

Monthly Newsletter | March/April 2011

SAN FRANCISCO WALDORF SCHOOL

3rd Grade Experiences Covelo Farm and Snow!

In March, the third grade received an honor bestowed on them by Gloria and Stephen Decater of Live Power Community Farm in Covelo, CA. The Decaters told the children that in their 27 years of hosting school groups, 10 groups per year, our 3rd grade had experienced the most extreme weather to date. The Decaters congratulated our children on their resilience, strong work ethic, and good cheer throughout it all.



The third grade farm trip to Live Power is a transformative capstone on the children's four years of gardening curriculum. The farm provides them with opportunities to go beyond the work we do at St. Anne's, particularly in the animal realm. Under the guidance of the three apprentices Becca, Matt, and Kim, the children milked Bess, the dairy cow, sheared one of the ewes, and chased the cows and sheep out to pasture in the morning and into the barn at night. The children gathered eggs and fed the pig, and were in constant play with the two farm dogs, Sophie and Alder.

Throughout the wet and at times snowy weather, the children attended to the daily chores to support the life of the farm. In addition to animal care, the children mucked out stalls, wheeled the manure to the compost yard, built compost piles, split and stacked wood, baked bread, shucked corn and ground it into meal. There were nails to take out of recycled wood, brambles and branches to clear, and dishes to wash.

When we arrived Tuesday in the dry afternoon, the Decaters had prepared the two draft horses, Pete and Laura. After the children pet the horses, Stephen led the 3rd graders in an exciting activity of working together to pull a sled. The children worked in two teams along the wooden yoke, pulling as one to keep the sled moving over the rutted pathway. As the teams gained momentum, other children would jump

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Live Power Farm is a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) located in Mendocino County. Visit www.livepower.org for more information.



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Cast members for high school production of *Anything Goes* visit the grade school to sing for the lower school students. From left to right: Josue Solis, Karin Narita, Charlotte Markle and Nicholas Zatopa.

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May Means...

- Dancing at **M**ay Faire
- **M**ore Senior Project Presentations
- **M**arveling at Founders' Night
- 8th Grade Class Play - "The Sound of **M**usic"
- **M**agic from the 12th Grade Class Play - "The Wizard of Oz"

Coming up in May Block Rotation Across the Grades

Grade 1	Language Arts including work on class play
Grade 2	Language Arts
Grade 3	Shelters
Grade 4	Zoology
Grade 5	Botany
Grade 6	Physics
Grade 7	Physics
Grade 8	Class Play
Grade 9	Idealism & Humanity
Grade 10	U.S. Government / Cultural Studies: Africa
Grade 11	Parzival / Botany
Grade 12	Symptomology / Class Play

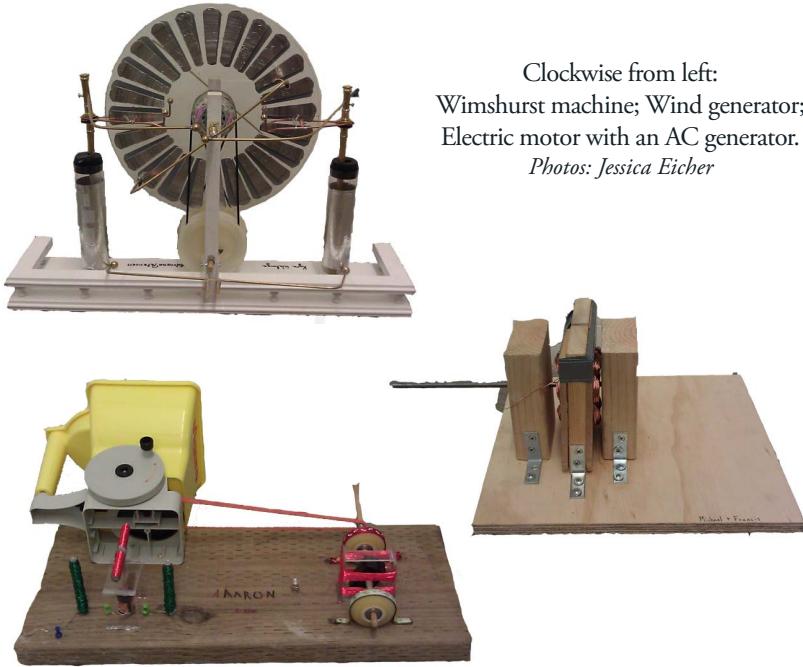
Photos this page: Covelo, Peter Belanger; "Anything Goes," Cory Powers

