



November 18, 2009

weekly announcements

**COMING UP ...**

**...ALL SCHOOL**

- ◆ BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING (GRADE SCHOOL CAMPUS)  
Tue Dec 8, 5:30 - 8:30pm

**...FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL**

- ◆ 9-11TH STUDENT SERVICE DAY  
SENIOR SEMINAR  
9TH PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES  
Mon Nov 23, 2009

- ◆ HS STUDENT SERVICE DAY/NO CLASSES  
10TH/11TH/12TH PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES  
Tue Nov 24, 2009

- ◆ HS THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY BEGINS  
Wed Nov 25
- ◆ THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED  
Thu- Fri Nov 26 - 27
- ◆ SAT TEST DATE - OFF CAMPUS  
Sat Dec 5
- ◆ ACT TEST DATE - OFF CAMPUS  
Sat Dec 12
- ◆ HS OPEN HOUSE  
Sat Dec 12, 9am - 12pm
- ◆ CHRISTMAS TREE SALE - HS PARKING LOT  
Sun Dec 13, 10am - 4pm

**...FOR THE GRADE SCHOOL**

- ◆ GS THANKSGIVING ASSEMBLY  
Fri Nov 20, 1:25pm  
PARENTS ARE WELCOME see page 3
- ◆ OPEN HOUSE AT GRADE SCHOOL  
Sat Nov 21, 9am-12noon

- ◆ GRADE SCHOOL PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES  
NO GS CLASSES  
Mon - Wed Nov 23-25

- ◆ THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED  
Thu- Fri Nov 26 - 27
- ◆ 3RD GRADE PARENT EVENING  
Mon Nov 30, 7 - 9pm
- ◆ NURSERY LANTERN WALK  
Tue Dec 1, 5:30 - 6:30pm
- ◆ 6TH GRADE PARENT EVENING  
Wed Dec 2, 7:15 - 9pm
- ◆ FUTURE FIRST GRADE OF 2010-2011 PARENT EVENING  
Wed Dec 2, 7:30pm
- ◆ KINDERGARTEN GARDEN OF LIGHT  
Thu Dec 3, 8:30 - 9:30am
- ◆ 8TH GRADE PARENT EVENING  
Tue Dec 8, 7:15pm
- ◆ 7TH GRADE PARENT EVENING  
Wed Dec 9, 7 - 9pm

**SFWSA STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETINGS**

**Monday, November 30, 6:30 - 8:30pm\***

**High school campus**

\*See page 2 for details about the different groups you can attend during this evening. This opportunity will be repeated on January 25, 2010 at the grade school.



*High School Winter Concert*

**Friday, December 4, 6 - 7:30pm**

This year's High School Winter Concert takes place in a new venue, Lakeside Presbyterian.

All SF Waldorf families and friends are warmly invited to the annual high school music concert featuring the High School Orchestra, the Jazz Ensemble, the Guitar Ensembles, World Music and Drumming Ensembles, and the High School Choir.

The concert will be at Lakeside Presbyterian Church, 201 Eucalyptus Dr. at 19th Avenue (west side of 19th Ave., one block south of Ocean Ave.), from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Come and enjoy a festive celebration and a wonderful array of great music from our students. Admission is free—bring your friends!

Reminder: due to the new venue there will be no refreshments served this year, but we do anticipate an earlier end time.



*WINTER FAIR*

**is in the Air!!**

**Sunday, December 6**

**10 - 3pm**

Check out our vendor list on the special insert!

## ALL SCHOOL NEWS

### Strategic Planning Meetings - Join in the Process!

**November 30, 2009 at the high school**

**January 25, 2010 at the grade school**

On Monday, November 30, the SFWSA Board of Trustees's Strategic Planning Committee will convene at the High School for the first public meeting for community members (students, parents, alumni, grandparents, and friends of the school) who would like to provide input to our strategic planning process.

Specifically, we seek public input on how the community envisions our school in ten, five and three years. Please join us with your visions, hopes, aspirations, concerns, etc. All community members are welcome and every person's input is valued and will be considered as the Board and College of Teachers formalize a general direction for SFWSA's future.

Seven sub-committee meetings will occur simultaneously, but all will be long enough for you to provide your input to more than one group. Each group has core members representing the Board, College, faculty and diverse parent groups. They all will be present and listen to input from the community, including brief oral presentations and any written input you would like to provide.

