

October 18, 2007

Cape Ann Waldorf School, 668 Hale Street, Beverly Farms, MA 01915 978-927-8811 www.capeannwaldorf.org

Red Rose Kindergarten

by *Caroline Mercier*

(Due to an email glitch this write-up did not come through last week and should have been included with the class updates. It has safely arrived. Here it is. Ed.)

Fresh clean breezes run playfully through the leaves above us. The determined autumn sunlight finds every possible space to peek through. Green leaves are brimming with a golden hue. They are chock-full after drinking in summer's sun. We can see the beginnings of a transition as their colorful stories start to unfold. Already, some are making their descent, offering themselves to the earth. When they tumble down, some are attached to each other like good friends. Others bring along a fresh green acorn with a snug-fitting hat. They somehow still seem full of life as they sit and await a dimpled hand to come along. Maybe it will be placed in a fairy house or a crab-apple stew. Or it might float in a puddle or stick out of a braid or a hat. And then there are those leaves that will wait and stay attached to their branch, not quite ready to let go... until the most convincing of winds comes along and carries them away.

The children too, are full and reminiscent of their summer. Still rosy and freckled from summer sun, they begin to share their colorful stories! And they are making their transition from those long un-interrupted barefoot summer days to these shorter autumn days with socks and shoes and early bedtimes. Some friends stay close together arm in arm. Some whirl around between others. And some wait and stay close to their teacher, holding on to her hand until... when the right time comes, a breeze of a different sort comes along and sweeps them away.

As the autumn winds become more playful, so do the children. "Cheetah burrows," leafy-hay

Love is higher than opinion. If people love one another, the most varied opinions can be reconciled ... this is one of the most important tasks for mankind today and in the future; that men should learn to live together and understand one another. If this human fellowship is not achieved, all talk of (deeper) development is empty.

Rudolf Steiner

piles, galloping horses, "fire-rocks" and freckled smiles decorate our days and nourish our souls.

We soak in all of the glory that this season has to offer. And it will continue to resonate in us as we prepare for the wonderfully bare and frosty days not so far away.

HERE COMES THE HOLIDAY FAIR

*****30 DAYS TO GO!*****

People look East, the time is near

Of the crowning of the year,

Make your house fair, as you are able,

Trim the hearth and set the table.

People look East and sing today.

Love, the guest is on the way.

Although we were just enjoying eighty-degree weather two weeks ago, it is time to get in the spirit of the Annual Holiday Fair! Get out your calendars, as our much beloved Fair is scheduled for Saturday November 17th! Let me go into more detail for those of you who are new to our school or who need to be reminded (you know who you are!) of how we transform our school (as well as ourselves) to welcome in the holiday season. First of all, dear reader, the Holiday Fair encompasses the entire building. During the Holiday Day Fair weekend, the building is filled to the brim with merry-making, storytelling, beeswax candle making, fantastic craft opportunities, Madrigal Singers, puppet shows, treasure troves of books, holiday gifts

and toys, as well as yes, The Pocket Lady! May I venture to say that all the magic that is created during this one special weekend in November may be what lights our own lanterns that carry us through the dark winter season that follows?

Yes, the Holiday Fair is a special time for the school, but what makes it all work is the hundreds of hours that we all give to make all the food, decorate the rooms, gather greens and pocket lady items as well as volunteer on the day of the Fair itself. Please know that everyone is invited to give time at the Fair, all help is appreciated and necessary to make our communities' largest event successful and FUN. Just like in any great undertaking, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, so please bring your own special magic to the Fair preparations!

Over the next few weeks we will need help with:

Madrigal Singers

The Café

Children's Activities

Pocket Lady Items – help! We need a coordinator!

Class Contributions

Class Activities

Greens for Decorations

Raffle – any offerings?

Vendors

Candle-Dipping

Signs and Programs – who can make a BIG chart?

