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**April 16, 2010**

## Calendar of Events

### April

- 15 – FACTS Applications Due
- 17 – **Annual School Spring Cleaning**
- 22 – Board of Directors Meeting  
6:30pm
- 24 – **Earth Fair**
- 28 – **Grades Parent Evening**
- 30 – Kindergarten Field Trip

### May

- 1 – Biodynamic Organic Garden  
Workshop 1:00 – 3:00pm
- 7 – Friends and Grandparents Day
- 7 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Play 8:30 am
- 7 – 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Play 9:00 am
- 12-14 – Fifth Grade Pentathlon
- 18 – Board of Directors Meeting  
6:30pm
- 26 – Assembly 2:00
- 27 – NO SCHOOL – Parent  
Teacher Conferences
- 28 – NO School – Parent Teacher  
Conferences
- 31 – NO SCHOOL

### June

- 4 – Last Day of School Picnic at  
3:00

## Time again for FACTS applications to be completed!

The link for applications is

<https://www.factstuitionaid.com/facts/gaindex>. Applications are **due by April 15**. Conversations will be scheduled as soon as the applications are done, so please drop an email and let us know when yours is finished. Call Mark Dubey or Alma for questions.

## Office Notes

Come one, come all to our **Annual School Spring Cleaning**. Join us on **Saturday, April 17 from 10-2**, as we make our building sparkle after a long winter. There are corners to clean, weeds to be pulled, windows to wash and a variety of other chores for all skill levels. If you have them, it would be helpful to have extra squeegees, rags, buckets, grass rakes and gloves. We hope to see you there!

Wow! Can you believe we are closing in on the end of another year? This year has gone much faster than Judy Mitby could get the Library up and running. If you are interested in helping Judy throughout the summer, please contact the office. It would be most wonderful if TRWS could have its own library by the start of next year!

## Summer Program

Exciting things are happening... Summer is fast approaching...

Do you know what your child will be doing this summer? How about attending the Summer Program? If your child is between 4 1/2 years of age and 6<sup>th</sup> grade, they are invited to join us for a sensational summer. The program will begin on June 7th and end August 20th and be open from 7:30 to 5:30 pm. The excitement of our kitchen garden program will trickle down to the children. They will participate in tending the garden, including planting and harvesting. The food harvested will be used in a cooking class where they will prepare their own lunches. The rhythm of the day will also include arts, crafts, and exploring outdoors. We will also be offering special field trips to frolic in Hixon Forest, splash at Copeland Park and farm visits to Rainbow Ridge Farm. The hours we will be operating this summer are 7:30 am – 5:30 pm. Full time care is \$170 per week, which includes lunch and two snacks daily. Day rates are \$40. Hourly rate is \$6.00. Special rates are available for siblings. **We are making plans NOW. Please fill out the attached Registration Form noting the drop off and pick up times so that we can adequately plan for staffing and activities.** Please inform the office by April 23. ~Ms. Alex

# It is Earth Fair time and we need YOUR help!

We are hosting the La Crosse Earth Week Coalition's Earth Fair on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This will be a great event celebrating Earth Day's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and a wonderful way for our school to build our community.

## **We need You to make this a great event. Here are ways you can help.**

Please see the lobby sign-up for details and sign-up today!!

1. **TRWS Food Concession: We need cash "sponsorship" donations to buy most of the food, we need some ingredient donations and kitchen volunteers on April 24<sup>th</sup>.**
2. **Crafts:** Volunteers are needed to prepare the crafts before the Fair and help make flower crowns, bead people, music shakers, plant pots, and garden markers at the Fair.
3. **Marsh Puppets Parade:** We need children and adults can Fly the Heron and Float the Frogs on Lily Pads at the Earth Fair. Please see the lobby sign-up for details.
4. **School Clean-Up on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.** Please come help us get our building and grounds looking great. Bring gloves, rakes and rags!
5. Take a Volunteer shift (or two!) on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. See the sign-up sheet in the lobby. **We have shifts available for every skill level and schedule from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. We need your help!**
6. Come to the Earth Fair with your family and friends and enjoy a great day!

