at their Noodles and Co. fundraiser. They raised \$160 to go towards their end of the year trip.

Parent Book Study

On Tuesday, March 15, five parents met for the new Parent Book Study. They discussed the first few chapters of School as a Journey. It was written by Waldorf teacher Torin Finser and chronicles his time with his class from first to eighth grade. The group had a lively discussion about the chapters on the first and second grade, how it relates to our school, and their family's experience with Waldorf education.

The parent Book Study will be meeting next on Thursday April 14 from 9:00 am to 10:30 am in the Fireplace Room. They will continue to discuss the same book, with the focus being on chapters 3 through 6. Everyone is welcome to attend, even if you did not come to the first meeting. Please contact Christy Hand parent of Natalie in the Sun Class or Shannon Weidemann parent of Gwen in the Sun Class for more information.

Magazine Interview Opportunity

Here's a fun and easy opportunity to promote the Waldorf lifestyle in the metro Detroit community. If you are a HAP member, and a woman around age 30 to 55, OSS parent Jennifer Thomas would love to interview you for a magazine article. The magazine is HAP Wise Woman, and it goes out to women in the 30 - 55 age group who are Health Alliance Plan members. The article is about ways to "unplug from technology." If you fit this description and would be willing to be featured in a paragraph of this article, talking about how you "unplug" from electronics, perhaps just you or you and your children, it would be a nice plug for OSS, and I promise not to ask you any "hardball" questions! Give me a call or email me at your convenience, my deadline is March 28.

Jennifer Thomas: jtvandsal@sbcglobal.net, cell: 248-821-6513, office 586-753-8325.

Camerata Concert

Miyo Fukuzawa is a member of the Suzuki Royal Oak Camerata group and will be participating in a nine-day concert tour in Ireland in April. Congratulations to Miyo and best wishes for an exciting trip! The Royal Oak Camerata will feature their concert tour repertoire on Thursday, March 31st at 7PM, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 26998 Woodward Avenue in Royal Oak. The concert is free and open to the public. Students will be collecting canned goods, toiletries (especially deodorant) and monetary donations for the Open Hands Food Pantry of St. John's Episcopal Church before and after the concert. While on tour, SRO students will be sharing their talents by performing with two Suzuki schools and in three public concerts in the cities of Ballinasloe, Cork and Dublin.

OSS Yearbook

Is there any interest in a school yearbook? Mark Trupiano will be helping Janalee Sehi put together a school yearbook, if we have enough interest. We will have to order a minimum of 50 books. Each class will be represented with the child's individual picture, art work and candid shots from throughout the school year. The estimated cost is \$24 for a 32 page color year book. There is a sample book in the office, please feel free to come take a look at it. If you are interested in purchasing a yearbook, please put your name on the list with the number of books you would like to order or respond to this email and your name will be added to the list automatically.

Newsletter Article Submissions

If you wish to send an article for the newsletter, please send it by email if possible. Send it to janalees@oaklandsteiner.org and put "newsletter" in the message line. Submit by 12 pm, Tuesday, March 29th to be in the next newsletter.



Personal and Parent-to-Parent



NEED A SPRING PICK-ME-UP? TRY KUNDALINI YOGA!

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. **AND, YOU WILL RAISE YOUR OWN ENERGY!**

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: 12:30 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.)

For More Information: Contact Bonnie Taube @ 248.396.4426 or gurutera@comcast.net.



TROY RESIDENTS AND THE LIBRARY

It is very sad that the Troy Public Library's last day of service to the public is Sunday, May 1 from 1 pm – 5 pm. Though the Troy Public Library is closing, students who attend a school inside Rochester Hills can get a Rochester Hills library card. Starting May 1 your child can obtain a card, for one year, by presenting proof of enrollment and a parent's driver's license to the Rochester Hills Public Library. Renewal of cards has yet to be decided. Proof can be in the form of a report card, enrollment contract, letter, etc, and there is no age limit on the child. Parents will NOT be able to get a card. If you would like a letter for proof of enrollment please go to the main office.