

Monday, March 1, 2010

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

Curriculum Update: During which First Graders divide the dough, multiply the dough, share the bread, and then ask, "Are we still doing arithmetic?"

Yellow Rose Kindergarten

by Mary Mansur

In the Yellow Rose we continue to work on Rainbow Turtles made from our finger knitting. It is wonderful and fun to see how each one has their own personality depending on how tight the knitting is and how the knitting was sewn together to form the turtle's shell. Some have a very large, high shell while others are small and squat. Some have been named and the children hold onto them during rest time.

In our circle we are building snowmen, and going on a journey to visit King Winter. Along the way we encounter some gnomes, polar bears and a woodcutter.

The puppet show of the Snowmaiden is an annual favorite and I'm sure you will be hearing the children singing her song about being a "little daughter of the snow."

During free play inside the children are building all sorts of structures to live in. Some of them have two stories, with the second story being constructed of long boards across the top of the play stands and then covered with sheepskins. Rocker boards are placed on their sides around the edges to make it quite cozy. Mrs. Mansur, aka the building inspector, comes over and inspects the structures for safety before the second story can be inhabited. Often there is a maximum occupancy of two.

Collecting food is always an integral part of this play and I wonder if it is mirroring at all the current scarcity that is outside here right before Lady Spring arrives.

Red Rose Kindergarten

by Caroline Mercier

"On a hazel branch I spied, three little chickadees side by side. On the left is Felix, on the right is Franz and smack in the middle is Smarty Pants Hans!"

Gets a laugh every time! It's a part of our winter journey circle. Along the way, as we go stomping in the snow, we find the chickadees, a woodcutter sturdy and strong, a squirrel with scampering feet, the wind breezing and blowing and then... *"Behold the dwarves inside the hill, their tiny hammers never still. They sing and work deep underground and as they tap, the rocks resound!"* The children are entirely captivated by what is happening in the underworld, especially in the gnome kingdom. And, these industrious folk have made an appearance during our free play! They have happily joined ranks with our pirates (who are kind pirates... according to the teacher, anyway). Seeing as they both have a special interest in treasure, they seem to be getting along quite well! And, the children were especially delighted to discover a basket of shiny treasure stones awaiting their eager adventures after the winter break.

We have a fun-loving, rambunctious crowd and in general, they are on the move and always ready for the next hilarious development. As they seek out these fun and games, they are

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- Jon Cosco joins board of trustees
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learning about what is appropriate to say and do in school (and what is not). Like all children, they ultimately seek out the decency and pureness in their world, and they understandably stumble upon and experiment with the not-so-decent and pure along the way. Children want to be and do good.... always. As long as we are there to guide, cheer, and to respond effectively, they are content and they will succeed in this ever-important endeavor of finding the goodness and beauty in our world. No wonder they associate so closely and dearly with our little gnome friends...

"Hack, hack the rocks we crack. Quake, quake the mountains shake. Bang, bang our hammers clang. In caverns old, we seek the gold!"

First Grade

by Rebecca Rugo

The first grade recently finished a second arithmetic block in which the four processes fundamental to working with numbers were introduced: division, addition, multiplication, and subtraction. We first met them as knights in a continuing story we have been hearing this year. Sir John Divide, for example was a baker before coming to serve the Queen. He loved to deliver bread, still warm from his fiery oven, to those in need. His talents included knowing how many rolls he had to divide his dough into each morning and how to order them efficiently on his baking trays. In support of our work with numbers, we also began to move our way, with stepping and clapping, to the two, three, and five times tables. The last day of our arithmetic block found the first grade downstairs in the kitchen making bread. The enormous hill dough had to be divided into 12 parts, one for each student to knead. After several rounds of pushing the dough back together and dividing it again into 12 pieces until each was the same size, several children laughed, "Are we still doing arithmetic?" We realized that like Sir Divide, we could easily share our bread with the second grade if we just cut each piece of dough into two. And then we saw that, like Dame Mariposa Multiply, we could make many rolls

from our stock, one for snack, one for lunch, one for a second grader, one to go home for dad...or perhaps two for lunch...