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Electricity and Magnetism: 11th grade

Physics in the junior year starts with a detailed study of electrostatic and magnetic phenomena, which are continuously compared and contrasted. The students are introduced to the two-charge model to provide an explanation for the phenomena observed, later contrasted with an approach based only on the concepts of electric and magnetic fields. The electroscope, the Van de Graaf, the Wimshurst machine, the Faraday cage, and the Layden jar, are observed in action, studied, and discussed in details. Historical developments, from the invention of the battery by Volta to the discoveries of Oersted, Faraday, and Ampere, are studied for their pure scientific value, followed by a detailed study of some of the major technological achievements in the field, including the microphone/speaker system, the AC generator, the electric motor, and others. Each student also builds an AC generator and electric motor from scratch or pursues another independent project approved by the teacher. Below are some examples of projects from this year.

-Paolo Carini, High School Physics



At right: The 5th grade displays their state maps as part of their study of US geography. Each student chose an individual state to study and do a report on. They also produced a textured map of their state in whatever medium they liked - including some delicious cakes!

Photo: Cory Powers

Cast List for Anything Goes

Directed by Kelly Lacy

Andre Amarotico Moonface Martin
Michael Beleson Sailor
Oscar Bonilla Sailor
Alexa Buckner Chinese Convert, Ruth
Henry Carges Elisha Whitney
Sophie Duval Chinese Convert, Mary
Midori Endo Old Lady
Jessi Ferguson Erma
Austin Fusco Sailor
Ivan Gamboa Reporter/Passenger
John Halifax Reverend Henry T. Dobson
Lucy Heath Passenger
Reilly Hurley Sir Evelyn Okleigh**/ Sailor
Alex Kroupa FBI Agent/ Passenger
Isabel Kuhel Virtue
Evelyn Levine Hope Harcourt
Anu Lingappa Purity
Julian Maggard Billy Crocker
Charlotte Markle Reno Sweeney*/ Passenger
Fiona Mischel Evangeline Harcourt
Karin Narita Reno Sweeney**/ Passenger
Davia Schendel Passenger Soloist
Peter Schwarzenbach Sailor
Eric Settles Purser
Anna Smith Alice/ Passenger
Josue Solis Sir Evelyn Okleigh*/ Sailor
Natalie Wong Reporter/Passenger
Dimitri Zabelin Captain
Nick Zatopa Sailor
Myles Zernik-Traxler Photographer/Passenger

The roles of Reno Sweeney and Sir Evelyn are double cast with alternating performances.

* Thu, April 28, 7:30 PM

Sat, April 30, 7:30 PM

Sun, May 1, 1 PM

** Fri, April 29, 7:30 PM

Sat, April 30, 1:30 PM

Sun, May 1, 7 PM



San Francisco Waldorf High School presents



Anything Goes

A Musical Comedy

Music and Lyrics by
Cole Porter



Thu, April 28 7:30 PM
Fri, April 29 7:30 PM
Sat, April 30 1:30 PM
Sat, April 30 7:30 PM
Sun, May 1 1 PM
Sun, May 1 7 PM

Original Book by **Guy Bolton, P.G. Wodehouse, Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse**
New Book by **Timothy Crouse and John Weidman**

Tickets \$12 in advance / \$15 at the door
available online at BrownPaperTickets.com or in school offices

