



Oakland Steiner School Newsletter

December 14, 2009

School Calendar

Mon, Dec 21

Winter Break begins
NO SCHOOL

Mon, Jan 4

School resumes

Wed, Jan 13

Introductory Tour
9-11 am

Mon, Jan 18

Martin Luther King Day
NO SCHOOL

Wed, Jan 20 or 21

Parent Visitation
(Grades only)
8:30-10 am

Sat, Jan 23

Board Meeting
9 am-noon

Tu, Jan 26

Parent Evening
Grades 1/2, 3 & 4
6:30-8 pm

W, Jan 27

Parent Evening
Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8
6:30-8 pm

Th, Jan 28

Parent Evening
Children's Center
6:30-8 pm

Mon, Feb 15

Mid-winter Break begins
NO SCHOOL

Mon, Feb 22

School resumes

Sat, Feb 27

Board Meeting
9 am-noon

Festivals of Light

Part Two

As we said in Part One of this article, the festivals we celebrate at this darkening time of year can be a way of holding at bay materialistic tendencies to find the true essence of the light within. St Nicholas and his servant Ruprecht visited our school Friday, December 4. While St. Nicholas read the heavenly verses, each child stood and listened with interest and respect to his or her individual message—to strive to be the best that one can be. Ruprecht's presence reminded us of that which would overtake us if we do not make a conscious effort to overcome our baser nature.

Last Monday morning at our weekly assembly, Mrs. Wildemaan told the story of "Herschel and the Hanukkah Goblins." Over two thousand years ago, when the courageous Maccabees fought for religious freedom and returned home victorious, their few drops of consecrated oil burned miraculously in the temple for eight days. In the story of Herschel, his courage is rewarded when after he defeats the goblins of darkness, the lights of the menorah are allowed to shine.

This week the second graders will bring the light of St. Lucia into the darkened classrooms. Mrs. Shaughnessy told the story 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.

Wishing you a blessed holiday season,

Elizabeth Kata and Denise McCauley

OSS Holiday Bazaar

The Holiday Bazaar made over \$7,500 for OSS! In addition to that, the Handwork Group brought in \$440 and the Gnome Home had sales of around \$2,000. By 11:00 all parking lots were full, including the Moose Lodge's back lot, and our Board of Trustees parking attendants had the challenge of finding more parking for our guests. Val's Pet Supply kindly made their parking lot available to us.

This event is one that takes the entire Oakland Steiner School community, and 63 families, all OSS faculty and staff and 10 alumni and former families pitched in. Many thanks to all! Special thanks and a big hug go to our Bazaar Chairperson, Jaime Greathouse. Special thanks also to Patty Urda, who picked up so many details with her usual artistic flair, including the vegetable drawings and paintings.

Gnome Home Holiday Hours

The Gnome Home will be open on Tuesday, 12/22 from 9:00-4:00.

It's COLD outside!

Please send your child to school with warm clothes for outside recess, including winter coats, snow pants, hats, gloves or mittens and winter boots. Please keep a couple of pairs of clean socks and extra mittens or gloves in your child's cubby.

Lost & Found Cleanout

Please look at the lost & found for items belonging to your family. During the break, all unclaimed items will either be sent to a charity or used in the OSS spare warm clothing collection.

Looking for a Plant Lover

Paula Wishart has cared for the plants around the school for years, and is looking for a successor. Please contact Paula if you would like to step in.

Concert at Heartland Healthcare Center

The OSS middle school choir and 7th grade recorder ensemble will perform a concert on Wednesday, 12/16 for the residents of the Heartland Healthcare Center, across the street from the school.

Ski/Snowboard Club

Each winter a fun loving group of OSS families and alumni families gather at Pine Knob Ski Resort for hours of winter delight Fridays after school from 4-11 pm. There is an OSS group discount for lift tickets, rentals and even lessons. A flyer and permission slips are above the mailboxes.

Lost at the Bazaar

A wallet and a painted wooden doorknob sign was found at the Bazaar. Ask in the office if either of these items is yours.

Shepherds' Play

The Oberufer Shepherds' Play will be performed at The Christian Community on December 20 at 3 pm. The Church is located at 1320 Camden (at Wanda) in Ferndale. Admission is free but donations are gratefully accepted. See Barbara Patterson if you have questions.

For hundreds of years, ordinary people in the small Austrian village of Oberufer on the Danube gathered in the local tavern at Christmastime to perform these plays for their neighbors. With their roots lost in medieval times, the plays gradually evolved to incorporate a unique blend of folk humor and profound reverence (description from Steiner Books).

8th Grade Student to Help Orphans in Peru

Please join Marcella Apollonia (8th grade) in an exciting opportunity to help street orphans in Cusco, Peru. Marcella will be traveling to Peru with her mother the day after Christmas to work at the Sunflower Orphanage for 10 days.

Please check out her poster (near the Parent to Parent area) to find out more about the

expedition and how you could be able to help these forgotten, poor children.

Marcella and her mom are hoping to fill their suitcases with much needed articles (newborn kits, first aid kits or school kits) or any monetary gifts anyone would be so kind to donate. All explanations are on the poster as well as asking Marcella or her mom, Linda. We will be spending New Years with the children and are open to any creative celebratory ideas as well!

Please contact Linda Marinovich for more information—248-646-6472 or

lindamarinovich@comcast.net

Linda has a few items to sell and ALL of the proceeds will go to the orphanage. Photos are on the poster near the mailboxes.

- ♦ Almost new Brio table, original cost \$175, \$100 or best offer.
- ♦ Handmade rustic Santa Claus statue, 20" tall, \$40 or best offer.
- ♦ Doll house, \$40 or best offer
- ♦ Decorator fabric with fish, 100% cotton, around 4 yards, \$20 or best offer.
- ♦ Other items are being added—see the poster!

Checks may be made payable to Linda Marinovich or to Generations Humanitarian.

Leader Puppy in Training

Mrs. Bobola is fostering a future Leader Dog. A part of the dog's training is to be acclimated to places with lots of people. Mandy will be in the OSS hallways on occasion in her official kerchief.

Personal and Parent-to-Parent

Spruce Trees for Landscaping

Beautiful Blue Spruce trees for landscaping now available for transplanting. These are 12-16 foot trees that can be delivered to your yard and professionally planted. Not interested in privacy fencing? You can have complete natural privacy for your property in one afternoon. Packages of 10 trees available at a discount with one year guarantee for all trees. Call Floyd at 586-489-8392.

Fleece Scarves

Toasty warm fleece scarves for sale, made by 8th grader Marcella and her mom, \$8. Call Marcella or Linda at 248-646-6472.



Child Care

Karyn Smith, former Assistant in the Children's Center and mom of Gabriel, offers home-based child care in downtown Rochester. Mornings are filled with song, movement, seasonal storytelling, cooking, outdoor activities and free play. A healthy snack and lunch are served. Call Karyn at 313.671.6008.