

# Weekly Update



Prairie Hill Waldorf School ■ Pewaukee, Wisconsin

April 17, 2009

## WHAT'S GOING ON...

### April 2009

- 18 - Wonder Garden & Kindergarten Sampler Morning - RSVP
- 22 - Early Childhood Parent Evening on Media 7:00 p.m.
- 22 - Flower sale & Maple Syrup Order due
- 25 - Spring Auction 5:00 p.m.
- 28 - Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

### May 2009

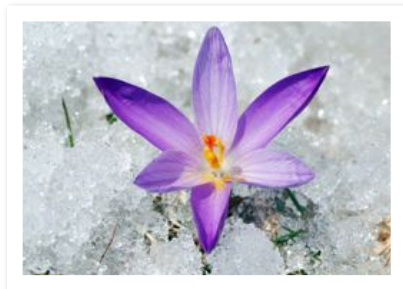
- 1 - Grade 4 Play 7:00 p.m.
- 4 - School in session - Snow Make-up Day
- 9 - May Faire 11:00 - 3:00
- 13 - Board Committees Meet at 6:00 p.m.
- 15 - Grade 2 Play 7:00 p.m.
- 25 - No School - Memorial Day
- 26 - Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 28 - Last day of TLC, Aftercare, Wonder Garden & Kinder.
- 29 - Last day of Grade School - no Aftercare.  
1:30 p.m. Classrm clean-up and move  
3:00 p.m. Ice Cream Social
- 30 - Graduation - Time TBA

### June 2009

- 10 - Board Committees Meet at 6:00 p.m.
- 23 - Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 25 - Parent Pick-up of Student Reports (Optional) 9:00 a.m. - Noon
- 26 - Student Reports Mailed
- 25-27 - Clothing Exchange 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

**Anne Bradstreet**



## AUCTION NEWS

**Get your boots on and meet me at the Country Fair!!!!**

With only a week to go, here are a few things we can all do to make this year's Annual Auction a fabulous success.

**Buy Your Tickets!** Tickets for you and all your friends and family are on sale now in the office.

**Buy Your Teacher a Ticket!** What a great way to hang with your class teacher and have a great night out.

**Donate Wine!** We are still in need of wine for the evening. Visit your local liquor store and buy as many bottles as you can carry and bring them to the front office.

**Sign Up To Bring a Prize Winning Pie or Cake!** The sign up is across from the mailboxes. The more the better. Pull out your favorite recipe and get baking! The Country Fair is right around the corner!!

**Volunteer Your Time!** Sign up to help the night of auction, many hands make light work! The sign-up sheet is across from the mailboxes.

The Auction catalog will be available Monday, April 20th. You won't want to miss getting a sneak preview of the amazing items available at this year's Auction!

As always, if you have questions please contact one of our committee members: Janice Zimmermann (chair), Sue Krantz, Jessica Faga, Cathy Brummer, Laurie Rhody, Kathleen Traudt, Julie Rott, Mary Joan Brilla, Ramsey Schlissel or Terry Mahoney-Ogden. On behalf of the Spring Auction, we thank you!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Prairie Hill Celebrates Earth Week

On April 20-24, Prairie Hill will be celebrating Earth Week. Sponsored by the SOS (Save Our Sphere) Club, with the cooperation of the Green Team, each day will feature a special event.

**Monday** will be dedicated to opening the blinds in the classroom and keeping the electric lights turned off to save energy and help heal Mother Earth. 70% of the electricity produced in the United States comes from power plants that burn fossil fuels, creating greenhouse gases that contribute to air pollution. Between 1980 and 2005, the global energy demand outpaced the supply. SOS talks to classes about global warming.

**Tuesday** will be the day we dress in green or recycled clothing to show our support for the adage, "Reuse, Recycle, Renew." Bring in your own plate and napkin for Pizza Day. Bring in a bag of aluminum cans and help us preserve the rainforest.

**Wednesday** is the 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day, recognized throughout the United States. Gaylord Nelson, Wisconsin governor, was the power behind the first Earth Day in 1970. The Green Team will be offering vegetable lasagne for lunch that day for the Grades (& possibly TLC lunchers). It will contain dairy products. Students are free to bring their own veggie lunch, if they prefer. Greenhouse gases generated by livestock make up 18% of the world's greenhouse emissions.

In addition, students may bring in a stuffed animal that depicts an endangered species. The SOS group would like to heighten awareness of the fragile balance in the animal kingdom.

Meribeth Sullivan, Waukesha County Recycling Specialist, will be presenting "Green Lunch" ideas to students and adults at 2:40pm., in the gym. She will demonstrate how green lunches are more economical, more nutritious, and create less waste than conventional lunch products. There will also be a drawing for green, alternative lunchboxes. All are invited!

