

February 14, 2008

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

CLASS UPDATES

Yellow Rose Kindergarten

by Mary Mansur

If I give my heart to you
And you give your heart to me,
Then friends,
We will always be.

In preparation for Valentine's Day we've been working on sewing wool felt hearts together and stuffing them with lavender and wool. Then we sew them onto a ribbon to make a gift for someone special.

The children have also been very interested and busy at our craft/handwork table cutting out snowflakes and creating Valentines. This is such a perfect time of the year to have such an occasion as Valentine's Day. It is bitterly cold outside and Nature is still asleep. By thinking of and reaching out to others through our Valentines, we warm ourselves and the world. The children so enjoy giving Valentines. I have found that because they have made them themselves, they truly enjoy the giving as much, or perhaps even more, as the receiving.

For Candlemas, February 2, we dipped beeswax candles. The smell was wonderful! The candles held their warmth for so long that the children took time just to stand and hold and smell the candles that they just created.

Jack Frost has brought us quite a bit of ice for our outdoor play, enabling the children to 'skate' on our 'pond' and slide down our back corner hill on the snow shovels. We're all hoping King Winter brings some more snow for building snowmen. We've been making them in our circle so we'll be all set and ready to go when the snow flies.

(Class Updates continue next page, left column)

Invitation To Love

*COME when the nights are bright with stars
Or when the moon is mellow;
Come when the sun his golden bars
Drops on the hay-field yellow.
Come in the twilight soft and gray,
Come in the night or come in the day,
Come, O love, whene'er you may,
And you are welcome, welcome.*

*You are sweet, O Love, dear Love,
You are soft as the nesting dove.
Come to my heart and bring it rest
As the bird flies home to its welcome nest.*

*Come when my heart is full of grief
Or when my heart is merry;
Come with the falling of the leaf
Or with the redd'ning cherry.
Come when the year's first blossom blows,
Come when the summer gleams and glows,
Come with the winter's drifting snows,
And you are welcome, welcome.*

Paul Laurence Dunbar, 1872 – 1905
First African-American to gain national eminence as a poet

ANNUAL SPRING AUCTION RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

In these cold and wintry days, it's hard to believe that spring will ever come, but it will, and it will bring our annual Spring Auction right along with it. Our Auction Committee is humming along, planning a wonderful gathering and fundraising event for our community. We have planned a drastically different kind of event for this year. To put the "fun" back in fundraising, we decided NOT to ask parents to cook, decorate, serve food, pick up glassware and linens, wash dishes, or clean up. You let us
(Auction continued on the next page, right column)

(Class Updates continued)

First Grade

by Dianne McGaunn

Since the holiday break, the first grade has been enmeshed in form drawing and mathematics. In our form drawing and “science” block, we heard about winter woodland animals, learned some life lessons from them, moved like them, and then drew their movements into our form drawing books. After a week and a half of this, we traveled to the Kingdom of Math. There, we have befriended King Plus who loves to collect and count, Magician Multiply who helps the King collect things more quickly, Queen Minus with her empathetic and generous heart who convinces King Plus to give away all of his collections, and Doctor Divide who helps the Queen fairly and evenly share out of all these things with her brilliant sword. We have been enlisted as the Royal Treasurers to assist the Kingdom of Math in all of these tasks! Our counting stones have been shining gems, and then pairs of shoes to be shared out, and then flowers to be given away. As Royal Treasurers, we have assisted the King in recording these activities as pictures and equations, and this pleases the King very much. (It did not take us long to convince the King that he still had 12 gems, regardless of how he arranged them, and that life was so much easier with Magician Multiply’s assistance. For instance, it is so much quicker to write $12 = 6 \times 2$, rather than $12 = 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2$. Magician Multiply cartwheels 6 times around a pair of shoes, and magically 6 pair will appear, for a total of 12 shoes!) This last week before break, we have been helping out Queen Minus and Doctor Divide as they lovingly and fairly give things away at the Annual Royal celebration, during Valentine’s week, no less!

Second Grade

by Vanya Yoors

Saint Francis is one of my favorite Saints. The

(Class Updates continue next page, left column)

(Auction continued)

know you didn’t appreciate doing this work, and we heard you!

