

ONE MOMENT IN TIME

Free play has begun in First Grade aftercare. Aisle two between the rows of desks has become the home of cats and puppies – and owls. Blankets and pillows are laid out. Books are – after some discussion of fairness – distributed to all parties involved. There are the usual workings out of who is the mommy puppy and who the mommy owl, but in short time things are under way. The basket of wood pieces - sawed, sanded and polished slices of branches and other various and sundry shapes cut from a smooth-barked tree – comes out, its contents to become dog bones, plates, and other useful utensils in the puppy/cat/owl world. A particularly intriguing piece comes forth:

“This is my i pod.”

“Let’s go to Mexico.”

“*Denga, denga, denga, denga.*”

“That can’t be an i pod. You need ear phones.”

“This one doesn’t have ear phones. *Denga, denga, denga, denga.*”

“This is my i pod, too. It’s a magical i pod.”

“Hey! Let’s get in the car.”

“Look it’s a train!”

“Yeah, it’s train! *Denga, denga, denga, denga.*”

“Can I be your baby puppy?”

“I only have one puppy, and I already have a puppy.”

“Can I be your baby owl?”

“You can be my baby owl because I can have two baby owls.”

“This is a subway! It carries books and i pods.”

*We live in our world,
A world that is too small
For you to enter
Even on hands and knees,
The adult subterfuge.
And though you probe and pry
With analytic eye,
And eavesdrop all our talk
With an amused look,
You cannot find our centre
Where we dance, where we play,
Where life is still asleep
Under the closed flower,
Under the smooth shell
Of eggs in the cupped nest
That mock the faded blue
Of your remoter heaven.*

R. S. Thomas, *Children’s Song* (1955)

“This is my mother’s cell phone. Hey, you can’t hear!”

“I can! It’s on speaker!”

“*Denga, denga, denga, denga.*”

“This is a little owl cell phone.”

“Let’s set up here. This is Animal Kingdom.”

Chair on its side, book propped up to show pictures: “This is my television.”

“Here is your i pod!”

“Let’s get on the airplane. It’s time to go to Mexico!”

“Baby’s coming! She’s a very obedient baby. She’ll make a great grown-up someday.”

“Time to pick up!”

“Awwwww!!!”

“Let’s do this outside, too.”

Brought to you by the First Grade After Care Group

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCHOOL PICTURES

Tuesday, September 25 will be picture day for Kindergarten through grade 8. Please fill out the order form and return by Monday. (Order forms will be on the attendance boards by Friday.) Dress your children in the clothes you want to remember them by and bring a smile!

Thursday, September 27 will be picture day for Sunflower Nursery. Tuesday, October 2 will be picture day for Bluebell Nursery. Order forms should be in by the day before.

PARENT HANDWORK

Beginning, Thursday, September 27, from 8:30 to 10:00 AM in the main hall we will hold Parent Handwork. All are welcome. Any parents of first and second graders who wish to learn to knit in order to support their child are especially encouraged to attend. To find out what to bring or any other details, please call Deborah Bishop, 978-283-7226, or look for her Mondays and Thursdays at school.

PREPARING FOR THE MICHAELMAS HARVEST TABLE & CAWS MICHEALMAS FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 28

On Friday, September 28, CAWS will have its annual Michaelmas Festival. This

consists of a day of work projects in the morning that serve the whole school - such as polishing apples or cleaning up a playground – and a pageant at Dix Park in the afternoon at which we eat dragon bread, have a tug o’ war, and other such festive activities. The Caws community is welcome to come join us in the afternoon at Dix Park.

We will also prepare a harvest table as part of our celebration. The grades school faculty is requesting that children in grades 1 through 8 bring in food to be sent to the Beverly Food Pantry. Each child should bring one or two items, preferably fresh produce, **before Friday, the 28th**. The grades children will place their food offerings on a Harvest Table in the Main Hall at lunchtime on the 28th.

Tom Braden for the Festival Committee

PICK UP POLICY REMINDER

This is a reminder that children who have a full day of school must be picked up by 2:55 PM. Teachers often have after-school meetings and other responsibilities. All children should be picked up as soon as possible after 2:40 PM dismissal. At 2:55 any children not yet picked up will be taken to the office and need to be retrieved from there. After five late pick ups, the parents will be billed. Pick up between 2:55 and 3:30 will be charged \$30. Pick up between 3:30 and 4:00 will be charged \$50. It is naturally understood that there are unplanned circumstances such as a flat tire or stopped traffic. In those instances it is helpful if you inform the office of your situation.

This policy is in place as a deterrent because teachers and staff have been prevented from fulfilling their other responsibilities to the school. Please remember the large administrative role they have at the school

and the time they need to take to prepare their lessons each day. Some children also become quite anxious if their rides are late.

This policy appears in last year's Parent Handbook on page 50. This year's Parent Handbook is expected to be ready by next week. We understand that new families may not be aware of this policy.

LOOKING AGAIN FOR OFFICE SUPPORT

The office is looking for 15 hours of part-time help with basic office work, including copying, filing, preparing mailings, reception, etc. The hours are somewhat flexible, but should be within the school office hours (8AM to 3 PM). If interested, please leave your name and phone number with the office or email the school at info@capeannwaldorf.org. Please put Part-time office support in the subject line.

OOPS! CORRECTIONS

Our editorial disclaimer of last week's newsletter is off to a good start. There were several errors in last week's newsletter. 1) There is a 1st Grade Parent Evening on Thursday, September 20 (tonight!) from 7 to 9 PM. 2) The first full day of classes for the entire First Grade is on Tuesday, October 9 (the day after Columbus Day) *not October 2*. 3) The email address of CAWS is info@capeannwaldorf.org (*not .com*).

Special apologies to the First Grade and so sorry for any inconvenience these might have caused. *Ed.*

NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T

Having inspired everyone to bring their paper to be recycled here at the school, we must now announce that the Abiti company that runs the program will be removing our bin because our volume is too low. (We are

about 1 and 3/4 tons below the minimum expectations.)

Congratulations to everyone for keeping our paper waste so low!

REMINDER:

NEW PARENTS RECEPTION

All new parents at the Cape Ann Waldorf School this fall have been invited to a New Parents' Reception on Friday evening, September 28, 2007. This year it will take place in Manchester at the home of eighth grade parent Anita Siljeholm from 7-9 pm. Refreshments and cocktails will be served, and parents will be able to meet other parents and members of the faculty and staff as well as get questions answered about the school. If you are a new parent, and for some reason did not receive your invitation by mail, or have any questions, please call the office at 978-927-8811.

EYE ON THE SKY for the week of Sept. 16

When a bright planet is visible in the predawn hours, it is usually referred to as a morning star. But for the planet VENUS, "morning lantern" might be a better term. It now appears to rise out of the east-northeast soon after 3:30 a.m., a dazzling silvery-white beacon at the pinnacle of its brilliance. It is now more than 17 times brighter than Sirius, the brightest of all stars, which is in the constellation Orion. If you can keep track of where Venus is through sunup, you should still be able to see it as a tiny white speck against the blue sky. If you use binoculars for viewing the night sky, a steady mounting---even just bracing them against the side of a tree---can make a great deal of difference.

(Adapted by Tom Braden from The New York Times.)