**Thursday** will be a "backwards day" to demonstrate our wishes to reverse global warming. Please wear a shirt backwards on that day. As an added measure, unplug appliances when not in use. Even these simple steps help to reduce our energy usage.

Make an extra effort to carpool to school. If you live closer than most of us, walk or ride your bike to school. Let a SOS member know and receive a coupon for a free tote. What a great way to save energy and promote good health.

**Friday** is the day designated for planting and renewing the campus grounds. During the last 25 minutes of school, classes will be on the grounds, preparing gardens and pulling garlic mustard. We hope to have the trees that Grade One parents generously donated. Please bring shovels and rakes for clearing and planting.

Continue to bring in aluminum cans you have collected from home or your neighborhood. We will be using the funds to purchase rainforest land to preserve. Thanks for all your efforts. Let's have a great Earth Week at Prairie Hill!!! Students of the SOS group with support from Green Team

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### A Special Thank You

There is an important change in our administration as we return from Spring Break. Please note that Kim Bair will no longer carry the role of Enrollment Director at Prairie Hill, and we look forward to her happy role as mom and supporter of our school. Thank you, Kim, for bringing a new light into enrollment with your great ideas, and most importantly for greeting all the new children and families this year. We wish you all the best on your path. In the interim, Sally Sommer will be available to assist with any enrollment questions and tours.

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### In Community Service

A huge thank you we want to thank the Buchta family, especially Jack for their very lovely and generous gift. Jack invited his entire Grade 2 class to help him celebrate his tenth birthday at the Play Gallery, and in lieu of gifts, asked his friends to make a donation to Prairie Hill. It turns out, that he received \$250 in donations for our school! What an inspiration!

### **Early Childhood Parent Evening**

Early Childhood Parent Evening on Wednesday, April 22nd at 7:00 p.m. featuring a discussion led by Peter & Nicole DeBoer (long-time Waldorf parents) on "Children and Media." Everyone is welcome!

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### **Soup Day Breakfast**

Please join us for our annual soup breakfast on Monday, May 4th after drop off, in the Grade 8 classroom! We will be breakfasting on Cream of Fresh Pea with Spaetzle and Curried Eggplant with Mushroom Ravioli (OK we had it last year--I want it again!)

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### **Come celebrate Spring and Make Merry at the Annual May Faire on Saturday, May 9th!**

Open to the public this festival welcomes Spring and new friends to our school with a day full of festivities. This year, May Faire begins with our annual Spring Concert in the gym (time to be announced next week), and continues with our third grade students doing a traditional dance around the maypole, bedecked with fresh flowers and ribbons, and accompanied by live music. The day's activities include the famous flying fox, cake walks, petting zoo, tie-dying, leaf printing, games, willow crown-making, the fairy glen, and more! Delicious home-made refreshments will be served (a fund raiser sponsored by the seventh grade), and we will expand on last year's Farmer's Market featuring local artisan's wares such as soap, maple syrup, honey, jewelry, flowers, natural cleaning products, and blankets (contact Peggy Lippe if you know a vendor that is interested!). Sparked by lively music, yummy food, and lots of hands-on family fun, this magical outdoor event is sure to delight visitors of all ages--so we encourage you to bring your relatives, neighbors and friends!

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## **CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT**

### **Wonder Garden**

"A healthy social life is found only, when in the mirror of each soul the whole community finds its reflection, and when in the whole community the virtue of each one is living." --Rudolf Steiner

It is clear to me now, what Steiner meant when he spoke of community in this way. On Saturday, April 4th, the Wonder Garden families came together to work on transforming our outdoor space into a "Garden of Wonder." What happened that morning was magical! A bit like Extreme Makeover, Waldorf-style! With the weather on our side, we set to work with focus and joy. There were pond diggers, raised bed carpenters, a shingle man, artists creating a stone sculpture bird bath, friends digging the area needed for the vegetable gardens, rakers of leaves, friends hanging tool racks and window boxes, hangers of birdhouses and wind chimes, rock and tree trunk movers, gardeners trimming bushes, log cabin builders, obstacle course creators, a rain barrel man, and so much more! There were amazing moments of beauty and exuberance, with parents, grandparents and children sharing all their virtues.

What a tribute to this Wonder Garden class...that we now have such an inspiring space to work and play in. It is a legacy that we are gifting all the future Wonder Garden classes with, as well as the whole school community. Thank you, every single one of you! And a special thank you to Julie Syzba for her vision, leadership and generosity; and to Dick & Ruth Scheel for their creativity, dedication and for donating the wooden swings, cedar, and building our two raised beds; and last but not least, to Chet Celenza for being the mastermind behind the rigging of the swings.

