

March 13, 2008

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

NEW BEGINNINGS

This year the celebration of Easter in the Western Christian traditions lands on March 23. Many years it is closer to the time of Passover, which this year begins on April 19. Easter is the Christian celebration of the Resurrection – rising from the dead or coming back to life. Passover celebrates the time when the Plague passed over the homes of the Hebrews, and so they escaped death. It was also the culmination of events that persuaded the Pharaoh to allow the Hebrews to leave Egypt and start their journey to Canaan. Both of these celebrations occur in the spring from which many ancient traditions celebrating new life and new hope have arisen.

Through all of these events humankind passed through profound trials into world-changing new beginnings. The spring traditions, of course, are part of the rhythm of the seasons and help to shake off the vestiges of winter and celebrate the new signs of life, while the Exodus out of Egypt began a forty year wilderness course that began hundreds of years before with Jacob and led to their settlement in Canaan and eventually to the establishment of the nation of Israel. The Resurrection for Christianity marks the beginning of a tradition that also had no national recognition for almost four hundred years, but stayed alive through the faith and understanding that the Resurrection had been a turning point from which humankind could now transcend the limitations of earthly life through an inward course. Rudolf Steiner understood this time as the beginning of the impulse of freedom in the

May the holes in your net be no larger than the fish in it.

~Irish Blessing

sense that the divine and spiritual in the world were no longer a “given,” but now, “if man would again have vision of the spiritual, he must exert himself inwardly and draw it forth from the depths of his own soul.”

So here we are again, in the cycle of the seasons when spring is just beginning to push forth for the how many millionth time, and, if the historic patterns hold out, at the beginning of another great shift. On a daily and weekly basis we shift from coat to no coat and wonder if the crocuses that came through last week will survive the next snowstorm coming through. We battle the viruses that just don’t seem to go away, and yet, as one teacher observed and shared, each child that returned after one of these persistent illnesses came back at a new level of development from before being absent. In the bigger picture there are certainly many changes coming about that we’ve barely begun to sort out, but who knows, two thousand years from now people may look back and see that this was the time when humanity began to take a new direction. There’s always hope.

There is no newsletter next week. Have a restful, healing and transforming lo-ong weekend.

Ed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW EURYTHMY PROGRAM DATE

the eurythmy presentation that was scheduled for Friday, March 14 has been postponed to April 4.

CAWS STAGE PRODUCTIONS

NEXT: ALICE IN WONDERLAND, TUESDAY, MARCH 18

Many people, including students and parents, have asked if there is to be a musical production this year similar to “H.M.S. Pinafore” or “The Mikado” as was done in the past. Due to several circumstances, there will not be one this year. We can look back upon the lovely music and wonderful costumes and feel pleased by our past successes. Who knows what next year will hold?

On the other hand, we saw a charming 8th grade production of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” last fall. **Coming up very soon is the 7th grade’s “Alice in Wonderland” next Tuesday, March 18 at 10:20 a.m. and 7 p.m.** Also waiting in the wings are the 5th grade, 6th grade and 4th grade plays---theater at its CAWS best! Please come and support our student thespians.

Tom Braden

ANNUAL FUND CLIMBS UP

Contributions to the matching challenge for this year’s Annual Fund are now at \$11,000 on the way to our \$40,000 goal. Did you know that your gift counts *five* times? When pressure grows to curb every family’s budget, consider the following rewards. Your gift:

- *doubles* due to the challenge pledge from leadership donors,
- *proves* the level of support among our families when the school applies for outside grants,
- *enters* your family into this year’s raffle for a \$75 gift certificate to the local restaurant of your choice,
- *costs less than you think* because it’s fully tax deductible,
- ... and finally, is absolutely essential to providing the best elementary education you have chosen for your children.

Growing a school means growing both enrollment and educational programs. Every Annual Fund donation pays for key programs at the Cape Ann Waldorf School, which like every independent school does not set tuition to cover the full cost of each child’s education. Thank you for responding to our phone-a-thon (another one is planned for late March) and for sending in your pledge soon. Envelopes are available on the hall table at the school entrance.

Classes that reach 100% participation will be entitled to a free round of ice cream cones at Captain Dusty’s as well!

AUCTION NEWS

Donations are flying in, and the Auction Committee couldn’t be more excited about the items or be more thankful for the thoughtfulness, creativity, and generosity of our donors! We are receiving some great new items this year – tickets to the sold-out Bill Belichick lecture at Salem State, special weekend get-a-ways, all sorts of private lessons in pottery, knitting, sewing, photography, sailing, etc., and a highly coveted “Break the Dress Code” day – plus much more! Please make sure to get your donations into the office ASAP. Donations received after tomorrow (3/14) will be offered, but will have to go in our Addendum.