For more information, contact Martha Buche (782-8774 or [Martha.trs@charter.net](mailto:Martha.trs@charter.net)) or Jon Trapp (792-2665 or [jtrapp@armitageinonline.com](mailto:jtrapp@armitageinonline.com)). Thanks for all of your support.

## *Thanks to Puppet Repair Helpers!*

Thank you to all the "medical staff" who assisted the large-scale marsh puppets get all fixed up at our Puppet Hospital for our **Earth Fair Puppet Parade on Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup>**. Ms. Erickson and Madelyn, Ella and Ms. Katie, Mr. Kurt Firary, Jim Pattison, Kate, and Liam all helped to repair and re-paint our six and seven year old puppets for a fresh new look. Many Thanks to you all, and to Kurt for donating repair supplies for the job. Be sure to sign-up to be part of the magic- there are limited spaces, especially for the student puppets, so sign-up early! Puppeteer sign-up is on the same board as the volunteer and food sponsor/donor sign-up in the main hallway. We need you to make this Earth Fair another rousing success, like last year's was. It is going to be a BEAUTIFUL day! Sign-up to be a part of it!

Ms. Martha Buche

## *Plant Sale at the Earth Day Fair*

*"You say Tomato, We say Field Trips!"*

The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade has been busy ushering spring in. We have approximately 150 Tomato plants for sale! Proceeds are to help the 4<sup>th</sup> grade in their fundraising for future trips and events. Remaining plants will grace the school garden.

The plants available for \$3.00 are: Brandywine Reds, Brandywine Yellows, Oregon Spring, Martins Roma, and Tomato Roma. These are either organic, heirlooms or both. See our booth at the fair or reserve ahead of time with Mr. Rabbitt.

## *Earth Day Fair Raffle*

There are several "green" raffle items already, but we could always use some more. If you happen to have high quality "green" items you could donate, we would appreciate them. Tickets will go on sale Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

# Silent Auction Success!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

This year's Silent Auction was one for the books to say the least! With a last minute venue change, I couldn't help but wonder; "Are we going to reach our fundraising goal?" Well I am happy to say that we did it! We raised over \$15,000. That is all profit!

This would not have happened without the support of so many, and the hard work, and continual planning by the auction committee. *Kurt Firary, Oakley & Erin Carnal, Cheryl Meyers, Lynn Wolter, Katie Monahan, and Corrie Brekke* all put their positive energy into this event, I am so grateful for their commitment to the auction, and our school. Thank you all for your hard work!

So many people contribute to the success of an event like this. Thank you to our sponsors! Your generosity covers the expenses to hold this fundraiser! Thank you to all who donated items, attended the event, invited friends and family to join us, volunteered at the event, and made desserts. This type of support is what makes the Silent Auction successful. And a very special thank you to all who helped with the set up the morning of the event. Without all the patience, hard work, positive attitudes, creativity, team work, and being able to completely switch gears, the auction would not have been able to change locations and still be amazing. Every one of you played an important role in my life that day, and I will always be grateful. *Alma Noll, Martha Buche, Oakley & Erin Carnal, Nami Cutler, Rich Bettini, Kurt Firary, Melani Fay, Shelly Wolter-Reinders, Tanya Grabinski, Trish Nelson, Joey Kay, Corrie Brekke, Katie & Ella Monahan, Lauri Hoff, Lynn Wolter, Marilyn Huckenpoehler, Dan, Hunter, & Sawyer Baumgardt, Elizabeth Hutchenson, Jane Herbert, Krissa Valentine, and Cameron, Austin, Ruby & Camille Blake*, that day, was an amazing display of what the TRWS community is capable of. I am so proud to have shared this experience with all of you.

If you didn't have the pleasure of joining us this year at the Spring Soirée, I sure hope you will be able to attend next year, and if you did, we hope you had a great time and will join us again! **Save the Date March 26th 2011!**

Jeni Blake  
Silent Auction Coordinator

No thank you list would be complete without a huge thank you to Jeni Blake for her leadership of the silent auction. Jeni spent months working on every detail, making sure that the auction would be a success. THANK YOU JENI!!

## *Parent-Infant and Parent- Child News*

We are getting ready to sew up our adorable knitted spring bunnies in Parent-Infant class! The new knitting Mamas are catching on quickly to this new craft, and making great progress! Rondell and Julia will soon be snuggling (and gnawing on!) their bunny toys!

In Parent-Child Class, the adults are nearly finished with the copper wind chimes craft, while the children will have a new circle to learn this week. As the weather warms more in the mornings, we may begin to do our circle times outdoors on the playground. Come dressed for the weather and we can be ready for anything!

Here is the recipe I use in class for the ever-popular snack:

### Rice Pudding

2-C Brown rice	3-C Rice or Almond, or Dairy milk
4-C Water	1-can Coconut Milk
3-3" cinnamon sticks	Maple Syrup about _ to 3/4 cup (to taste)

Cook rice and water with cinnamon sticks (as for plain rice) for about 45 minutes. With just a bit of water left to be absorbed in the rice, add other ingredients and simmer, stirring often until mixture thickens to a rice pudding like texture. You may add raisins if you like for a more traditional rice pudding presentation. Enjoy!

*Ms. Martha*

## *Little Lights*

*Little Jenny Wren  
Sitting by her shed  
She waggled with her tail,  
And she nodded with her head.  
She waggled with her tail,  
And nodded with her head.  
Little Jenny Wren  
Sitting by her shed.*

Thanks to Ms. Donna, the children at Little Lights have a new indoor window balcony to observe all the wonderful happenings of spring. We all enjoy watching the birds come to feed right outside our window!

Happy Spring from “the room with a new view”

*Little Lights Staff*

## *Kindergarten News*

Our next field trip is scheduled for Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> to Rainbow Ridge Farm. The children love this annual spring outing to feed all Ms. Donna’s animals and climb the fabulous “monkey tree” up on the hill. More particulars will follow in the upcoming weeks.

Thank you to Ms. Courtney and Ms. Rachael for the extra support to the Kindergartens while Ms. Marinella was off to sunny California for her final shadow puppet training with Suzanne Downs. Aside from the extra workload, the program hardly skipped a beat. We all do look forward to Ms. Marinella’s return and renewed enthusiasm for more puppetry.

We are hoping to have our snack picnics regularly in the park on Fridays (Park Day). As spring in Wisconsin will be sometimes cold, sometimes damp or raining, and occasionally bright and sunny and warm, please dress your children for the colder morning with layers that we can take off as the day warms up. Being close to the river, it is always colder than at home or even on the playground. Spring can be very unpredictable dressing comfortable, it is an important lesson to learn over all the seasons.

Lastly, there is change happening on the playground with spring energy and new life bursting. We hope to invest in a new play environment to meet the young child’s needs. If you are interested in supporting these plans or want to dig or plant or level dirt, talk to the teachers about how you can help.

Happy Spring!

Ms. Marinella and Ms. Mary Ellyn

## *Math Moments 1st/2nd Grade*

The first and second grade children are exploring the four processes - so much to grow into! The aha moments are wonderful to witness as they see a pattern or in a flash experience what their hands and feet are doing in a whole new light. The walks to the beach have been amazing as we have witnessed the river rise and fall. They love to see the eagles and the ducks. This week we saw the water as smooth as glass. A big dead stinky fish is always intriguing too.

The play will be on May 7th (Grandparent's Day) at 8:30am and on May 12th (Wednesday) at 9:00am. The children have been wonderfully dressed in layers for the cool mornings and warm afternoons - thank you! The children are so delighted with their handwork. We will schedule a special day for them to bring in their work. When the entire grade is finished with the flute case, gnome, or other work. As always, your love for your children is heard in their engaging laughter and seen in their eyes.

Cradled cozily cradled deep,

    Wrapped in the warm earth baby seeds sleep.

        Light we shed on them light divine,

        Seeds in the darkness twinkle and shine.

    Dream 'til the spring sun climbing the skies,

    Shines through the darkness and bids you arise.

Warmly,

Ms. Erickson

## *Greetings from the Third Grade*

We are currently in our 2nd week of our last math block of the year. The students have been busy reviewing place value through carrying and borrowing and are discovering the challenge of long multiplication. We will then navigate the multi-step process of long division.

I am scheduling a planning meeting for the camping trip next Tuesday, April 20, at 3:30 here at the school. Anyone interested in chaperoning and/or helping to plan is invited. The goals of this meeting are to devise a supply list as well as a chaperone list. I will then choose chaperones based on the needs of the class. If you are interested in chaperoning, or have specific questions or concerns about planning, but cannot attend the meeting, please call or email me. We will then discuss the camping trip as a whole at our Parent Evening on April 28th.

Ms. Morse

## *Fourth Grade*

The play block had ended! A special thanks to Kate Richmond for her sewing prowess. I hope you all enjoyed the tremendous effort put forth by the class.

Mr. Rabbitt

## *Hello 5th/6th Grade Families*

The Roman History Block is coming to an end this week and I will be returning as the main lesson teacher. Beginning on Monday the class will begin a review block of Ancient Greece. We will expand upon some of the myths that Ms. Laing brought last year as well as begin our class play. I have not yet announced to the class the name of the play so I will not announce the title just yet, be sure to ask your child next week! The dates of the play are Friday, May 7th (this performance is set for grandparents, but if this is your best day, then please join us), Tuesday, May 11th and Wednesday, May 12th. All performances are at 9am.

I hope the play will present the opportunity for the class to come together again with me as their lead teacher. Play blocks often have the additional benefit of bonding the group; something this class needs. The 5th and 6th grade class is still a newly forming class and they now have the added challenge of the social unrest that comes with adolescence. This particular time is also the time of the Pentathlon. This event can be divisive in a combined class as that it is really a fifth grade experience. Taking all of this into consideration, I am really excited to bring the class together for their culminating play block.

After sending out the questionnaire regarding the rock wall climbing experience I would also like to tell you that I have scheduled a two-hour adventure program for the class. I will be sending home permission slips and waivers shortly. It was wonderful to see that many parents were willing to offer to make up the cost if it was beyond the ability of all to pay. I think that was a gracious model to set for the students so, thank you all. This adventure trip is also an opportunity for the children to work together in a joyful setting. The program is scheduled for Thursday, May 6th, from 9:30-11:30. We will need drivers, if you are interested please let me know.

Along with the arrival of spring also comes the opportunity to work in the Northside Community Gardens. The school will be hard at work preparing the kitchen gardens, but there will also be time for the students to work in the Community Garden. The lead gardener, Todd, has been impressed with the work of the students in the past and welcomes us back each year. I do not have times set, but am awaiting a return phone call. There are also evening and weekend times for families to work at the garden together. If you have not done so in the past, it is a wonderful opportunity to help out those in need of good fresh food.

A final reminder of some upcoming dates. I anticipate receiving camping information soon from the Pleasant Ridge Pentathlon committee. When it arrives I will send it on to all fifth grade families. It will include driving directions, expectations, and a schedule of events. All parents are invited to the Pentathlon events on Thursday. The overnight camping chaperones/drivers are Rhonda Rabbitt, Steve Klingemann, and Ali Laing. While the fifth graders are camping and participating in the Pentathlon, the sixth graders will be camping with Sanna Yoder, Kurt Firary, and Dan Baumgardt. The dates for both events are Wednesday, May 12th through Friday, May 14th. Both groups will leave on Wednesday, after lunch, and return on Friday for lunch.

Also, the last parent evening is Wednesday, April 28th at 6:30pm. I hope to see you all there. ~ Ms. Hotchkiss

## *Eighth Grade Update*

Due to the unbelievable amount of illness that has struck the class (the students, not the teacher), we have postponed the play by one week. We will present the play Wednesday, April 21st at 6pm and Thursday, April 22nd at 9am. Many apologies for any inconvenience. We have only had two rehearsals where everyone was present and these were at the beginning of the block. Mr. Bettini and I have worked out some rehearsal times so as not to interfere with the upcoming block.

## *Español 3*

The third grade is continuing to work on vocabulary with food. We will be talking about which foods we like and don't like to eat. We will use the first, second and third person of speech reinforcing the grammar points in the main lesson.

Also they will be working on learning how to re tell the story of "El leon y el ratón" (The mouse and the lion) in Spanish.