Main Hall, Grade School Campus
2938 Washington Street, SF, CA 94115
Muni lines 1, 3, 24

www.sfwaldorffhighschool.org

poster art by Charlotte Markle, Class of 2011

Grade School: 2938 Washington Street, SF, CA 94115; tel. (415) 931-2750; info@sfwaldorf.org
High School: 470 West Portal Avenue, SF, CA 94127; tel. (415) 431-2736; highschool@sfwaldorf.org
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Comments regarding this Newsletter or requests for e-mail pdf copies can be sent to newsletter@sfwaldorf.org

Banners and Bouquets: San Francisco Youth Eurythmy Troupe in China 2011

Our first impression of China – amazingly big and bustling. This is a crowded, busy, high energy place, where it feels as though anything is possible: build another block of high rises, keep the streets clean (in a city of twenty million), make a fortune (or two), feed 1.3 billion people, buy the U.S. Treasury debt – why not? It all seems quite possible!

To be fair, we landed in Beijing, the biggest and busiest of China's many great cities (it is more than half the size of Belgium). Yet the attitude that anything is possible pervaded every aspect of our trip: Will we find a good hostel at a good price? Sure! Can we have a great inexpensive dinner for 50 people? You bet! Can a school with a total enrollment of 60 bring 600 people to our performance? Of course – this is China!

The San Francisco Youth Eurythmy Troupe had given two performances of its 2011 program, Image Weaving, in San Francisco in mid-February, under the direction of Astrid Thiersch. A Chinese theme ran through it, with a poem in the Mandarin language, and a Chinese tale and poems in translation. Four teachers, a student from Chengdu, and a troupe of twenty-five students (from tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades) made a whirlwind journey to Beijing and Chengdu.

Beijing



Arriving in Beijing at dusk, our airport bus let us out on a busy street, as it could not negotiate the small alley to our hostel. We were lodged on a traditional tree-shaded hutong of old one-story houses, with modern Beijing just down the block. A large selection of good cheap neighborhood restaurants served us well for dinner, and at breakfast the street food adventure commenced, as we sampled baozi (steamed buns), their cousins jiaozi (dumplings), roujiamo (pita sandwiches), the celebrated jian bing (egg crepe deluxe), and even yangrou chuan'r (lamb skewers).

A wide-ranging tour of Beijing occupied the first day. We were fortunate to have Alex Weber (former student, Beijing resident, and the author's son) accompany us, and his fluent putonghua (and Beijinghua) combined with that of native speakers Yihsing Hou (Mandarin teacher) and Yuqi (Yorke) Li (student tour guide) smoothed our way through the city. A walk and subway ride brought us to Tiananmen Square, the heart of Beijing (and China) and another astonishing immensity (at 440,000 square meters, the largest public square in the world). An excellent tour guide led us through the seemingly endless Forbidden City – the home of 24 emperors over 500 years, and consisting of 90 palaces and 980 buildings, all built in 14 years! Revived by a traditional Beijing noodle lunch, we braved subways and buses to attack the high-rise malls, filled with every kind of clothing, handcraft and souvenir a tourist could want.

Sunday was the main event – a full matinee performance in a six hundred-

seat theater. Gasps went up at the entrance to the Canadian International School, as we saw a gigantic version of our performance poster in Chinese characters! Teachers, parents, and friends of the Beijing Nan Shan Waldorf School arrived in force to iron costumes and see to our every need. Event organizer Kathy Hu had told us that she anticipated a sell-out, and we were not disappointed, as parents held children on their laps and some took seats in the aisles.

As part of her introduction, Astrid demonstrated eurythmy gestures, and then had the whole audience try them out, which they all did with great gusto and much commentary. We felt this open-hearted enthusiasm from the audience as the students gave an energetic and intense performance (captured on video by CCTV). Most of the audience was seeing eurythmy for the first time, and sat rapt through Beethoven and Chopin (beautifully played by our accompanist Lilia Zhelsova), and laughed happily at modern humoresques and Old MacDonald's farm animals. At the end we were showered with applause and also with flowers – great bouquets for Ms. Thiersch and the speakers and musicians, and children brought flowers to each of our student performers on stage.