We are thrilled to be hosting an **ONLINE AUCTION** this year. The website will be up and running by Saturday March 24th, one week

before the Auction. Notification will be sent out to the community as soon as it is live. The portal to the online auction will be linked to our CAWS website: www.capeannwaldorf.org, and will be accessible by clicking on the "Online Auction 2008" link. The online auction will be a great way for your distant friends and relatives to participate in this major fundraising event.

As for your local friends and family, please bring them with you to Tupper Manor the night of April 5th! We know how important it is to have members outside of our community attend the Auction. Purchase a table for 6 or 8 people and get a discount on the price of admission. Can't wait to see you there!

Reservations for the Auction can be made starting TODAY (3/13), so visit the main office to make yours!

DIRECTORY CHANGES

The Sekiguchi family (Eighth Grade) has moved. Their new address and phone number are: 23 Lincoln Park, Marblehead, MA 01945, 781-990-3048.

The Schoeck family (Early Childhood) has moved to 85 Parsonage Lane, Topsfield, MA ; telephone, 978-887-0155; email, Piaschoeck@gmail.com

NO BASEBALL COACH CAME FORWARD – A NOTE FROM THE COLLEGE

Dear Middle School Families,

We would like to update you on the status of the school's baseball program. The College fully reviewed the school's past experience with baseball and made recommendations on how best to move forward. We fully support such opportunities for middle school students and appreciate the efforts of Maureen Wrinn

and Anita Siljeholm, who stepped forward to organize a baseball club for this year.

Unfortunately, no adult has come forward to be the head coach and to manage all aspects of a baseball club. Without such a person in place, we are not able to establish a baseball club due to management, safety and liability issues. If an adult does come forward who is willing to provide coaching and management, we will then be able to have a baseball club.

We would also like to thank the adults and alumni students who were willing to assist the baseball club this year. We hope that plans can be made to carry forward a variety of after-school activities in the future. The College appreciates the need for such activities, particularly for the older students, and welcomes parental support and engagement.

Sincerely,
The College of Teachers

YEARBOOK REMINDER

The Eighth Grade is now collecting class photos from the nursery/kindergartens through the grades for its 2008 yearbook. Class parents are collecting your personal photos which should either be placed in an envelope or collectively on a disc, and then given to Virginia McWilliam, *not* to Elizabeth Stacey. If you have photos you would like to share, please give them to your class parents. We would like the photos as soon as possible since the deadline for the publisher is coming up soon. Thank you very much for your cooperation. We promise you a fantastic yearbook!

The Eighth Grade

EASTER TRIVIA: As you may know, Easter is always the 1st Sunday after the 1st full moon after the Spring Equinox (which is March 20). This dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that the Hebrew people use to identify Passover. Based on the above, Easter can actually be one day earlier (March 22), but that is very rare.

This year is the earliest Easter any of us will ever see for the rest of our lives! The next time Easter will be this early (March 23) will be in the year 2228 (220 years from now). The last time it was this early was 1913 (you must be 95 or older to remember that one). The last time it was one day earlier (March 22) was in 1818. It will be on March 22 again in 2285 (277 years away). And now you know

Courtesy of Mary Mansur

COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENT

“WHY WALDORF FOR ADOLESCENTS? A PRESENTATION ABOUT WALDORF HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION”

On Wednesday, March 19 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at The Waldorf School in Lexington, there will be a talk on Waldorf high school education by faculty from Waldorf High School of Massachusetts Bay and High Mowing School. Mary Ann Wells, humanities teacher at Mass. Bay, and Robert Sim, math and German teacher at High Mowing, will discuss the Waldorf curriculum in grades 9 through 12 and the benefits of Waldorf education for teenagers. A question and answer period will follow. The Cape Ann community is warmly invited to attend. The talk will take place in the Eurythmy Room at the Lexington Waldorf School, 739 Massachusetts Avenue in Lexington, MA 02420. For directions, see www.thewaldorfschool.org.

EYE ON THE SKY for the week of March 10, 2008

High in the southwestern sky, a large, nearly EQUILATERAL TRIANGLE, the WINTER TRIANGLE, is formed by the brilliant stars Betelgeuse, Sirius and Procyon. Betelgeuse is Orion's right shoulder; his belt points to his dog star, Sirius; and Procyon is almost equidistant south east of Betelgeuse.

Rising almost due east of the Winter Triangle in the eastern sky is the SPRING TRIANGLE composed of zero-magnitude Arcturus (which is located by following the arc of the Big Dipper's handle toward the southeast); first-magnitude Spica, due south of Arcturus (continuing the arc from the Big Dipper); and Denebola in Leo. Denebola can be found using the pointer stars of the Big Dipper but, instead of pointing north toward the North Star, follow them south. This region of the sky is known as the Realm of the Galaxies where a concentration of thousands of galaxies lies 40 to 70 million light years away. A light year is the distance light travels in a year at 186,000 miles per second.

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

A Meditation for our School:

To see our school filled to capacity with children who will go out into the world one day as centered, creative and capable adults, eager to engage the world from the deeper perspective that a CAWS education provides.