Here’s what we DO need you to do.

- First, come! Bring your friends, family, and coworkers! When it comes to fun and fundraising, the more the merrier!
- Second, we need you to contribute some exciting or beautiful or fun donations. Put your thinking cap on and get creative! Donate something you’d love to have. Don’t know what to give? We have the solution! We have set up a donations blog for people to share their ideas and inspire each other. Go to www.capeannwaldorf.wordpress.com and chat with other parents about what you’d like to give! Or about what you’d like to see offered! We are asking each family to donate one (glamorous, creative) item. The deadline for donations is March 7.
- Third, (and here’s the hard part), we are asking you to solicit (yes, solicit) stores, businesses, artisans in your community to donate something to the Auction. So go out with a friend one Saturday afternoon and solicit your neighborhood stores, or go to places you patronize and ask for something from them. When you get a donation from a business, please notify Jen Benoit at jen.benoit@comcast.net and she will post a list online of all business which have already donated. Check this list before you approach someone to insure they have not already been asked. For more details, see Jen’s article, next.

In return for your volunteer efforts, we invite you to attend a **GALA** event (a party!), at the exquisite Tupper Manor at Endicott College. It is a beautiful setting in an old world mansion overlooking the ocean. In addition to appetizers and dinner, we will have live music, cut crystal, china and linen, the works! It will be held on *(Auction continued next page right column)*

(Class Updates continued)

first time that I read any book about him was 17 years ago as I was preparing to teach the second grade curriculum for the first time. I stumbled upon a book called *The Perfect Joy of Saint Francis* and read it voraciously. In this book Francis is portrayed as a real human being, a man of true humility. Granted, he didn't start that way. As a wealthy youth he threw wild parties with his father's money and took up arms to fight the neighboring city of Sienna.

While reading this book, I spoke to my mother on the phone and told her that I was reading a wonderful book on Saint Francis that was written by a Flemish writer. (My father comes from the Dutch speaking section of Belgium called Flanders) "Oh," she said, "It's written by Felix Timmerman, isn't it? He was great friends with your grandfathers."

Through this I realized that the whole lineage of my family is deeply connected with Saint Francis. He isn't just mine!

The second graders at the age of seven and eight are hearing this story for the first time. I always hope that my retelling of the stories are lively and touch some part of their souls and imaginations instead of just being more content for them to recall. And as I tell these stories, I know that in some way my own excitement about them and their import to me are also passed on to the students.

Of course the students then use this story content as inspiration for their main lesson book drawings and use excerpts to practice writing. They even get to use it to practice cursive writing in this block!

We are starting to practice a play about Saint Francis as well. So, in some way the students will make some connection with this wonderful and humble man.

(Class Updates continue next page bottom right column)

(Auction continued)

Saturday April 5 from 6:00 to 10:00. So mark your calendars, hire a sitter, and come prepared for a terrific evening out!

One last point: we also heard you tell us last year to go outside of our school community for fundraising. If you know people who would like to support you and the school but live too far away to come, **this year we are hosting an online Auction**. This important new aspect of the Auction will allow **everyone**, both within and outside of the CAWS community to go to our website and participate in some lively bidding! The site will be up and running two weeks before the Auction, on Saturday March 22. Check it out!

We are excited about the way the Auction is shaping up, and we will be posting updates in the newsletter as well as on the school's website. Please plan to come to what promises to be a fabulous occasion!

DONATIONS for SPRING AUCTION

Deadline: March 7

Who wants to help me bring in "hot commodity" items for this year's Spring Auction? Who likes being a part of their civic communities and getting to know local merchants? Who'd like to be a part of the Donations Committee with me? Anyone? Anyone?

"If you can't join 'em, beat 'em."

If you just can't devote another hour to another committee, but want to help out, then just do what you can on your own, and try to bring in as many donations from friends in your circle and local merchants or associates you know in your area. Aside from all the work I'll do with the committee, *I'm personally attempting to bring in 10 donations – just from my circle of friends and colleagues*. If by chance you can spare a few hours between now and mid-March and

(Donations continued on the next page, left column)

would like to help me out in a more specific capacity, I would love it, so please contact me ASAP.

If you're feeling a little leery about the whole "asking for donations" thing, please remember this: Our school is an important non-profit educational institution. It is worthy of receiving gifts. Waldorf consists of community-conscious families who want to support local businesses, and there is value in local businesses supporting local schools for the good of that community.

DONATIONS ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY NEED A DONATION FORM.

The attached form is VITALLY important. It is the document that tells me WHAT you're donating, who you are, and all the other specific information we on the Auction Committee need to know. You must fill out the form completely and submit it with any item you donate. When you solicit companies, the same holds true: please fill out the form completely with their info. The information on the form allows us to accurately track auction items, assign bid numbers to them, send letters to donators, etc. Without it, we cannot accurately represent the donator at the auction or thank them properly after the event.

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES: When soliciting companies, artists, friends, etc. for donations, ask them if they would like to advertise in our Auction Catalog as well. Prices and specs are on the attached Advertising Form that also needs to be filled out completely.

If you are having great success at finding donators and advertisers and need more forms, get copies at:
- jen.benoit@comcast.net and I'll email you a copy
- www.capeannwaldorf.org on the Auction page
- www.capeannwaldorf.wordpress.com on our Auction Blog

- front hallway of the school (in the hanging pouch)

When completed,

- **Forms** need to be submitted to Pam Deveau in the main office
- If the donation is a physical item, you can bring it to the school (exact drop-off location TBD) or you may bring it directly to Jen Benoit's house only 6 minutes South on Rte 127 from school (237 E. Lothrop Street, Beverly)
- All questions about Donations/Donators need to be directed to Jen Benoit
jen.benoit@comcast.net - or - 978-927-1177 – or – catch me while I do handwork in the Main Hall on Thursday mornings from 8:30-10:30am.

We only have a month to get in as many donations as we can, so please get started as soon as you possible. Need ideas on what to donate or have ideas to share? Visit our online blog at www.capeannwaldorf.wordpress.com and click on the DONATIONS post and read through the Comments section. Want more general information about the Auction itself, visit our newly updated CAWS website at www.capeannwaldorf.org

Jen Benoit – Donations Coordinator

(Class Updates continued)

Third Grade *by Laura Quayle*

The third grade is diving back into the Old Testament with a focus on Moses after an exciting week at Hawthorne Valley Farm. Students reported the following from the trip:

Today at the farm I liked chopping firewood. I liked riding backwards on the horse too. Today we made butter. I liked turning the butter. It was fun! –Kevin Hiselman

I had to muck out a stall. It smelled stinky, stinky, stinky, stinky, stinky. It was a fun day. The next day, after lunch, I went to the hayloft and

combed Barley. Barley is my favorite cow. –Liam Cusack

On the car ride to the farm, we saw different license plates and when got there, I was a waiter for lunch. We saw the cows and one got loose. We went sledding and I ate six bananas! –Louisa Harris

In sum, the trip was a success. The landscape of rolling hills and peaceful rhythm of life on the farm was a magical experience for all. We are now shifting to the experience of a desert landscape via the stories of Exodus and a series of desert paintings. Our paintings got so hot this week we had to take a water break!

Fourth Grade ***by Sabrina Babcock***

The Fourth Grade completed its second Main Lesson Block on the Norse Myths as January drew to a close. It was sad to hear the last story for many reasons. The final battle saw the end of most of the many characters, gods, goddesses and giants alike, to whom we had all become attached. It was a relief to us all, however, to end on a note of hope and optimism for the future. We will revisit the Norse Myths when we work on our class play to be performed early May.

Right now we are in the midst of a block on Fractions. The students began knowing more than they thought they did which was reassuring to many. We will be studying fractions in general, addition and subtraction, mixed numbers, equivalent fractions and briefly introducing multiplication and division of fractions as well.

Exciting times in Fourth Grade!. We will also start reading music as we play our recorders. Musical notation is all about fractions and although the students are reading music as they play their string instruments, we have not done so on a regular basis in the classroom with the recorder.

We have also been challenging ourselves in Form Drawing with braided forms. These are quite difficult and perseverance is the key. We are just finishing reading *The Sign of the Beaver* in our reading class and also listen regularly to an ongoing chapter book during lunch. We have good appetites for food as well as stories. Painting, Beeswax, Handwork, Eurythmy, Spanish, German, Chorus and Gymnastics round out our busy schedule.

Fifth Grade ***by Rose Sheehan***

January at Camp Glenbrook gave the fifth graders a chance to work on outdoor skills in winter weather. The snow conditions were not what we had hoped for, so we had to forgo skating and skiing. We did get to experience a number of group problem solving tasks and we were introduced to the low ropes course by the camp staff. We practiced fire building skills (in the snow!) and worked in teams to set up, then break down and re-pack tents (inside the large rec. hall). When our families joined us Friday night, we served them a warm meal that we had prepared earlier, then followed our supper with contra dancing in the dining hall and a story by the fire before bed.

Back in the classroom, the fifth grade was introduced to decimal fractions during the January block, then moved on to a second North American block where we completed our survey of the fifty states followed by an overview of Canada and Mexico. As a culmination to this block, each student is busy writing and designing a brochure about a chosen state.

Sixth Grade ***by Brian Macdonald***

Hello everybody! When we came back from our break, which was nice and long, we were really tired because we weren't use to waking up so early. Mr. Macdonald had us study Physics for the second time. We first studied Static Electricity and then Magnetism. Static electricity was wicked cool. We already knew about it but we didn't really know about it, if

you know what we mean. We did all these things with Styrofoam and wool and silk and balloons with more wool. Mr. Macdonald did a trick with just regular scotch tape. We even bent water with a charged PVC pipe. We're certain you can win bets with that trick. Then Mr. Macdonald borrowed a Van de Graaff generator from Elisa's dad. We weren't sure what you could do with that thing but we sure did find out! Elisa's hair worked the best; she looked really funny with it all straight out from her head. She looked like a big flower or something. We also made a chain of us and conducted the charge down the chain. After a while you could feel it in your stomach, except for Mercedes whose hair stood up but didn't feel it at all. Maybe she's always positively charged. We also went to the Museum of Science which is a really cool place and saw Daniel play with static electricity with the generators made by Van de Graaff himself. He went in a big bird cage and touched the metal bars while it was being zapped. He didn't get hurt because of the metal surrounding him. We saw and did a lot of other cool things, like a butterfly garden, Seeing is Deceiving, (which we studied in Optics this fall), Mathematica, Playground with all sorts of cool things like shadow pictures, race cars, geology and all kinds of stuff. We were exhausted when we left.

Then we got to understand magnetism a bit. It's really hard to really understand but, we guess we're more familiar. Of course we knew about it already, same as static electricity. We saw lodestones, just plain rocks, sort of, hold paper clips. Then we saw how it just lasts. We had a paper clip suspended in the air for a month and it just never stopped unless we messed with it and had to put it back near the magnet. We learned about poles and making

magnetism and making it go away. Lastly, we drew lines of magnetic force in two dimensions and then saw three! Magnets can do lots of cool things and we use them more than we think.

Medieval History was the next block and we picked up where we left off in Rome. We learned a lot about certain people like, Pope Gregory, Charles Martel and his son, Pepin the Short and his son, Charles who ended up being called Charlemagne. Then we heard about William the B..., er, Conqueror. Now we're hearing about his great grandson, Henry and his wife, for a while, Eleanor of Aquitaine. She was really something. Even the boys are impressed and we haven't finished what she did. We're writing independent texts about these main people to accompany our drawings of them. We also are learning Gothic script and are making an illuminated manuscript of a poem we've learned. Actually, it's not a poem; its part of a letter St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians. We're making swords with Mr. Braden and that's cool except Mercedes keeps scraping her hands and fingers along with the wood. Next we're going to create our own heraldry. We're reading *The Sword and the Circle* too. Mr. Macdonald won't tell us who follows Eleanor but we already figured out its Richard the Lion Heart, her son. After that, we just don't know. But we do know our parts for our play, A Roman Comedy. We've started learning lines and doing acting games. We can't wait for that! Well, that's a lot of what we're doing and we're going to have Secret Easter Bunny Friends in our room. Jack thought it up because he loves chocolate. Well, see you around....

