



Oakland Steiner School Newsletter

April 13, 2011

School Calendar

Wednesday, April 13

Parent Evening:
Grade 4 & 5
Canceled

Thursday, April 14

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

Saturday, April 16

Board Meeting
9 – 12 pm

Saturday, April 16

Dad & Daughter Dance
5 – 8 pm

Thursday, April 21

Grandparent & Special
Friend Day
8:30 – 11 am

Friday, April 22

Spring Break begins
NO SCHOOL

Monday, May 2

School Resumes

Tuesday, May 10

May Day Celebration
Grades 2 pm

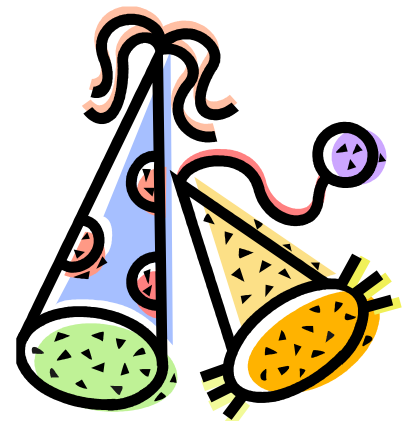
Commemorating the 92nd Birth day of Waldorf Education on April 23, 1919.

What makes a Waldorf School a Waldorf School? With this question we also touch upon the problem of continuity—does the well-spring, which began flowing at its founding, still flow today?

The school founding has an outer and an inner aspect. The outer one is well-known, the inner one less so. The bare facts may be found in Emil Molt's autobiography. April 23, 1919, is the birthday of the school. On this day Rudolph Steiner lectured for the first time to the workers of the Waldorf Astoria cigarette factory. In the board meeting which followed, in Rudolf Steiner's presence, Emil Molt spoke of his intention to found a school for the worker's children. He asked Rudolf Steiner to direct and establish the school, reserving 100,000 Marks for this purpose. Rudolf Steiner agreed, and Molt threw himself into this project with fiery enthusiasm. He says; "Apart from the idea and the spiritual leader nothing tangible existed, except the seed money and the 200 students who were to be taught. One needed to negotiate with the authorities, teachers were to be sought and prepared, a school building and corresponding facilities were to be looked for ... we stood, in every respect, at the beginning of the beginning."

This very first beginning fell into the chaos of the year immediately following the catastrophe of World War I and, at the same time, into the tempestuous break-up of the movement for the threefold social order, in which Molt had participated intensively. In historical retrospect, it seems like a miracle that already on September 7, four and a half months later, the school could open with 253 students in eight grades and with a founding faculty of twelve teachers.

*Make sure you read what fun, is now happening in the Gnome Home!



Early Re-enrollment

Contracts are due on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 together with a deposit of \$300 for each child. Early enrollment tuition rates are discounted by \$250 per contract.

Drama at Oakland Steiner

One of the highlights of the school year is the presentation of the class plays. This is an important element of the Waldorf curriculum in several respects. The themes of the plays arise out of the class work for that grade. We are primarily fostering imagination, reaching beyond the individual child's experience to recreate a story for the audience. Theater is a social art where each actor carries his own role, sometimes in the forefront, and then less important, while another actor shines. A good performance requires working creatively as an ensemble and this work practices a healthy balance between the individual and the community.

Through their characters, the children enter deeper into the human experience. We don't always see the best actor of the class in the biggest parts because the teacher uses the roles pedagogically. What a transformative experience it is for a shy child to find the strong king within, or the boisterous child to show inner wisdom and peace.

In working dramatically, we hone tools of well-formed speech and meaningful gesture. The students develop an individual presence and self-confidence, which are among the observable fruits of a Waldorf education.

And, of course, play-acting is such fun for both the actor and the audience!

We have already seen the 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade combined play, but the other class plays are yet to come. Please join us and bring your friends. The class plays are a great showcase for Waldorf education.

Katherine Thivierge, Administrator and Speech Artist

OSS THESPIAN SEASON 2011

Grade 4 Iduna and the Golden Apples

Tuesday, April 19th at 6:30 pm
Wednesday, April 20th at 11 am

Grade 2/3 Moses

Wednesday, May 4th at 11:45 am
Thursday, May 5th at 6:30 pm

Grade 5 Perseus

Wednesday, May 25th at 11:45 am
Thursday, May 26th at 6:30 pm

Thank you!

Many thanks to all those who made the Talent Show such an amazing success. The show was well attended by many gifted students who had a wide variety of entertaining acts. The desserts were luscious, the emcee kept things moving in a humorous style, and we were happy to see several alumni, some of whom performed for the crowd. The eighth grade is very grateful for the school community's support of their fund-raising efforts this year.

Info for new OSS families and a reminder for all parents:

One of my tasks as faculty chair is to receive and address any concerns or questions you may have. Please contact me anytime so that I can help you find: the right path to address your issue, the right person to speak to or to initiate a concern policy. (See handbook)

Thank you

Martina Preczewski

Also known as 'Frau Martina' German and Handwork Teacher

Martinap@oaklandsteiner.org

Yes, you may call me on my cell phone:) 586-420-7060

Outreach and Development

The Oakland Steiner School is looking to hire an Outreach and Development Coordinator. This position is initially a half-time position. Preferred candidates would have:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience in education, communications or related fields.
- Experience in organizing and coordinating events and volunteers.
- A good knowledge of Waldorf education and an interest in expanding that knowledge.
- The knowledge and ability to communicate the features and value of a Waldorf education.
- Sales knowledge and marketing skills.
- The ability to effectively use a computer, telephone, and other office equipment to conduct business.
- Good computer skills, specifically Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel, and an interest and ability to expand skills. Donor software or database management skills preferred.

Please request the job description from Katherine if you are interested. (katherine@oaklandsteiner.org)

Dad & Daughter Dance - This Saturday!

Have you bought your tickets yet? Don't forget to buy them ahead of time to save money! This will be an event you will not want to miss!

First ever Dad & Daughter Dance Party! This event is open to all OSS Families, Children's Center to Eighth grade. Ticket price includes DJ dancing, dinner, dessert table and a 5x7 commemorative photo. Advance ticket price is \$25 per couple/\$8 per additional daughter and can be bought on Tuesdays and Fridays at 3pm in the hallway, or purchase tickets at the door for \$30 per couple/\$10 per additional daughter.

Contact Martina Panian at 248-762-0022 for tickets, questions or if you are interested in helping with this event.

6th, 7th and 8th Grade Wood Carving

We began Wood Carving Class outdoors on a warm day in November. We split our own wood from logs! Mr. Kobliska brought his gas powered Log Splitter and a truck load of basswood, cherry and white pine. After reviewing safety procedures, Montana fired up the 9.5 hp Honda engine. Taking turns, each child took the controls of the awesome, 27 ton hydraulic splitter and split their own wood for their projects.

The Wood Shop is a wonderful, light filled room. The children arrive eager to start working on their self-chosen project. They are likely to hear from their teacher, "Wait!! We must first review the Rules of Knife Safety." The atmosphere is casual. The children interact with each other yet know they must concentrate and be aware that they are using sharp tools and someone next to them is also.

The tools are out on the benches, the projects are slowly taking shape. "There is a bird in that piece of wood-let's see if we can find it." A sampling of the self-chosen projects includes a bowl, spoon, knives, free-form sculptures and a menagerie of animals like a whale, elephant, bird, and butterfly. You will soon be seeing the fruits of their work.

We learn the names and how to use hand tools. We learn how to sharpen knives and gouges. Have your child show you how to sharpen a kitchen knife. You may hear them say: "A sharp knife is a safe knife!"

The children are eager to finish their carving projects. They know that Woodworking Class will soon step aside for Gardening Class--spring must be around the corner!

Jack Kobliska
Wood Shop Teacher
February 2011

Gnome Home News

There is a green gnome who lost his home and needs to see his other friends. Any child may come to the Gnome Home and help find him. When you find him, you will get a prize! He will be in a different location each time he is found. I hope to see you soon!

Ellen Rostker, Gnome Home Shopkeeper

Enrollment Corner

Introductory Tour

Seven individuals representing five families attended the April 12th Introductory Tour. Our guests spent a brief amount of time in the classrooms and experienced the Waldorf Curriculum in action. In addition our guests were presented with an overview of the Waldorf Curriculum and Rudolph Steiner's educational model, toured the school, and had the opportunity to ask questions. Many hands were involved in making this tour a great experience for our visiting families. I would like to thank Patty Urda for baking delicious brownies and Shannon Wolf and Christy Hand for their support as Buddy Parents.

Tea Cart Needed

I am looking for a Tea Cart on Wheels to use for the Introductory Tours, the abbreviated Introductory Tours, the Parent Orientations and other meetings I conduct as the Enrollment Coordinator. If you have one or know of someone who has one to donate to the school, please contact me. Thank you very much.

Toni Kovach
Enrollment Coordinator

Parent Book Study

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 School as a Journey, 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.

Grandparents' Day

We are happy to inform you that our 2011 Grandparents' and Special Friend Day will be held on Thursday, April 21st from 8:30 to 11:00 am. Each year we are honored and grateful to host this event on behalf of our families and the school. On this morning, we hope that each guest will have a magical glimpse into his or her grandchild/special friends' education which will not only foster many treasured conversations between the guest and student but also encourage the grandparents/special friend to hold our school community closer to their hearts.

We would love to have your volunteer assistance for any number of things that need to be accomplished. Please see the office about how you can help for this event. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the window in front of the office, including opportunities to donate refreshments, flowers and hospitality.

Attention Kroger Community Rewards Participants: It's Time to Re-Enroll!

Did you know that you can make contributions to Oakland Steiner School simply by doing your grocery shopping at Kroger and using your Kroger Plus Card? If you have already signed up and have been earning rewards for OSS, please note that everyone will need to re-sign up in order to continue participation in the Community Rewards program.

It's easy to enroll or re-enroll in Kroger Community Rewards. Visit www.krogercommunityrewards.com, click on "Michigan" and click "Enroll." All participants must create a valid online account at Kroger.com and must sign up online to participate. Shoppers can no longer scan an organization's barcode at the registers or service desk. The code for Oakland Steiner School is #83192.

OSS Yearbook

Good news! The yearbook is going to happen this year. We still need your pictures, if you have not emailed them yet there is still time. The yearbook company has given us an extra week because we are a new client so please send your pictures to Mark Trupiano at trupianophoto@yahoo.com or Janalee Sehi at janalees@oaklandsteiner.org as soon as possible. Thank you!

Screen-Free Week

The week of April 18-24, 2011 is a national celebration for children, families, schools and communities to unplug from entertainment screen media for seven days and tune into life! Instead of relying on screens for entertainment, take time to play, read, create, daydream, explore, enjoy nature, and spend time with family and friends. Need support in taking the first steps? Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood (CCFC) launched a website (<http://www.screenfree.org>) and developed Organizer's Kits, fact sheets, and other materials for Screen-Free Week. So far over 100 million people have taken part in the turnoff, with millions participating each year.

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, May 3rd to be in the next newsletter. Thank you!



Personal and Parent-to-Parent



Take Time Out to Listen

"Alive Enough? Reflecting on Our Technology" (April 7)

Sherry Turkle, founder and director of MIT's Initiative on Technology and Self, says that we need to reflect and converse on technology's effects on our attentiveness and relationships, our sense of reality, and even of aliveness. She offers both reflective and usable ideas — from why you might want to consider declaring email bankruptcy to how to create what she calls sacred spaces amidst the digital landscapes of our lives.

You can hear the whole story on <http://being.publicradio.org/> in an interview with Krista Tippett. This broadcast was originally aired on 101.9FM WDET on Friday, April 8th at 3pm, and on Sunday, April 10th, at 7am.



Are suffocating because your body is so tight?

- Constrictions create restrictions
- Physical inflexibility creates mental and spiritual inflexibility
- Where we are tight, we have trapped energy

Release constrictions, restrictions and blocked energy in 60 minutes.

Learn technology to do this at your command.

Ever feel like your body was so tight that you were suffocating or going to break into little pieces if you moved the wrong way?

Or, has your mind been slowing down and you can't process very much information or hold onto it?

Old age doesn't start with chronological age; it begins with an inflexible spine and nutritional deficiency.

Here's what you can do about it:

- #1 Set your mind to take one Kundalini Yoga class per week
- #2 Contact Bonnie @ 248.396.4426 or gurutera@comcast.net and let her know you will be coming to class Fridays @ 12:30 pm
- #3 Show up Friday at Barbara Mackaman's house (address below) with a yoga mat and wearing loose, comfortable clothes
- #4 Acknowledge yourself for excellent self-love & self-care and commit to a life of feeling good!

"No experience is necessary, just an open mind."

Kundalini Yoga Class Details

- 12:30-2:00 pm, Fridays
- 204 Stoney Creek Rd., Oakland Township @ the lovely home of OSS parents, Thomas & Barbara Mackaman
- \$11 (Sliding scale available.)
- Bonnie Taube @ 248.396.4426 or gurutera@comcast.net



Love's other name: Discipline