The group meeting times on November 30 will be as follows:

- 6:30-8:30 Mission, Vision, Values (Chair: Adelaida Meija (Lala))
- 6:30-8:30 Enrollment and Outreach (Chair: Renee Jordan)
- 6:30-8:30 Finance and Human Resources (Chair: Gerhard Engels)
- 6:30-8:30 Facilities (Chair: Mike Zatopa)
- 6:30-8:30 Community (Chair: Dan Ingoglia)
- 6:30-8:30 Programming (Chairs: Ellie Capers and Susan Cook)
- 6:30-8:30 Development (Chair: Mitch Mitchell)

To determine room allocation for November 30, we would appreciate knowing which sub-committees you are interested in attending or providing input for; please let us know which group(s) you plan to attend (you can respond to the email version of this announcement or call the grade school office).

In case you cannot attend on November 30, please mark your calendar for a similar event on Monday, January 25, 2010 at the grade school.

We realize that for many Waldorf parents and families attending yet more meetings is a challenge; be assured that we are still very interested in your contribution to this process!

We will therefore be sending an online survey to families who cannot attend either of these meetings to provide an opportunity for them to give us input. The online survey will be forwarded to all community members shortly after the January 25, 2010 meeting.

The survey will mark the end of the data collection stage of the process. The Board and College will collaborate on a final Strategic Plan document that will be published in the spring of 2010.

Thanks for your anticipated contribution to making SFWSA move with energy and clarity into our collective future!

*With best regards, Mike Zatopa, Chair of Strategic Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees; Gerhard Engels, Director of Finance and Planning; Dan Ingoglia, Head of Administration*

## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

### ◆ Watch out! Honey is coming back.



The seniors class is offering local (greater Bay Area) honey at an exceptional price. All proceeds benefit the senior class trip. Please support our students by purchasing a pint at \$9 or quart jar at \$18. Want to get a sweet deal? To order a case (12 jars) and get a 10% discount contact [aleitzlesch@sfwaldorfhighschool.org](mailto:aleitzlesch@sfwaldorfhighschool.org).

*Thank you, the Senior class of 2010*

### ◆ High School Choir to Sing at Embarcadero Center

The HS Choir will be one of the featured performing groups for the Embarcadero Center Winter Carnival this Friday, November 20th at 4:30 pm. Street level, Building Three—see you there!

*David Weber, HS Music Faculty*

### ◆ New Main Lesson Block Starting Do You Know What Your Student's Main Lesson Is?

Grade 9-Organic Chemistry or Art History

Grade 10-Embryology or Classical World

Grade 11-Latin America or Dante

Grade 12-Optics

### ◆ Affordable Tuition Program Reminder

Please remember that our Affordable Tuition Program requires an application every year. Both new and continuing applicants need to submit the school's form and the PFS (Parent Financial Statement) by January 14, 2010\*.

NEW THIS YEAR:

1. The supplemental form for our school has been greatly simplified.
2. In addition to the online PFS form that SSS (School and Student Service by NAIS) processes, all other forms, including the school's supplemental form and subsequent copies of tax forms, must be sent directly to SSS.

Details about how to proceed and subsequent deadlines for tax forms are available now on the **admissions pages of our school websites**. All forms and links for applications are also available through the websites.

\*Early Admission applicants to our high school have received notice via mail regarding a unique earlier timeline for their ATP applications.

*Mona Nemetz, for the Affordable Tuition Program*

## GRADE SCHOOL NEWS

### ◆ Thanksgiving Assembly and Food Donations for Raphael House

Friday, November 20, 1:25 PM

PARENTS ARE WARMLY INVITED TO  
JOIN US FOR THIS ASSEMBLY AT **1:25 PM ON**  
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

Our annual Thanksgiving Assembly (Grades 1-8) takes place in the grade school Main Hall.

Once again Elaine Lowell and Father David Lowell (Gregory, '06; Victoria, '09) of Raphael House will accept our gift of food at the Thanksgiving Assembly. Raphael House is a homeless shelter for families in the city and for many years now we have made it a tradition to present a gift of non perishable food items to them at our Thanksgiving Assembly. With the food donated by our school community, Raphael House can provide many families with a Thanksgiving turkey dinner, and also make gifts of food boxes to families who have stayed with them.