In the days ahead, the children will help put soil in the two raised beds, plant the seeds, and eventually harvest the vegetables and herbs which we will use in our Stone Soup. The lessons will be numerous in this Garden of Wonder. In addition to the children having witnessed this co-creation, they will deepen their understanding of the connection between earth and the food we eat, discover the natural cycle of life, it will help instill love and respect for nature, offer therapeutic and physical activities that will both soothe and challenge them, and create more opportunities for playing, working, running, meditating, story-telling, and sharing with others in our community. With love and gratitude, Miss Vicki

## FUNDRAISERS

### Flower Sale Forms Due April 22nd

Pictures of the flowers that are available are now on display in the hallway across from Grade 3. Flower Sale orders will be accepted until Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> (please remember to put your name on your order), payment is due at time of delivery. Delivery will be on May 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am until 5:30pm. See the note attached to the order form for details. Additional forms are available near the display area. Contact Jeanne Ring at (262)524-0404 with any questions.

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### Maple Syrup Order Due April 22nd

Forms for Maple Syrup were placed in mailbox and more are available in the office. Please note there is a shortage of syrup this year due to the hot/cold weather conditions of our Spring, so please order as we cannot guarantee any extras. We will place all orders accompanied by payment at the end of the day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Syrup will be delivered on May Faire (May 9<sup>th</sup>). See Sally in the office with questions.

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### Box Tops For Education

Have you heard about the [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com) website where families can register and win extra boxtops for school? All you have to do is register. No strings attached, no purchase necessary. They offer 1,500 to 10,000 boxtops per each promo...that's money for strings!!

## IN THE COMMUNITY BEYOND PRAIRIE HILL

### Great Lakes Teacher Training

Great Lakes Teacher Training is offering the following workshop in celebration of spring:  
Celebrating Proserpines Return: A workshop honoring spring and the month of May through watercolor painting and eurythmy. What better way to acknowledge Mother Earth's transformation into this flower-filled season than through color and movement. Sherrod Milewski will guide us in watercolor painting and Mary Ruud will lead us in Eurythmy (sometimes described as visible speech and music) to Romantic poetry. Sacred Goddess, Mother Earth, Thou from whose immortal bosom, Gods, and men, and beasts have birth. Saturday, May 2, 1-4 p.m., Mount Mary College, Room 346. \$35 if registered by April 27 and \$40 after that for this Waldorf Enrichment for Today (WEFT) workshop offered by Great Lakes Teacher Training. Register by phone or email. Call Lori Barian, 262-642-9672, or email her at [lori.barian@newspiritventures.com](mailto:lori.barian@newspiritventures.com).

Great Lakes Teacher Training is also offering Summer Adult Education Opportunities. Please watch for flyers to arrive shortly or contact Lori Barian 262-642-9672 or [lori.barian@newspiritventures.com](mailto:lori.barian@newspiritventures.com) for more details.

## UPDATE DEADLINE AND DETAILS

SUBMIT ITEMS TO OFFICE MANAGER, JESSICA FAGA, AT [NEWS@PRAIRIEHILLWALDORF.ORG](mailto:NEWS@PRAIRIEHILLWALDORF.ORG). PLEASE SEND SUBMISSIONS TO THE WEEKLY UPDATE VIA EMAIL. SUBMISSIONS ARE IDEALLY LESS THAN 100 WORDS IN LENGTH.

If you have a change in your email address, if you have any problems in the receipt of this e-letter, or if you would like to unsubscribe, please contact [news@prairiehillwaldorf.org](mailto:news@prairiehillwaldorf.org) or call Office Manager Jessica Faga at (262) 646-7497.

The Update is distributed by email; paper copies are available from the Front Desk at school.



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April 2009

A Newsletter for Waldorf School Communities  
from the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America

**An unexpected highlight took place at a recent spring meeting** in Washington, D.C. of the Council of American Private Education (CAPE). Patrice Maynard, AWSNA Leader for Outreach and Development and Secretary of the CAPE Board, writes: "We had two surprise visitors at our Monday evening reception in the Russell Senate Building: Senator Joe Lieberman, D-Connecticut; and Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio. Both of these gentlemen were very eloquent and committed to independent and faith-based education as a necessary component in our educational landscape. Dennis Kucinich shook my hand and when I introduced myself he lit up and said, "I have spoken at two Waldorf school events, and your students are remarkable. They are truly remarkable."" CAPE is a coalition of national organizations and state affiliates serving private elementary and secondary schools. