



# Oakland Steiner School Newsletter

November 10, 2010

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## School Calendar

### Friday, November 12

Harvest Festival  
Children's Center only

### Saturday, November 13

Board Meeting  
9 am – 12 pm

### Saturday, November 20

Holiday Bazaar  
10 am – 4 pm

### Wednesday, November 24

Thanksgiving Recess begins  
NO SCHOOL

### Monday, November 29

School resumes

### Friday, December 3

Winter Garden  
Children's Center  
Time-TBD

### Tuesday, December 14

Santa Lucia  
In school celebration

### Monday, December 20

Winter Break begins  
NO SCHOOL

### Monday, January 3

School Resumes

This comes at a time of year when the day becomes shorter and darkness comes earlier each day. We shelter ourselves from the cold and prepare our gardens and homes for the winter to come. Our young children bring their own light into the darkness by making lanterns for the Lantern Walk, which for the Children's Center will be a part of the Harvest Festival on November 12.



November 11 is the feast of St. Martin of Tours, who was born around 316 in Hungary, the son of a Roman soldier. He became a Roman soldier like his father, and the story is told of a bitterly cold night when he rode through the gates of Amiens in his magnificent military attire. As he approached the gate, he was met by a beggar. Moved by compassion, he tore his red, woolen cloak in two with his sword and gave half to the beggar.

St. Martin is the model for all of us who strive to be of service and do good in the world and for humankind. St. Martin did not give his whole cloak to the beggar, but kept what he needed for himself while also meeting the needs of another. We, too, must take care to meet our own needs in our service to others.

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## **Thank you**

Dear Parents and Friends,

Many, many thanks to all of the people who helped beautify our school on our Building and Grounds day. Our school is newly painted and looking wonderful through out. Our AWSNA visiting team spoke about how warm and inviting our school is.

Building and Grounds Committee

## **Holiday Bazaar**

The Holiday Bazaar is just 10 days away! We need your help to make this a wonderful event for our children.

### **Volunteers Needed**

Please sign up for a minimum two hour shift for the Holiday Bazaar. If you are eager but not available to work on Friday or Saturday, please contact Cheryl, Patty or Janalee. There are many behind-the-scenes opportunities available. Teachers-in-training and students who need to fulfill service hours will find many opportunities. Whatever your area of interest or skill set, we have a job for you!

### **Children's Center**

The Children's Center will be leading two activities: the Children's Marketplace and the Waffle Stand. Sylvia Simmer will be our master baker and Jackie Garza is the class leader for the Children's Marketplace crafts. Sign-up sheets have been moved from the Sun Classroom to the big bulletin board across from the office. Parent and Child families are welcome to volunteer for this or any other craft/activity. See Janalee or Patty for more info.

### **First Grade**

For this year's Holiday Bazaar, the 1st grade will offer an Enchanted Walk, led by Jenny Rajda. The classroom will be magically transformed into a walk-through version of the book, "The Story of the Root Children". Share your vision, map out the details, charm visitors, and learn more by volunteering today. Please sign up for a minimum two hour shift at the classroom door.

### **Second and Third Grades**

The 2nd & 3rd Grade will lead Silk Dyeing at this year's Holiday Bazaar, under the artistic eye of Ann Coleman. Learn all you need to know at a free hands-on workshop Thursday, November 11th at Ann's house after drop-off. All materials will be provided, but please bring your own smock. We will create beautiful scarves to sell as part of this fundraiser. Volunteers are needed to set up Friday after school, and all day Saturday. Please sign up for your minimum two hours at the classroom window.

#### Fourth Grade

The 4th grade will lead Wet Felting with the assistance of Amy Thompson and Jennifer Thomas. Learn all you need to know at a free drop-in workshop on Friday, November 12, after school from 3-4pm. All materials will be provided for a demonstration of this wet and soapy craft. Volunteers are needed to set up on Friday after school on November 19, and to assist children throughout the day on Saturday. Please sign up for your minimum two hour shift at the classroom window.

#### Fifth Grade

Jump Rope Winding will be led by the 5th grade, under the direction of Debbie Gavulic. Please sign up for your minimum two hour shift at the classroom door. Yarn donations (acrylic) now being accepted. Have a few minutes after drop off or before pick-up? Volunteers are needed in advance to wind skeins of donated yarn into balls. Students are welcome to help with this task. Skeins of yarn are located on the donation table in the front hall.