Now we are in a second language arts block and beginning to write sentences into our main lesson books from the stories we hear.

Second Grade

by Connie MacLeod

The second graders are in the middle of their third language arts block this year. Their understanding of speech and its relationship to writing and reading is now very clear to them, and they all are striving toward writing and reading their own thoughts and those of their classmates and others. The veil has been lifted and they recognize the vast world of written communication all around them, and challenge themselves in decoding all they see.

Together we are webbing stories of the Saints as they retell them, in preparation for more writing in the near future. They are also learning the fifteen English vowel sounds and how they feel when spoken. Knowing how to feel what their lips and tongues are doing when they speak helps the second graders to figure out what vowels to use when spelling. But first, before we have time for many more word games, we are delving into our play preparation.

I have written a play for my class, but we are just now trying it on for size. It would be very challenging for most second grade classes, but this group does enjoy a challenge. We will see if it is a fit on March 18, when we will present our second grade play in two performances; one in the morning for the other classes and an evening performance for parents and other guests. Look for our posters for curtain times and please come!

Third Grade

by Dianne McGaunn

A mainstay of the third grade curriculum is the Old Testament stories. It is always amazing to me how these stories "speak" to the students in

such powerful ways. The Old Testament offers many stories that weave a tapestry of humanity, so to speak. Through these powerful stories we begin to understand, on many different levels, not only the stories of a tribe of people, namely the Hebrew people, but we also receive powerful, archetypal images of the trials and tribulations of human beings throughout time. While there are many Old Testament stories that stand out in the hearts and minds of the third graders for various reasons, it is clear that the story of Moses has been the most memorable for us all.

And now, the third graders have begun to practice for our play, which, of course, will be the story of Moses! The many exciting turns in Moses' life make it dramatic story material for emerging individualities of any third grade class, and for this class in particular. For instance, when the Egyptian Pharaoh issued a decree that all the baby boys of the Hebrew people should be killed (the Pharaoh feared that the Israelites would become too numerous and too powerful), Moses was found and cared for by the Pharaoh's own daughter! Moses received the fine education that Egyptian royalty received, yet he remained connected to his own people, the Israelite slaves. After many tries (and much help from the Lord), Moses finally convinced the Pharaoh to let his people go to worship the Lord. Afterward, Moses withstood many hardships, often brought on by the Israelites, on their journey to the Promised Land. Time and time again, the Israelites complained and lost faith in Moses and in the Lord. Finally, the Lord became incensed with the poor behavior of the Israelites and announced to Moses that they would be destroyed, but Moses begged the Lord to have mercy on the Israelites and to pardon their trespasses. And although we get a sense that Moses himself was not always perfect, his faith in the Lord was unwavering, even in the face of continual adversity.

Moses is an example of a leader that we can all look to as a positive role model: the messages in his stories stand the test of time. Goodness

knows we need good role models for the children (and even for the adult) these days! And judging from the students' complete fascination with the stories and the play, they (or should I say, we) have found a figure to which we can relate on many levels.

We look forward to sharing the story of Moses with you very soon.

Fourth Grade

by Anna Scalera

February was a busy month for the fourth grade. We returned to the study of fractions, and simultaneously prepared for our class play, *Thor, With Giants*. Last fall's introduction to fractions began with the experience of dividing food into parts, such as the slicing of an apple into twelfths. Food played a role in our learning during this block, as well, through two fun baking projects. For each baking day we worked to double a recipe. When we doubled $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cup of sugar, we learned that reducing fractions is practical: measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups of sugar is easier than measuring $\frac{1}{4}$ of a cup, six times. Baking allowed us to review our measurement skills from third grade, put our new knowledge of fractions into use, and make offerings to others in the school. Not only is baking (and eating) fun, but it is also a joy to share such gifts with others.

Music has been another area of study to explore fractions. We examined note values and how music is written on a staff, with each measure adding up to a specified number of beats. Students wrote their own rhythms with these musical fractions and deepened their ability to read music for the recorder. Fourth graders are also ready for learning to hold their own tune in a piece of music with multiple parts. We worked hard on new recorder duets, and sang, "Ah! Poor Bird" in two and three parts.