Afterward a wonderful Sichuan restaurant provided a relaxed and delicious setting for getting to know our hosts from the school and also Alex's family – his beautiful wife Li Yang and children GangGang (12), YiYi (8), and Jack (6 months) were quite the hit of the party!

Up early the next day, we drove to the Nan Shan Waldorf School on the outskirts of Beijing. A tour of classrooms made the students feel right at home, with the colored walls, blackboard drawings, and children playing wooden recorders. In its second year, the school is small, with a kindergarten and first, second, and seventh grades. Yet it was amazing to see all that had been accomplished so quickly! We gathered with the whole school for an exchange of poems and songs, and the lead teacher, Huang Mingyu, had his second grade present each of us with a scroll in ancient characters bearing a verse from the Dao De Ching, painted by the children. It was a profound moment for all of us, in which hearts and cultures reached out and met in true friendship.

From the school we drove to Mutianyu to scale the heights of the Great Wall. It was majestic indeed, and felt timeless in its veils of mist. We can proudly report that our hardy guards kept all marauding Mongols at bay. Back in Beijing, an evening show, "Legend of Kung Fu", combined martial arts, philosophy and storytelling in a Broadway-worthy package, and left us marveling at the vastness and intricacy of Chinese culture. The next morning a plane wafted us to Chengdu, and we left Beijing amazed and impressed, and hoping to return some day.

David Weber

(part 2 of this article will appear in the May Newsletter)



THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO MADE OUR 2011 SPRING NIGHT BENEFIT AUCTION POSSIBLE.

AUCTION COMMITTEE

Juliana Beach, Auction Chair
Nora Dwyer, Dining and Drinks
Joel Benson, Invitations

FOOD, DRINKS, MUSIC AND MORE

Claudia Arce, Music
Aerowyn Hunter, Chocolates
Joseph and Mary Manzare, Tequila Bar & Margaritas
Dave McLean and Demetra Markis, Beer
Diego Munoz and Montse Gomez, Kitchen
Carina and Paul Sabharwal, Wine
John Tormey, Guacamole Bar
Derek Trowbridge, Wine
Beatrice Santiccioli, Artistic Consultation

CORPORATE UNDERWRITING

Cheap Pete's
Dependable Letterpress
Fallick Insurance
First Republic Bank
Magnolia Pub and Brewery
Old World Winery
Sports Basement
Tres Agaves

INDIVIDUAL UNDERWRITING

Anonymous (3)
Craig Appel and Kate Holcombe
Jeff and Amy Belkora
Jodi and Mark Casey
Gabrielle and Scott Chernis
Molly Clement and Chris Kaufman
Sandi and Marcus Colabianchi
Kenny and Cara Daniels
Charlene Davis and Ken Walenga
Martin Dwyer and Yvonne Correa
Jeff Fallick
Peter and Kim Garcia-Meza
Liz and Ian Halifax
Paige and Andy Hart
Noreen Heavlin
Todd Herman
Jacqui and Kyle Holm
Kim Hopper
Annette Huges-White and Brett White
Amy Kalfsbeek and Tony Martorana
Steve and Melinda King
Tad Kinney and Jane Mangan
Stan and Cathleen Loftus
Heather and Mitch Mitchell
Rachel and Jeffrey Moss
Pat and Emily O'Keeffe
Todd and Anh Oppenheimer
Cory Powers and Patrick Markle
Kevin and Amber Rowney
Carina and Paul Sabharwal
Richard Johnson and Alison Sant-Johnson
Sheila Schroeder and Jason Phillips
James and Susan Siler
Melissa Smith and Jeffrey Van Harte
Moira Walsh and Michael McQuaid

LIVE AUCTION SUPPORT

David Bushnell, Fund-A-Need
Cynthia Cummins
Kate Greene
Paul Hurley

SILENT AUCTION SUPPORT

Arlene Kimata
Kay Tensin
Sabrina Nouri Moosa

ONLINE AUCTION SUPPORT

Cindy Bennett
Nancy Petrin
Ellen Stephens
Jeni Vullings

CHECK IN AND CHECK OUT

Jose Hernandez
Fumi Johns Stewart
Sophia Klefogianne
Rachel Settels
Michael Slade

