



Oakland Steiner School Newsletter

October 7, 2009

School Calendar

Fri, Oct 9

OSS Beautification Day
2-6 pm

Tues, Oct 13

Parent Evenings
(Grades 1/2, 3 & 4)
6:30-8 pm

Wed, Oct 14

Administrator's Coffee
Fireplace Room
8:30-9:30 am

Wed, Oct 14

Parent Evenings
(Grades 5 & 6)
6:30-8 pm

Wed, Oct 14

Hearing Screening
(CC 4 yr olds, Grades 2 & 4)

Thurs, Oct 15

Parent Evenings
(Children's Center,
Grades 7 & 8)
6:30-8 pm

Fri, Oct 16

NO SCHOOL
Resource Day

Tu, W, Th, Oct 20-22

Picture Days

Fri, Oct 23

Grade School Assembly
6 pm

Sat, Oct 24

Children's Center Harvest
Festival & Lantern Walk

Sat, Oct 24

Board Meeting
9 am-noon

Thurs, Oct 29

Parent Teacher Conferences
School ends at 12:30
(Children's Center 12:15)

Fri, Oct 30

Parent Teacher Conferences
NO SCHOOL

The Challenge of Raising Young Children, Tweens, and Teens Today

Last Friday, Kim John Payne gave his last lecture in our series in Ann Arbor to a full house on the campus of the University of Michigan. By way of background, Kim Payne has been working with Oakland Steiner and Rudolf Steiner Schools for a three years to assist these schools in the implementation a social inclusion program. Part of this work is educating the community through lectures.

Kim John Payne spoke of the importance of raising our children so that they will be more resilient to face the pressures of the fast paced world in which we find ourselves today. He strongly spoke of limiting a child's exposure to television. Many parents feel that if the content is educational, what could be the problem. The concern is that with today's technology, children take in 90-120 images per minute as compared to three a minute in the days of the Mr. Roger's Show. It takes a 12 year old 4-6 seconds to process an image. This overload of sensory stimulation over time can play havoc on the development of the brain. "Media saturation characterizes our era, but it need not flood our kid's childhoods."

Kim Payne also discussed the importance of adapting with different parenting styles as the child grows. He characterizes discipline as one of the best ways to help children feel safe when they are feeling stressed and vulnerable. "It can create a real feeling of being held." A form of discipline that engages the child at a developmentally appropriate level builds a foundation to draw upon from toddlerhood through the teenage years. He used the king, the farmer, and the shepherd as metaphors to define the role we have with the child. From birth to age seven the child sees the adult as an authority and it is the parent's job to train children to accept rules and adult direction. At this stage, children learn through imitation so much of this is done through modeling the behavior parents want the child to imitate. By offering the child to many choices, the child will learn to do what is advantageous and ultimately become entitlement monsters. The healthy development of the child's will is an outcome of the child's ability to control his impulses. When we apply discipline we strengthen our family values.

From age seven through fourteen years old, we transition from the benevolent king to the role of the farmer. This is a time were we give the child new responsibilities but we do not treat them as if they are a teenager. First listen to your child's request. Tell them that you will think about it and that you will get back to them with an answer. Kim Payne indicates that this a difficult stage in parenting because kids act like teenagers. He calls this the "false dawn" and cautions parents not to treat preteens as though they are teenagers. Also, this is the time to teach emotional and social skills. Children need to realize they are part of a team and that their actions have an

impact on the family. Empathy is taught by making children aware of subtle put-downs in certain tones of voice or body language. Finally, parents should consult with children before challenging situations occur to help them learn to make good choices without adult supervision.

The last stage he discussed was from age fourteen to twenty-one where the role of a parent should be that of the shepherd. This is a time when kids care about what we think and will often engage in debates.

Look for future articles on how Social Inclusion is working at the Oakland Steiner School.

Kim Greidanus

8th Grade Fundraisers

The 8th graders have two ongoing fundraising projects:

- ◆ Pizza and bread stick sale for Wednesday lunches. Orders are due by Tuesday.
- ◆ Bake sale after school on Fridays.

They will also provide babysitting services for Parent/Teacher Conferences (reserve in office). Help your 8th graders to earn money for their class trip!