Speaking of parts, we hope you have the chance this week to see our play, *Thor, With Giants*. Based on a Norse myth, this play exemplifies the individualities apparent in Norse gods and

goddesses, as well as in each other. The show times are: Tuesday, March 2 at 10:40 a.m., and Wednesday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Fifth Grade

by Laura Quayle

Where can you find three old ladies sharing one eyeball, a woman with writhing snakes in the place of hair, winged sandals, a goddess of war, and a sword endowed with divine powers all in one room? That would be the fifth grade play from Greek mythology: "Perseus and Medusa" on April 15 and 16. We hope that you will come join us for the occasion!

The fifth grade recently finished a block on Greek Mythology, where we learned about the gods of Mount Olympus as well as several mortal heroes: Heracles, Theseus, Jason, and Perseus. Highlights included the story of how the baby Hermes toddled out of his cradle and headed right up to his brother's pasture to steal a herd of cows. Another highlight was Theseus's heroic defeat of the Minotaur in Crete. These stories were the inspiration for many improvised skits, written paragraphs, drawings, and paintings. We look forward to sharing our Greek mythology play with the school in April.

The fifth grade is now learning about Geometry, while fine tuning our mental math skills. We learned about how Euclid ran his school of geometry in Alexandria by drawing figures in the sand. In our own school of geometry, we have covered lines, points, rays, many different kinds of triangles, and how to measure an angle in degrees.

Sixth Grade

by Sabrina Babcock

The Sixth Grade has had an eventful couple of months since returning from Winter Break. We began the new year with the study of Business Math where we had wide ranging conversations about money, its history and its uses. Hopefully many new savings accounts have been started as

the students apply what they have learned about the wonders of interest bearing accounts. Our class marketplace was also a big hit with items "manufactured" by budding entrepreneurs. Creative items included delicious dessert selections, how to fake being sick brochures, rubber band shooters, crayon cookies, hand decorated book marks, ornaments, paper airplanes, and popcorn on the cob. Profits will be going to help people in need in Haiti.

For the remainder of the month of January and until February break, the class rehearsed and performed the play "A Roman Comedy". As always, and especially as students move up through the grades, these become increasingly challenging productions. The class rose to the challenge, many of the students handling multiple roles with poise and flair. An ever lively class, the students particularly enjoyed the comedic aspects of the play, yet they were also able to bring a depth of seriousness and drama to the deeper parts of the play. Bravo! Brava Sixth Grade!

Our first basketball season has also come to a close with many exciting games and the anticipation of playing again next year. We send many thanks to Coach Karl and Coach Macdonald (both Junior and Senior), for a wonderful inaugural season.

Seventh Grade

by Stephen Sheen

The seventh grade has been studying. For the first two weeks we examined the principles of simple machines. The three types of levels were demonstrated and examples were discussed. We discovered the law of the level and computed simple examples of Mechanical Advantage using the ration of load to effect.

The pulley was next demonstrated as a special example of the level which not only gives a mechanical advantage but also allows the direction of the effort to change. This led on to a discussion of gearing.

We considered the Inclined Plane and how it can be used in its many forms to increase efficiency. We also considered the phenomena of friction, its disadvantages and advantages. We finished this part with a consideration of Galileo's discoveries of the Laws of the Pendulum and falling bodies. We also discussed Newton's discovery of the Law of Gravity and its implication for Equilibrium.

For the last few days, we considered the discoveries of Chemical Electricity by Galvani and Volta, and how for the first time electricity could be stored and released slowly to produce steady current thus ushering in our modern age of electrical technology.

Games and Movement

by Joanie Albers

First – Second Grade: First and second grade have been busy playing old favorite games such as Dragon, Hide and Seek Tag, and Dump Trucks and Motorcycles. They have also been busy learning new games such as Park Ranger and Hospital Tag. All activities are designed to foster age-appropriate skills such as cooperation, teamwork, and spatial awareness.

Third - Fifth Grade: Third through fifth grade have been busy playing old favorite games such as Capture the Flag and Kick the Cone. They have also been busy learning new games such as Blindfold Tag and Grump in the Middle. The third through fifth grade curriculum is designed to instill teamwork, communication, and touch upon strategic planning.

Sixth Grade: The sixth grade has continued to focus on sports, learning to pass and play Frisbee games such as Ultimate Frisbee, Frisbee Golf, and Hot Box. The sixth grade has also had the opportunity to make suggestions and play some of their favorite games during gym such as Knock-Out, Capture the Flag, and 4 Square. All games and activities have been designed in a way that fosters teamwork, group communication, and sportsmanship. Students

continue to develop these skills as well as self-confidence and physical control and awareness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Fund Needs You

Here's the good news and the bad news about this year's Annual Fund.

The good news: We are off to a great start with \$30,000 in gifts and pledges. This means we need only \$10,000 more to reach our goal.

The bad news: Only 37% of our school community has donated so far. We need you!

Remember, no gift is too small. It's the act of giving that matters.

As the school applies for grants and loans in the future, financial institutions will look closely at the participation rate of annual giving in our community. Your participation in sustaining CAWS is important.

Help us reach our goal: \$40,000 and 100% participation! Thank you for your support!!

There are several ways to donate. Here's one: write a check to "CAWS" and drop it by the office. Or mail to: Cape Ann Waldorf School, 668 Hale St., Beverly Farms, MA 01915. Thank you.

--The Development Committee

Thor, With Giants **Tomorrow & Wednesday**

The Fourth Grade invites all to *Thor, With Giants*, Tuesday, March 2 at 10:40 a.m., and Wednesday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m.

The play, based on a Norse myth, "exemplifies the individualities apparent in Norse gods and goddesses, as well as in each other," says Fourth Grade Teacher Anna Scalera.

And, yes, there will be real giants. Please come.

Organic Grocery Buying Club Seeks Participants

We are trying to form a new CAWS Organic Grocery Buying Club to give the Early Childhood classes a cost-effective way to purchase the large quantity of organic foods they use every day, as well as offering the same service to our community.

Support from interested community members is required for the buying club to move forward.

The bulk purchasing power of a buying club offers significant savings over retail prices, making this a great value to our families as well as helping the school keep costs manageable.

Details are still being worked out, but for those of you who ordered grocery items through Rosemary in the past, we are trying to re-establish an account with the same wholesale company.

Early Childhood alone does not require enough product for us to meet the order minimums of the wholesaler, so we need to hear from CAWS families who think they might use the service. We would need to have about \$400 in community orders every two months to make the Buying Club a reality.

Contact Red Rose parent Willo Levin (willolevin@comcast.net) if you might participate or want more information about what a buying club is or what sort of products are available. Please speak up quickly as the wholesale company has firm deadlines we must meet to proceed.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent/teacher conferences are on Thursday and Friday, March 4 and March 5. Sign-up sheets for class teachers are outside of their classrooms. The subject teachers' sheets are in the office. Please sign up!

Board of Trustees Welcomes Jon Cosco

We would like to welcome Jon Cosco to the Board of Trustees. Jon and his wife Elise Zoli live in Ipswich with their 6-year-old Nathaniel. Nattie started at CAWS in the Bachelor Button program and now is in his second year of Red Rose kindergarten. Jon has adopted some Red Rose customs himself, and now, on occasion, confuses both friends and clients by referring to the days of the week as "Bread Day," "Rice Day," "Soup Day," and "Oatmeal Day."

Jon currently works as a real estate and land use lawyer at Mintz Levin in Boston. He has served on the CAWS Site Search Committee for the past two years, and has contributed various pro bono legal services to the school during that time.

Last spring, inspired in part by the beautiful beeswax candles in the CAWS early childhood classrooms, Jon became a hobby beekeeper. He now is preparing a bit of land behind his house for apple and chestnut trees to be planted this spring. A tree house and chicken coop are in the planning stages as well. Welcome Jon!

Thursday: Info Night at Manchester-Essex High

The Manchester Essex Regional High School cordially invites you and your child to a re-scheduled Information Night, Thursday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Learn about educational programs, services, and extracurricular activities. Meet Peer Leaders,

the Guidance Staff, Department Chairmen, and Administrators. We will do our best to answer your questions and to help you understand all of the school's wonderful qualities.