#### Sixth and Seventh Grade

The Cakewalk is now a combined effort of the 6th and 7th grades, led by Toni Kovach. Sign-up sheets for Cakewalk and Cakewalk Music are located on the big bulletin board across from the office. Please sign up for your minimum two hour shift on Saturday. Students are encouraged to volunteer their time and talents as well. We also need enthusiastic bell ringers and music makers.

#### Eighth Grade

The 8th grade will manage this year's Bake Sale with the help of Uta Karczewski. One look at the list of donated baked goods will make your mouth water! Share your family's favorite holiday treat by adding to the list. We need someone to help package and price goodies on Friday, and two sales people per shift on Saturday. Please sign up for your minimum two hours at the bulletin board across from the office.

#### Seeking Outdoorsy Types

Avoid the crowds at this year's Holiday Bazaar and spend some time with Mother Nature. Volunteer to work the parking lot; direct traffic and greet visitors. Dress for the weather and bring your own thermos. Snazzy safety vests provided. Two hour shifts available throughout the day. Please check the sign-up sheet in the front hall across from the office. Traditionally this task is supported by the Board of Trustees.

#### Food Feast & Fun

The Steiner Café is looking for a few clean hands to help prepare food before Saturday, Nov 20th, as well as serve food on Saturday, November 20th. Entertainment provided at no cost. Come feast your eyes and ears...sign up today!

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### Fish Bowling Anyone?

Drop a line to Shannon Wolf if you have something nifty to donate for the fishbowl raffle, or just drop it off at the table near the front office. Jot down your name, a description, and the value on paper provided and attach it to the item with a bit of tape. Thanks!

### Something in my pocket

Lynn Marie Van Renterghem will demonstrate what it takes to be a Pocket Lady on Wednesday this week for interested parents at 12:30 and 3pm pickup times. See how to don the fashionable two-tier apron and quickly refill the pockets during a shift change. Preview the interesting selection of prizes and learn the charming lines of this beloved role.

### Let them eat cake!

Calling all Bakers...we need more people to sign up to bake cakes and miniature cupcakes for the Holiday Bazaar Cakewalk. The Cakewalk is a perennial favorite for the children. Please help out and sign up today!

### Banquet Tables needed

If you have six foot tables, we need them for the Bazaar. Label your tables and drop them off in the Stiles hall storage area (by the mail boxes). Please drop a note in Cheryl Turner's mailbox indicating how many tables you can loan so we have an inventory in advance of the Bazaar. Thanks!

## **Parent Council**

The parent council group will not be meeting the month of November, please join us on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 9 am or 6:30 pm. The group will offer two different times this month so everyone has a chance to attend.

## **Welcome**

Another miracle has arrived, Robert Vincent LaRiviere was born on Michaelmas Day, at 9:09pm, weighing in at four and half pounds and eighteen and half inches. Robert just couldn't wait his full term to arrive and decided to grace us with his presence early. He's perfect in every way, healthy and vibrant as we enjoy his presence and dedicate ourselves to smoothing out the bumps of his arrival. Thank you to the school's community for all your support.

Robert is the brother of David LaRiviere in the first grade, proud parents are Jennifer Yanover and Stephen LaRiviere.

## **"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.

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## **Beautification in Process**

Many of you no doubt have noticed the wonderful transformation of the OSS main entrance lobby, but have you also noticed the beginning transformations in the lower grades girl's restroom and the adult restroom next to the Gnome Home? These beautiful additions took hours of work from many hands. A heartfelt thank you to all the parents and youth who helped: Laura and Lee Uhlianuk, Cheryl Turner, Jenny and Aaron Radja, Sylvia Simmer, Carla Gallini, Shannon Weidemann and Jim Haslett, Paula Wishart, Janalee and Makenzie Sehi, Noel Frerichs, Laurie Faulkner, Christy Hand, Jackie Garza, and the Panian Family.

## **Enrollment Corner**

The first OSS Introductory Tour of the 2010 -2011 school year was held, Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Six families peeked into the classrooms and strolled through school halls. An invigorating discussion and question and answer period followed the guided walk through. Our next Introductory Tour is Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Please share this information with any interested friends, family or acquaintances. Introductory Tour flyer invitations 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.

## **AWSNA Accreditation Visit**

The Oakland Steiner School was visited October 17-20 by an accreditation team who evaluated the school as a part of our application for full membership in the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America. Membership reflects our commitment to on-going school improvement in all aspects of our functioning and to the Shared Principles held by all member Waldorf Schools. This is a big step into adulthood for the Oakland Steiner School in this, our 22nd year.