## *Español 4*

In fourth grade we will continue to reinforce clothing vocabulary by expanding with the question "¿Cuánto cuesta?" (How much does it cost?) We will create a mock marketplace where the students will shop around each other's "store" using Costa Rican "colones" as currency that the students will create.

## *Español 5/6*

The 5/6th grade just completed their Spanish-speaking countries project. I am very pleased to "brag" that I have never received such impeccable work from students in my teaching experience! They are very excited to present their research to their classmates. Some are even taking the extra step to share a traditional dish from their country. We will get back into the language portion of the class by reviewing time and talking about our schedules.

¡Hasta Luego!

Naimah Simonson

## *Movement with Ms. Doerr*

It is spring and the third through eight grade Movement classes are preparing for the May festival on Grandparents Day, Friday May 7<sup>th</sup>. We are working on the beautiful forms students can create together with music, the Maypole and their whole class. The Faculty also had a chance to dance many Maypole dances at our last faculty meeting. The joyful learning of this Folk tradition is creeping about the whole school community. We look forward to sharing this fun dance with the greater TRWS community in May.

Ms. Doerr

## *After Care*

Aftercare will be enjoying the *great outdoors* every Tuesday by going to Copeland Park from 3:30 – 4:30 (weather permitting). If you will be picking up your child during that time frame, please stop by Copeland Park!

We also have some arts and crafts needs. We are looking for tape, glue sticks, drawing paper and collage materials. Please let Alex know what you are able to donate so that we do not get overloaded on one item. Thanks!

Alex, Hannah, and Andrea

## *Enchanted News!*

Spring has sprung! Flowers are in bloom, and new items have popped up in the school store! Check out the new decorative beeswax, spring colored block crayons, and more. Plus select items are still on sale. Stop in before, during, or after school.

We are planning for another successful Earth day. Please sign up to help out Enchanted, sign up sheet in the foyer on the bulletin board.

We have **Maple Syrup!** Stop in and get yours before it is gone.

**Do you have a favorite yarn?** Enchanted would love to stock it. Drop us a note and let us know what you would like to see in the store. Your input is valued.

## Scrip

Now that the school year is on its final lap, we would like to know how to better use the Scrip program and find out why many of us do not use the Scrip program. Nicole has created a survey for you to complete and the link is: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QNDX6LV>. Please take a moment to complete the survey. If you would rather have a paper copy, one is attached to the newsletter.

It's time for another way to help out the school! Order scrip gift cards for your purchases at national retailers and restaurants, or give scrip cards as gifts to friends and relatives. Purchase the gift cards at their face value (order forms are in the school office and in the foyer) and the school in turn purchases them at a discount and keeps the profit! **Great Lakes scrip gift cards will be ordered NEXT Monday (April 19th)** and will be ready for pick up by the end of that week.

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## Community Corner

Youth Initiative High School will be hosting a Faculty Showcase on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 7:00pm to 9:00 pm in the Landmark Center. Learn who they are and what they teach. ~ History of Revolutions ~ Comedy & Tragedy ~ Spanish ~ Astronomy ~ Nutritional Science

*Dear Waldorf School Community,*

*Through membership with AWSNA your school belongs to the Council for American Private Education, CAPE, an advocacy group that has in its board membership, representatives of approximately 85% of the independent and faith-based school community in the United States.*

*The following is a link to the latest newsletter from CAPE outlining current issues concerning all independent schools. Our hope is that, though the issues are United States based, the parental and school choice ideas will prove helpful in defining issues in all our schools on the North American continent.*

*Please distribute the following link to keep your school community members informed of these important issues surrounding education:  
<http://www.capenet.org/pdf/Outlook354.pdf>. It will also be made available on the [www.whywaldofworks.org](http://www.whywaldofworks.org) web site.*

*Yours in service,*

*Patrice Maynard  
Leader for Outreach and Development  
Association of Waldorf Schools of N. America*

## Biodynamic Organic Garden Workshop

Join us for an informative afternoon filled with tips on how to prepare, seed, cultivate, and harvest a biodynamic garden in your own backyard. Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup> from 1pm-3pm here at the school. For inquiries contact [wellnessliving@ymail.com](mailto:wellnessliving@ymail.com). Looking forward to seeing you there!