**Please remember to send in your dry and canned food donations to your child's classroom beginning on Wednesday, November 18 for the assembly on Friday, November 20.**

**Note: Students should be in FESTIVAL DRESS for the Thanksgiving Assembly; no t-shirts or ragged pants!**

### ◆ Grade School Girls Volleyball Season Ending

The 6th grade girls ended a long playoff drought – and the 8th graders dominated on their way to the championship.

The 6th graders continue to amaze us on the volleyball court as they defeated Good Shepherd in three close sets. Inspired by their strong showing in the second game, the Wildcats came alive in the third. Haley Grey served eight straight points to blow the game open and secure a trip to the playoffs.

Wow!!! The 8th grade seems almost unbeatable as they continue their winning streak by beating OLPH in two straight sets. During my postgame interviews one word consistently rang through the celebratory tone: "Teamwork." Every player contributed to the playoff win. They now have a shot at their second championship in as many years. The big game will be played at **St. Emydius on Wednesday, November 18 at 5:00 pm.**

This will be the last game of the 8th grade girls' volleyball career and the first time the 6th graders have made it to the playoffs in as long as I can remember. Come out and support the girls as they turn into volleyball phenoms. Don't forget to wear your colors. Navy blue and white, that is.

GO WILDCATS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

*By Pablo Feldman, Grade 8*

### ◆ Childcare During Parent/Teacher Conferences

This year during Thanksgiving week (November 23-25), there are no classes, only Parent/Teacher Conferences. If parents have a need for childcare for their student(s)\* during their Parent/Teacher conference(s), they may request it in advance through the office. Students may not be on campus unsupervised during this period. There is no charge for this childcare service.

Let the office know by Friday, November 20 if you need to bring your student with you by submitting a form. No drop-ins, please!

Look for the Parent/Teacher Conference Childcare Request form in the mail, at <http://www.sfwaldorf.org/news/> or pick up a copy in the office.

\*We can only provide childcare for children currently enrolled in Grades K-8.

### ◆ Miss David's Day Camp

Grade one assistant Rhian David is offering an outdoor activity Day Camp the first three days of Thanksgiving Week (November 23-25) as well as parts of the Winter Break (December 21-23 and 27-31). This camp is intended for children in Kindergarten through grade 4. If you are interested, please contact Rhian David directly at 415-505-5516 or [rhiandavid@gmail.com](mailto:rhiandavid@gmail.com).

### ◆ Grow Your Own May Fair Decorations

Vetch seeds and instructions are available in the office for anyone who would like to grow some for the May Fair 2010.

*Amy Belkora, Gardening Program*

### ◆ El Día de los Muertos

As October turned to November, the grade school students celebrated El Día de los Muertos, a way of remembering our dearly departed.

This year's cultural experience was deep in feeling with a decorated Main Hall setting the tone:

- El comienzo had third graders lighting the Main Hall with their luminarias and voces in song.
- The centerpiece, narrated beautifully by Mr. Ganz and acted out so artistically by seventh and eighth grade students, was the shadow play, Popocatéptl and Iztacchuatl (Mexico).
- El intermedio was held by the recorder trio of Mrs. Sargent, Mrs. Krikorian and Mrs. Barhydt in a rendition of El Condor Pasa (Peru).
- El final, always eagerly awaited by all the students, was the passing out of the pan de muerto and chocolate caliente by parent volunteers – May Ceballos, Ted Zarzecki, Roxana Delgado, Gloria Flores, Ecela Lara, Robin Paredes-Brown and Anh Taylor.

Gracias to Señoras. Forrer and Chacon for another unique and creative celebration of El Día de los Muertos.

Claudia Portillo, parent, grades 5 & 7

## OF INTEREST

### ◆ Dacher Keltner, Ph.D.

#### **Born To Be Good: The Science & Practice of a Meaningful Life**

Monday, December 7, 7:30pm  
Lick-Wilmerding HS, 755 Ocean Avenue

Based on the scientific study of emotions, Dr. Keltner believes humans are hard-wired for happiness and a meaningful life. He shows that by paying attention to positive emotions like gratitude, mirth, awe and compassion, we can create a better balance between good and bad in our lives. In social well-being, American children rank 20th out of 21 industrialized countries!

Dacher Keltner offers clues to:

- Raising well-adapted children
- Being good
- Cultivating goodness in others
- Navigating moral truths

Dr. Keltner, Professor of Psychology at the University of California, Berkeley, and director of its Greater Good Science Center, is the author of more than 100 scientific articles on the emotions, facial expression, morality, and power; two textbooks, and *Born To Be Good: The Science of A Meaningful Life*. He has written for national publications such as the New York Times Magazine, the Utne Reader, and the London Times. WIRED magazine recently rated podcasts of Dr. Keltner's course, Emotion, as one of the five best educational downloads in the world. Students welcome. A \$5.00 donation is requested at the door.

### ◆ Visiting Day

Bay Area Center for Waldorf Teacher Training welcomes you to see teacher training classes in session on Saturday, December 12, 9-11:30am.  
RSVP Ingrid Orlow, Enrollment Coordinator [iorlow@mac.com](mailto:iorlow@mac.com) or 415-332-2133.

### ◆ Senior Dakota Lillie to Play at Slim's

Dakota's band "Cypher Syndicate" will play a half hour gig of Dakota's original songs at The Next Big Thing battle of the bands at Slim's nightclub in SF on Sunday, November 22. This event allows underage ticket holders so the high school students can attend. The number of tickets Dakota sells will influence his time slot. Tickets are \$13 and should be bought directly from Dakota.

### ◆ From the Green Gnomes

#### **GREEN ETIQUETTE: Towards Waste-Free Holidays**

*inspired by and somewhat copied from (with permission)  
an article by Colleen Turrell*

With over 6 billion people on earth today, and another 3 billion-plus expected within our lifetimes, it's time to rethink some of our holiday traditions.

As billions in the world aspire to Western lifestyles, no doubt they will also consume and waste as we do. And guess what: all of these goods consumed add up to a lot of dead trees, polluted air and water and a very, very big pile of trash.

So let's consider what we can change now – how we can all be thoughtful in our choices today, and set an example that is worth modeling the world over.

#### **1. Rethink wrapping paper**

Instead of new wrapping paper, use your child's artwork, leftover fabric, store bags, magazines, newspapers, sewing patterns - whatever you have handy or give gifts that need no wrap - just a bow - green of course.

#### **2. See the beauty in darkness**

Twinkly lights are enchanting, but also are an extravagant use of electricity so if you haven't already, upgrade to efficient LED lights (which use less than 10% of the energy small incandescents do) or don't use lights at all. Power generation pollutes so it makes sense that we should not use it unnecessarily. Even candles add to air pollution, so use them sparingly too.

#### **3. BYOPUNC - bring your own plate, utensils and napkin and cup**

Imagine how much less waste would be generated if everybody brought their own eat-ware to holiday celebrations instead of using disposables. Even if they are recyclable or compostable, single-use items should always be the last choice for party ware. A pie tin, thrift store utensils and unbreakable cup are lightweight, low-cost options that you can keep in a bag, ready to go to a picnic, potluck, party. If you are hosting a party, consider borrowing or renting plates, utensils etc..

#### **4. Thank you words not cards**

A face-to-face thanks and a hug or a phone call can be even more heartfelt than a card. If a card is a must, make one from your kids' art. Email invites aren't always pretty, but let's make our planet pretty first. And if you must send paper invites, make them small and use both sides of the (post consumer waste, recycled) paper.

#### **5. Bag the plastic Do-Dads**

Party favors in the form of cheap plastic knick-knacks, are, well, gross. The main byproduct of their production is dioxin, a toxin found increasingly in breast milk. The limited imagination required to play with these toys insures that they are broken or tossed within days if not hours. What a waste.

#### **6. Flowers - really not so green**

Just when you were thinking that flowers were the answer - no wrapping, beautiful, enjoyed by all and compostable! Well, if organically grown, yes. Commercially, not so much. Besides the pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and fertilizers used to grow them and the farm workers assaulted by these powerful chemicals everyday, they typically come from far away, requiring all kinds of jet-fueled planes, diesel trucks and petro and tree based packaging. Instead, grow our own flowers and herbs or give fresh herbs, fruits or vegetables.

*Suzanne Bryan for the Green Gnomes*

San Francisco Waldorf School Association.  
[www.sfwaldorf.org](http://www.sfwaldorf.org)

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