Many thanks to all who helped to prepare for the visit of the Awnsa Accreditation Team. So much was done—major beautification and cleaning of the school, food donated, meals prepared, conversations with team members and warm hospitality. The school was shining, and the team felt well received and cared for. The accreditation team members briefly presented their major findings and some observations of their experience at OSS on the final day of their visit. Some of the team members' comments were:

- The good work that the students are doing and their joy and love of their school is apparent.
- Faculty and parents are deeply committed to the school.
- The depth of collegiality was observable.
- The team members felt very warmly received and commented that OSS is a heart place with heart people.

- The Children’s Center gardens bring a wonderful experience to the children.

We expect the full report of the team in a few weeks which will include commendations and recommendations. That report will be reviewed by the Accreditation Review Committee of AWSNA, and we expect a final decision on membership in June at the AWSNA Annual Meeting of Delegates.

## **WHAT’S NEW IN THE GNOME HOME?**

### Cloth Bags and Water Bottles Now Available

The Gnome Home now has OSS logo wear available for purchase to increase the school’s visibility out in the community to help grow our enrollment.

There are cloth bags that are embroidered with our beautiful OSS logo and the line “Waldorf Education Works” underneath (a great start to our new marketing campaign!). The cloth bags are 100% cotton. The water bottles are green stainless steel with our OSS logo in white. The cloth bags and bottles are currently available for purchase in the Gnome Home.



The cloth bags sell for \$28.50 each plus 6% sales tax.  
The water bottles sell for \$16.00 each plus 6% sales tax.

All of the proceeds for the sales of these items benefit the Gnome Home which in turn benefits OSS.

### Sweatshirts Available for Order

Zipper hooded and pull-over hooded sweatshirts are available for order.

The zipper hooded sweatshirts are 100% cotton and the pull-over hooded sweatshirts are 80/20. All sizes run large. There are samples of the sweatshirts available to see in the Gnome Home.

Adult sweatshirts Small, Medium Large	\$38 each + tax
Adult sweatshirts X-large	\$40 each + tax
Children’s sweatshirts small, medium, large	\$36 each + tax
Children’s sweatshirts x-large	\$38 each + tax



All sweatshirt orders must be pre-paid! The initial order should be turned in by November 15 so that they can be delivered to school before we go on winter break. Additional orders can be placed on an ongoing basis with the vendor who will prep 5 sweatshirts at a time for us. The goal is to sell 200 sweatshirts!

Don't forget to order one for friends and family near and far as well as for yourself and your children. Help spread the word on how great OSS and a Waldorf Education really is! Get your OSS logo wear today!

Many New Books Have Arrived in the Gnome Home-Now available for purchase

- Heaven on Earth -- a book being used as a study by the parent-child class
- Encountering the Self -- a book being used as a study by the 2d/3d grade
- The Story of the Root Children -- related to the theme of this year's Holiday Bazaar
- Waldorf Alphabet Book
- Norse Hero Tales
- Eighteen Days Till Home -- An exciting fiction novel for adults!
- And many more books for you to check out!

## **Alarm Codes**

We have changed the alarm codes for all non-employees. Please see Katherine if you need a new alarm code. If you do not have a new code, please do NOT come into the building when no one else is here, as you will set off the alarm. Likewise, you cannot be the last person remaining in the building because you will not be able to set the alarm. Please also turn in building keys if you do not have a new alarm code.

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## **Scrip available in the Gnome Home**

Right now we have the following cards in stock:

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

## **Newsletter Article Submissions**

If you wish to send an article for the newsletter, please send by email if possible. Send to [janalees@oaklandsteiner.org](mailto:janalees@oaklandsteiner.org) and put "newsletter" in the message line. Submit by Monday, November 22nd to be in the next newsletter.

## Personal and Parent-to-Parent



### **For Sale**

½ size violin (used) \$75.00 –Please contact Paula Wishart



### **Piano Lessons**

Jazz & Classical, Beginning to Advance.  
Located 10 minutes west of OSS in Auburn Hills  
(can occasionally travel)

Call or email: Bob Schneeweis (612) 229-2915 or [rschneeweis@gmail.com](mailto:rschneeweis@gmail.com)  
(OSS Parent/Child parent)