



Oakland Steiner School Newsletter

October 20, 2009

School Calendar

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

W, Nov 11

Administrator's Coffee
After drop-off

Sat, Nov 21

Holiday Bazaar
10 am – 4 pm

Wed, Nov 25–Fri, Nov 26

Thanksgiving holiday. NO
SCHOOL. School resumes
Mon, Nov 30.

Fri, Dec 4

Children's Center Winter
Garden

Sat, Dec 5

Board Meeting
9 am-noon

Association of Waldorf Schools of North America Oakland Steiner School's Path to Accreditation

Thank you to the families who completed the parent survey at the parent evenings last week. We would like to have a survey from every family and welcome both parents of one family to complete the surveys. If you need a form, please ask in the office.

The Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA) is a membership organization of the Waldorf schools on this continent. It works to strengthen and nurture the impulse of Waldorf Education so that it manifests widely in the world. As a young Waldorf school becomes established, it can apply for membership in AWSNA as a developing school, and eventually apply for accreditation as a full member of AWSNA.

When a school applies to enter the accreditation process, it is saying to its community that this is an institution that is committed to a formal program of self-improvement. Through the reflective stage of self-study the school redefines its purpose and how it manifests. Thus, it is a step that informs the community and increases confidence, credibility and accountability. The self-study process and the resulting document can become the basis for long range planning and development work, even fundraising.

AWSNA Accreditation Guide

Accreditation represents a commitment on the part of the Oakland Steiner School to on-going improvement in a structured, systematic manner. The accreditation process involves two main parts, our self-evaluation in the form of a self-study, and a visit by an evaluation team from established Waldorf schools. The parent surveys are a part of the self-study process. Lisa Peyser, our accreditation coordinator, will prepare a report on the survey results that will be a part of our finished document. Our evaluating team visit will be in October of 2010.

All of the bodies of the school will be looking at all areas of school functioning in three phases:

1. Documentation – What is in place? What do we say we do?
2. Evaluation – Are we doing what we say we do?
3. Conclusions – what is going well, what could we do better, and our plans and priorities for the future.

This work will involve all of us at different stages, including the parents of the Oakland Steiner School.

The final self-study report will be submitted to AWSNA during the summer of 2010.

Parking in Fire Lane

Please do not park in the drive in front of the school at drop off and pick up. This is a fire lane and we need to keep it clear.

8th Grade Pizza—Monthly orders ONLY!

As of November 1, the 8th grade will no longer be taking weekly pizza orders. All orders must now be submitted via monthly orders. This is being done to improve efficiency and minimize the amount of time the students spend taking weekly orders. Thank you for your support.

Aftercare Snacks

If your child is scheduled for After Care, please remember to include an extra wholesome snack in his/her lunch (which they will hopefully remember to save for After Care). Children are typically ravenous after school!

We are regularly visited in our program by a child with a very severe peanut allergy; please pack non-peanut snacks.

Thank You ~ Miss Dee

Bazaar – A Call to Artists!

There are still tables available for vendors at the Bazaar. If you know anyone who is interested, have them contact Jaime Greathouse, 248.453.5123, leave a note in her mailbox or e-mail her at:

thosegreathouse women@gmail.com

New OSS Logo Preview

Kelly has been working with OSS parents Patty Urda and Gjyste Bojaj to design a new logo for Oakland Steiner. Please stop by the office window to check out new OSS logo ideas. Offer your comments on sheet of paper hanging next to the display. Thanks for your input. Kelly

New OSS Website Preview

A brief preview of the plan for our new website will be made at the Board Meeting on Saturday, October 24th. All are welcome. A copy of the proposal is also available for review on the display table in the office. Kelly

Gnome Home News

- ◆ SCRIP is now available in the Gnome Home.
- ◆ All Gnome Home purchases can be made via cash, check or credit cards if the purchase totals \$200 or more. SCRIP purchases can be combined with regular Gnome Home purchases to reach this \$200 amount.
- ◆ New items are arriving almost weekly in the Gnome Home until the Holiday Bazaar. Start your holiday shopping now—come see what's new.
- ◆ Before purchasing any books elsewhere, come see what is available in the Gnome Home and place your order there. I can get books from Steiner Books and other sources as well. All proceeds go to OSS. Currently available is a large variety of books for children of all ages and books for adults for self growth and related to parenting.
- ◆ Two books currently being studied are available in the Gnome Home, The Roots of Education (study of the Board of Trustees) and Philosophy of Freedom (bi-weekly Wednesday study group).
- ◆ If you are interested in volunteering for an hour per week in the Gnome Home, please contact Ellen Rostker for scheduling. Volunteers will receive a 10% discount on non-sale items after they have worked 10 hours in the Gnome Home and show a commitment to continuing their volunteer hours. The discount will be available as long as volunteer hours continue.

Thanksgiving Holiday

Please note on the calendar that our Thanksgiving Holiday starts this year on Wednesday, November 25. There is NO SCHOOL on Wednesday, November 25. School resumes on Monday, November 30. Enjoy the holiday!

Personal and Parent-to-Parent



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.

Class on Specific Carbohydrate Diet

An introductory class, "Your Family's Health: Hope for Healing an Epidemic," will be offered by Cheryl Steinberg at OSS on Saturday, 11/7, 10 am-noon. Cheryl reports that this diet is a way to recover children and adults from the epidemic of chronic illnesses, including autism, ADHD, digestive disorders and allergies. \$18 (or register by 10/31 for \$15). Contact Cheryl at cheryl@spiritofmotherhood.net.