Plant Orders

Volunteers – lots and lots please

Inventory – pricing already underway, contact Jen in the school store

Decorating

Set-Up and Clean Up

The great news is that some areas are already on the move: The vendors have been contacted and have responded thanks to Laura Freysinger (mother of Red Rose Kindergartner, Gavin). The Holiday Fair mailing went out yesterday -

thank you to our wonderful volunteers! Also, Chris Dowley (father of same Red Rose Kindergartner, Gavin) has already cut out all the birch logs necessary for the 6th Grade Candle Holders, and alumni are at the ready for helping in the school store on Fair Day. And the Holiday Fair Committee is on the move. Please let us know how you can help. Talk with Andrea Higashibaba or Heather Collis-Puro to volunteer or for ideas of what you can do!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLAY REHEARSALS BEGINNING IN THE MAIN HALL

The Eighth Grade will begin play rehearsals during their main lesson period in the main hall this Monday, October 22. This means that we need to quickly get in to make our purchases from Rosemary in the kitchen and be out of the main hall by 8:30 AM. Should you need to go into the main hall after 8:30 AM, please do so quietly so as not to disturb the rehearsal. The rehearsals are part of the class curriculum and the main hall needs to be considered a classroom at that time.

This is the policy for any classes taking place in the main hall. Play rehearsals throughout the year include a period of main hall use. Please be conscious of those times, and from 8:30 to 10:10 a.m. envision the day when we have a parents' socializing space off the kitchen and an auditorium in which to practice our plays.

Meanwhile, thank you for your support of the classes.

HALLOWEEN UPDATE

The blustery days of October have turned our thoughts to Halloween. In planning for this holiday, both the grades and the early childhood teachers will be observing simple, subdued activities during the school day to complement the often excitement-filled activities that happen out of school. In keeping with this spirit, our school events will be costume free.

We acknowledge that last year, members of our community missed the costumes and games of previous years. Conversely, a good number had also expressed concern that those in-school celebrations had become over-stimulating. We found that, for the most part, last year's focus on shared experiences among the classes - featuring pumpkin carving, stories and songs, and deemphasizing costumes and sweets - made for a successful celebration.

The following are descriptions from both the Grades and Early Childhood Teachers with details specific to this upcoming holiday.

Rose Sheehan, for the Faculty

Halloween in the Grades

This year, our preparations and celebration for Halloween will be simple and seasonal in nature. In the weeks preceding Halloween, each class will pair up with its "buddy" class to carve pumpkins. During the last period on Wednesday, October 31, the Jack-O-Lanterns will be waiting to greet the children from grades one through five, glowing beautifully and mysteriously in a darkened second grade room. Sabrina Babcock will share a Halloween story while the children enjoy the pumpkin display.

Dianne McGaunn, for the Grades Teachers

Halloween in the Early Childhood Programs

In Early Childhood experiences related to Halloween come through our relationship with the autumn season and the festivals they bring. We are already hearing stories, observing puppetry and experience in movement circles many activities related to the harvest and autumn season.

In our practical work, we enjoy the fruits of the season and have fun with pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns. Some Kindergarten children will carve pumpkins with their buddies next door in the grades. Others will watch their teacher carve a

pumpkin aided by helpful suggestions regarding style. The children scoop out the pulp and seeds with much commentary, then separate, roast and eat the seeds. The youngest children hear stories about the harvest, the littlest pumpkin and jack-o-lanterns. We may eat pumpkin in our soups or in muffins. The older children in early childhood hear stories about a naughty hobgoblin and dingle dangle scarecrow with a flippy floppy hat. They may play the Pumpkin King Game. I'll bet you are wondering how to play that! And some will make a simple ghost. Boo!

Susan White, for the Early Childhood Teachers

MORE CORRECTIONS ON THE CLASS UPDATES

Cut off at the pass: *The end of the fourth graders' poem was cut off in the Fourth Grade write up. Here it is in full with credit to its authors:*

The Theft Of Miolnir

Thor awoke, his hammer was gone!
He and Sif looked on and on.
Loki made a plan to save the day,
With Freya's falcon skin made his way.
Thrym demanded Freya as his bride.
When she was told, lovely Freya cried.
Heimdall told Thor to go in disguise.
Thrym was in for an unhappy surprise!
The bride Thor hungrily ate an ox.
But Loki was a cunning fox,
He told Thrym of his bride's eagerness
And so Thrym tried to steal a kiss.
Then for the bridal gift Thrym did go.
Thor took his hammer with a mighty blow
He killed each one of the giant foe,
And so to Hel they all did go.

By the Fourth Grade

Apologies to the fourth Grade!

And, as for the Sukkah:

Through a comedy of errors the spelling of Sukkah was incorrect in last week's newsletter in the Third Grade Update, this after Ms. Quayle, the Third Grade teacher, had so carefully and diligently researched and differentiated between the Sukkah (the structure, one of which the Third Grade built and should have been represented in the class update in the newsletter) and Sukkoth (the holiday known as The Feast of the Tabernacles). Apologies to Ms. Quayle, the Third Grade, the builders and celebrators of Sukkahs and Sukkoth respectively, and to all the newsletter readers.

Ed.

CAWS ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT BY TORIN FINSER

Our school has engaged Torin Finser, who has consulted to more than 30 Waldorf schools and was a Waldorf teacher for three decades, to help us assess our governance and organization and identify recommendations for improvement. Torin met with CAWS faculty, staff, and Board Advisory Council on September 25, and then interviewed 28 individuals, including the college and parent association leadership, on October 10-11. A report on Torin's findings and recommendation is available in the office for anyone who would like a copy. We look forward to continuing this process to further strengthen the governance of the Cape Ann Waldorf School.

If you have questions about Torin's work with the school, please contact Jenny Helmick.

THE SURPRISING POWER OF FAMILY MEALS

On Thursday, November 1st at 7:00 PM, the Early Childhood Faculty will welcome Miriam Weinstein, author of "**The Surprising Power of Family Meals: How Eating Together Makes Us Smarter, Stronger, Healthier and Happier**". Miriam will talk about her research and work regarding the power of family meals.

All members of the community are warmly invited to attend her presentation. Come find out why Miriam tells us that having supper together increases academic success and a child's vocabulary. Family meals help teenagers in many ways. They help prevent eating disorders and reduce the incidence of drug abuse, teen pregnancy and smoking. Miriam's book is available in the Enchanted Caravan.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSES LOOKING FOR SUBSTITUTES

We are looking for people who can be called for substitution in the Early Childhood classes. If interested please contact Yoko Yeaton at school or at home or email her at yhyeaton@comcast.net. Thank you.

COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENT

**Open House at Waldorf High School of Massachusetts Bay
Sunday, October 28, 1 to 4 p.m.**

What is it that makes a Waldorf high school education unique? It is the curriculum and teaching style that meets head-on the essential questions of the teenager. Attend this open house and hear from high school faculty about the history, English, math and science curriculum. Faculty presentations will start at 2 p.m., sharp. There will be tours of the school conducted by students and parents. Families are welcome. Waldorf High School of Massachusetts Bay is located at 132 Lexington Street in Belmont, MA. For more information call 617-489-6600 or visit www.waldorfhighschool.org.

PERSONAL

ANYONE NEED A HANDYMAN?

A Waldorf husband is looking for work doing handyman projects and/or carpentry. If you have need of such help call Phil or Patty at 978-283-8843.

The Enchanted Caravan School Store

The Cape Ann Waldorf School * 668 Hale Street * Beverly, MA 01915 * 978-927-1901

We are happy to announce that the Enchanted Caravan has reinstated its Lending Library program.

- * Library is located outside the office and downstairs in the main hall
- Borrowing privileges for 2 books at a time-please see Pam in the office or Jen Schafer
- Access to a growing library of titles on parenting, Waldorf education, crafts, songs and many other subjects from early childhood to the teenage years & more.

Stop in during store hours and we will gladly open the library doors for you.

Also...

- * Many beautiful, costume-worthy silk dress-up clothes have arrived.
- * There're only a few Halloween honey pots left – come in and see!
- * See a complete collection of beautiful silk cloths in many colors, newly-restocked. Several new colors too! Great for nature tables.
- * Our resident candle maker/beekeeper/Early Childhood teacher Mrs. Mansur has brought in her newly-harvested honey in several sizes.

- * **Holiday Fair is fast approaching – (November 17th) – some one-of-a-kind items will be there! – Remember the Friday night preview and sneak peeks sooner if you volunteer to price!**

Store hours:

Monday, Wednesday* and Friday: 8:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

(*Wednesday: till – 1:00 p.m.)