Coming May 1: Recycle TVs, Electronics at CAWS

Old electronics brought to CAWS on Saturday, May 1, will be disposed of by the Ethical Electronics Recycling program. Nothing will be tipped into landfills, incinerated as solid waste, or dumped in developing countries. In addition, a \$1.00-per-pound charge for TVs, computers, phones, and other electronics brought in will benefit the school.

Eighth Grade Presents... The CAWS Talent Show!

The eighth grade presents..... The Cape Ann Waldorf School Talent Show!

When: Friday, March 26

Where: The CAWS Main Hall

Why: To have a fun-filled evening of fabulous entertainment and to support the eighth grade's fundraising efforts

The schedule for the evening will be as follows:

5:30 -- Doors open and a pizza dinner will be for sale

6:15 – Act I: “The Acoustic Hour” (This part of the show will be perfect for families and children of all ages and will include music, comedy, skits and dancing)

7:15 – Intermission and desserts for sale (A perfect time for younger members of the audience to say goodnight)

7:45 – Act II: “The Late Show” (Great for adults and older children – the music gets a little louder and the Main Hall comes alive!)

Admission will be \$5 per person and \$10 per family. Please come, applaud, perform, and

have a wonderful evening.

Look for the sign-up board for performers outside the Main Hall coming soon.

New Address for Bradens

Please note this new address and phone under “Faculty and Staff” in the school directory:

Tom and Sandra Braden

12 Union Street

Keene, NH 03431

Telephone: 603-352-7474

Save Used Books For June Fundraiser

Please begin to set aside books for the annual used book sale scheduled for June 4 and June 5 and sponsored by the Waldorf Community Association.

As shelves are cleared to make room for new titles, consider donating all categories of books and books-on-CD. However, please, no magazines, encyclopedias, textbooks or cassette tapes.

If you do not have storage for these books until May, when we will undertake a massive collection effort, email Laura Freysinger artnsew@comcast.net to arrange for an early pickup.

Also, we are looking for a collection point/person for books from Beverly and places north. Email if you think you can help. Thank you.

Box-Tops Box Missing

Has anyone seen the blue Box-Tops box that usually sits on the table in the main hall near the kitchen? If so, could you please return it to the table or to the office. This may have been misplaced while setting the stage for one of the recent performances. Thank you!!

Stop and Shop Bonus Bucks

The school is now able to earn money from the Stop&Shop A+ Bonus Bucks program. Simply register your card for A+ Bonus Bucks at www.stopandshop.com/aplus and choose 'Register your card' from the A+ menu found under 'Our Stores'. The school ID is 08172 or you can find it on the pull-down menu: 'MA – Beverly Farms'. Then, each time you shop at Stop&Shop using your Stop&Shop card, CAWS will earn cash.

Next Newsletter: March 15

Deadline for submissions is March 11. Thank you!

PERSONAL

Looking for Childcare? I've been a nanny to children of all ages for 10 years and love my work. I have lots of references including several at CAWS. I am fun and energetic. Please call if you are somewhere near the Ipswich area... And are looking for weekday hours, or occasional nights and weekends. Thank you. Tamera Eaton: 978-500-9254; teaton81@hotmail.com

Editor's Note: Tamera comes recommended by Linda Platt, CAWS parent of two, and Jen Schafer, who many know because her children were at the school for several years.

Handyman for Hire Skilled at electrical, plumbing, carpentry, hardwood and laminate floor installations, installing windows and doors, masonry repairs, interior painting, and other general home repairs typically encountered by a homeowner. No job is too small. Call me for doing those "to-do lists" that you never have time to get done. Reasonable rates, references available – including Mrs. Deveau in the office! Call Norm at 978-433-6287.

For Sale: \$549,900

Two custom made homes with very large garage/basketball court all on one nine-acre lot. One mile from Hawthorne Valley School in Ghent, NY. Both homes approximately 2400 square feet. End of wooded road-very private but close to school, and Taconic Parkway. 518-672-7328 or websurf@localnet.com