SET UP AND CLEAN UP

Patricia Ardziejewski
Art Bender
Joel Benson
Allison Carroll
Justine Costerouse
Yasmin Decuire
Jim Finn
Sara Fusco
Margaret Grisz-Dow
Larry Habegger
Lyall Harris
Tae Hirohata
Cheryl Madsen
Sherry Spitzer
Marshall White
Adam Vanderwaard
Sarah Vardigans

CLASS PROJECTS

Heidi Ostroff
Cynthia Dewar-Kudsi
Monique Duncan
Jackie Holm
Kirsten Hetland
Amber Rowney
Jeni Vullings
Kirstin Bach
Sharon Campbell
Jodi Jirsa
Wendy Walker
Margaret Grisz-Dow
Caroline Kleinman
Maureen Perry
Rhonda Emmert
Mayela Gutknecht
Jan Hammock
Heather Ive
Anna Kelleher
Susan Robinson
Marisa Toriggino
Cara Bird Daniels
Peter Carlstrom
Lyall Harris
Victoria Chaban
Sara Fusco
Alison Wong
Montse Gomez-Osuna
Marylou Chaput
Margaret Grisz-Dow
Paula McCabe
Ethel Tang-Quan
Mary Woten
Claudia Arce
Montse Gomez-Osuna
Margaret Grisz-Dow
Patty Townsend



Photos this page:
Steve Hovland



Founders' Night is Coming Up! Friday, May 13

Don't forget to mark your calendars for a wonderful evening of musical performances and exhibits of student artistic and academic work. This year we have moved Founders' Night to a Friday and will start a little earlier to make it easier for families to attend. Look for your invitation in the mail soon!



Senior Project Presentations: May 2-6

Please join us for the final series of Senior Project presentations to be held Monday, May 2, through Friday, May 6, at the high school. Presentations will begin each day at 3:30 pm (with a dinner break from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm) and end at approximately 8:30 pm, except on May 2nd when they will end at 5pm. Each student will give a 20 minute presentation followed by a 10 minute Q&A. A detailed schedule is posted at sfwaldorfh highschoo l.org.

Senior Projects give students an opportunity to explore a subject of personal interest and to stretch their understanding and experience in the arts, an academic subject or a social discipline. These independent projects begin with a proposal outlining their objectives at the end of their junior year. Come see the results of their inspiration, striving and achievement! Join us to honor their creative work. All are welcome!

SAN FRANCISCO WALDORF GRADE SCHOOL

COVELO continued from page 1

on the sled, and we'd count how many each team could pull.

Once we had tried to work as the horses do, Stephen hitched the two draft horses to the yoke and the horses pulled groups of children on the sled back and forth on the lane. The kids loved it and we were all amazed by how effortless the horses made it look. The children learned firsthand the meaning of horsepower and teamwork.



Our tents withstood the snow and rain pretty well, but it was hard to keep the water from pooling around the doors and sneaking in with the children and all their wet gear. The parents set up elaborate systems to ensure the tents stayed as dry and mud-free as possible!

Our "farm chef," Debbie Hopkins provided us with delicious and plentiful meals three times a day. The kids clamored for seconds

and thirds and particularly loved her soups and the fresh baked breads with honey. Ms. Christofferson and I are indebted to all of our marvelous and intrepid parent volunteers: Craig Appel, Hugh Molesworth, Chris Larrance, Peter Belanger, Joel Bleskacek, Lesley Fisher, Carrie Leeb and Debbie Hopkins. They were expert campers and loving caregivers.



The third graders delighted us with their enthusiasm, farm-sense, and general toughness. Despite the wet weather, our work warmed our bodies and our hearts throughout our stay on the farm.

*Amy Belkora, Gardening Program
Photos: Peter Belanger, parent, K2 & Gr3*