Seventh Grade ***by Tom Braden***

We have been studying European exploration of the New World and its impact then and now. We discussed how King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain, in the 15th century, established universities, unified Spain, left their heirs the most powerful country in Europe, attempted to stamp out corruption, supported

Columbus and other explorers. On the other hand, they set up the Inquisition under Torquemada and expelled the Jews and Moors in 1492. The arrival of Columbus and other Europeans brought horses, steel tools and technology to the New World. However, "Columbus's doom-burdened caravels" led to the destruction of civilizations and brought death, disease and enslavement to native populations.

In classroom conversations, seventh graders expressed a strong distaste for the actions of the Spanish monarchs and the plight of native civilizations. However, in their written assignments, they presented a balanced view of the past, recognizing that historical events have both negative and positive facets, connoting shades of gray.

Underlying the Waldorf seventh grade curriculum, which recognizes the imminent move out into the world just as the European explorers did, is the fact that these 12- and 13-year-olds are themselves about to embark into unexplored territory.

The courage of Columbus and his crew is undeniable. The world was fraught with unknown dangers and fears as well as fascinating possibilities -- the explorers feared sailing off the edge of the world but they were lured by dreams of adventure and wealth. Seventh graders may fear next year's leap to high school but, at the same time, they may be attracted to the enticements of new ideas and experiences.

The history of the world is neither black nor white. For our seventh graders the same is true of the present, of their own "living history," but they have the great advantage of loving families and teachers who embrace them wholeheartedly.

Eighth Grade

by Virginia McWilliam

"Are there healthy people in the world?"

"If so what are the principles that make them healthy?"

Thanks to Mrs. Stockwell (the mother of Josephine in the fifth grade) who presented the work of Weston Price, the eighth grade knows some of the answers to the above questions.

Thanks to Mrs. Helmick, the eighth grade discovered some of the secrets of the skeleton. The study began with the students drawing their own skeletons from memory. A piece of cake, right? Well, there is what you think you know and what you actually know. Fortunately, Mrs. Helmick was there to fill in some of the gaps.

Mrs. McWilliam was away for a few days attending to business for AWSNA. She returned between trips to give "tons of work" and assignments on food chemistry.

We have finished and been very moved by, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee, tightening our grip on Algebra I math, playing endless basketball, and feeling a little sad that eighth grade is whizzing by so quickly.

Strings

by Stephen Smith

The CAWS Orchestra is busy rehearsing several pieces for our concert on May 13. In addition to Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nacht Musik* and Waltzes from Verdi's *La Traviata*, we are playing a medley of music from Harry Potter and *Nessum Dorma* from Puccini's *Turandot*. The third graders are starting to learn how to read music this month and the fourth and fifth grades are having fun playing *Ashgrove*, *Swallowtail Jig*, and the *Kesh Reel*.

Spanish

by Alex McGregor

First and second graders are focusing on listening to animal stories and hearing Latin-American working songs. Their games and poems center on nature, animals, body geography, numbers, and colors.

Third and fourth graders are listening to folk tales from Spain and Latin America, and are beginning to learn to tell time and playing math games. Learning the rooms in their house and local geography will continue through the spring .

Fifth grade is writing and drawing an original story of their own creation, "Rosita y Balthazar El Elefante." Telling time and local geography will also be covered. The fifth graders continue to master a handful of Spanish songs along with learning some bigger numbers.

Sixth grade created a story, "Chadwick El Pastor," that they will continue with. Seventh graders wrote a story entitled "Pobre Unis." Both grades are working on grammar, verbs, dictations, songs and poems on a regular basis.

Eighth grade is learning a great deal of grammar, verb conjugation, and vocabulary this winter. They are preparing for a test designed to help the CAWS language teachers gauge what level of Spanish the class will be ready for when entering high school.

Handwork

by Heather Collis Puro

Bottom left, top right, pull snug, not tight.
Bottom right, top left, cross stitch, all set!

Fourth Grade has moved on from knitting to cross-stitch. Our first project was a bookmark, and we even learned how to do a cross-stitch heart in honor of St. Valentine's Day! Our next project is a felt-backed pincushion. Now that we've done our designs, picked our colors and found the middle of the Aida fabric, we are ready to begin stitching! We'll have that to look forward to after Winter Break.

The Seventh Grade has returned to knitting, and we are using beautifully dyed pencil roving to make slippers. Roving is wool fleece that has been carded in one direction, it's basically what spinners use to make yarn. We're knitting the slippers in stockinet stitch (knit one row, purl one row) and then we are going to felt them to custom-fit our feet!

Eighth Grade English Update

by Jenny Helmick

The Eighth Graders have just completed their first formal research paper of the year, on a topic of their choice in modern American history. They have worked through a disciplined schedule for developing this paper that included selecting a manageable topic, identifying sources, taking notes, formulating a thesis statement, writing an outline, writing a first draft, and revising the paper. We have worked on many issues important for scholarly research, such as evaluating information on the Internet, using resources available in libraries, citing sources, avoiding plagiarism, and writing in a standard (MLA) format.

After a foray into short story analysis this month (working with stories from James Joyce's Dubliners among others) the students will write their second research paper on a more accelerated schedule. Their final work of the year will be writing their speeches for graduation!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

David Dunlavy and Jill Fleming and their daughter, Abby have joined our CAWS community. Abby has joined Mr. Braden and the Seventh Grade. Their address is 50 Pond St., Marblehead, MA 01945; telephone, 781-990-1004. Please these to your directories and welcome David, Jill and Abby!

EYE ON THE SKY for the week of Feb. 11, 2008

The lunar mountains will be especially visible this week as the Sun illuminates the MOON from the right. Next Wednesday, Feb. 20, will be the last opportunity until 2010 to view one of nature's most beautiful spectacles: a total eclipse of the Moon. Then, too, the curved shadow of Earth on its natural satellite constitutes proof of the spherical form of the planet.

A bonus with this upcoming eclipse is that during totality the Moon will form a striking triangle configuration with the bright star Regulus in the constellation Leo the Lion and the planet Saturn, the only one of its kind occurring within the next millennium.

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

HOT LUNCH FEBRUARY 25- 29

The week we return from our break, February 25 to 28, Rosemary will not be here. Hot lunch will be a four-day fundraiser for the First Grade and Friday a fundraiser for the Eighth Grade, who will serve pizza. Linda Platt is the chief cook for the First Grade days. The menu is:
Monday, February 25 – Chicken soup, bread, dessert

Tuesday, February 26 – Chicken dogs, carrots and celery sticks, chips, dessert

Wednesday, February 27 – Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert

Thursday, February 28 – Grilled cheese sandwiches, celery and carrot sticks, chips, dessert

BASKETBALL SCHEDULE CHANGE

Alumni game will be held on March 8, 2008 (not March 1) at Landmark, Manchester. Girls begin at 10:00 AM, followed by the boys.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

We would like to welcome Dan Butin as the newest member of the Board of Trustees. Dan is an associate professor and assistant dean of Cambridge College's school of education and the author of numerous books and articles on educator preparation and policy and issues in higher education. Dan has served on two other Waldorf School boards – Crossroads Waldorf School (VA) and Susquehanna Waldorf School (PA). Prior to working in higher education, he taught middle school, in an adult GED program, and was the chief financial officer of Teachers For America. Dan has two children at the school, Michaela in fifth grade and Matthias in the Yellow Rose kindergarten.

Who's Learning What?

Grade 1 Math

Grade 2 Cursive Writing and St. Francis

Grade 3 Old Testament

Grade 4 Fractions

Grade 5 North American Geography

Grade 6 Eleanor of Aquitaine and Richard the Lion Heart

Grade 7 European Geography

Grade 8 Chemistry

PERSONAL

MISSING LUNCHBOX

Olive green LL Bean Lunch Box

with owl on the side

for Jei Yeaton

Please contact Yoko Yeaton at school or 978-352-9034

LOOKING FOR A TREADMILL

I am looking for a treadmill. I wondered if anyone would like to sell me their gently used one. Please call Jen Schafer at 978-283-0982. Thank you!