Hearing Testing

W Oct 14

Every year the Oakland County Health Division conducts hearing tests of children at certain age levels. On October 14th 4 and 5 year-olds from the Children's Center and children in grades 2 and 4 will be tested during the school day. A doctor referral letter will be mailed to parents or guardians of students who do not pass the hearing screening.

Picture Days

Tues, Wed, Thurs Oct 20, 21 & 22

School pictures will be taken October 20, 21 and 22. Look for a schedule in your mailbox this week.

Administrator's Coffee

W 10/14, after drop off (8:30-ish)

Katherine Thivierge, OSS Administrator, invites all parents to join her for coffee or tea after drop-off on the second Wednesday of the month in the Fireplace Room. It is an opportunity to ask questions, chat about Waldorf

education or the school. Please let Katherine know if it would be helpful for any parents to also have a gathering scheduled for evening or weekend hours. The first Administrator's coffee will be Wednesday, October 14.

PHOTOS! PHOTOS! PHOTOS!

Please submit your favorite OSS photos! We are looking for images of students, teachers, parents, classrooms, special projects, festivals, field trips, assemblies, architectural details of the building...you name it, we'd like to see it for possible use on our new website!!!

If you consider yourself to be a photographer, please let us know.

Digital images may be sent to:

osspix@gmail.com

Hard copy photos or CDs may be dropped off in the office (and can be returned).

Invitation: Please plan to attend or offer your two cents to the Website Work Group for the Tuesday, October 6 meeting, to be hosted in the Fireplace Room at drop off.

OSS Holiday Bazaar

Sat Nov 21 10 am – 4 pm

Visit the display across from the office on the Holiday Bazaar. Each class will be offering one craft activity this year. We are looking for craft vendors, items for the fishbowl raffle and help throughout the school. This year's theme is Stone Soup. What can you bring to the pot? Sign-up lists await your name. Many thanks to Patty Urda for the inviting artistic display and the amazing GIANT soup ladel. Jaime Greathouse, Sun Class parent, is our Bazaar Chair; feel free to call her (248.453.5123) leave a note in her mailbox or e-mail her (thosegreathouse women@gmail.com) if you have ideas or time to throw into the pot.

Lime Kiln Built for OSS Science Classes

The seventh grade is in the middle of their first chemistry block, learning about how exactly a candle works and what is so special about red cabbage juice. Next week we will be firing up the new lime kiln—a beautiful piece of equipment—donated to the school by Mr. Provenzano—in order to fathom the secrets of

the lime cycle. Our new lime kiln will last through many seventh grades. Many, many thanks to Mr. Provenzano for taking such an interest in our science program and for designing and donating such a well-designed and sturdily-engineered piece of equipment to our upper grades.

OSS Art in The Waldorf Calendar

The Oakland Steiner School has again had student art work selected for printing in the Waldorf School Calendar. Congratulations to Julia Gavulic for her pueblo house painting that will grace one month in the calendar. You will be able to get your own copy of Julia's masterpiece from the Gnome Home.

Board of Trustees Meetings

Meetings of the Board of Trustees are open to all in the Oakland Steiner community. The Board meets monthly in the Handwork Room (dates published in the school calendar). The Board begins each meeting with a study to deepen its understanding of Waldorf education. It is starting a study of the book "The Roots of Education" by Rudolf Steiner, which provides a stimulating synthesis of the Waldorf approach to education. The next Board meeting is Saturday, October 24, 9 am–noon.

Office Help Needed

As a part of our fiscal planning for this year, we reduced the coverage in the front office. We need volunteers to help at the front desk in the afternoon answering the phone and helping with clerical tasks. Please see Janalee or Uta.

Study Group

New participants are warmly welcome to a "Philosophy of Freedom" study group that meets every other Wednesday from 4:30 to 6:00, beginning September 23. For more information, contact Denise McCauley.

"Philosophy of Freedom" is one of the basic books of Anthroposophy. Rudolf Steiner tackles the questions of individual freedom and writes that if we want to be free, we must work through our own inner activity to overcome unconscious urges and habitual thinking.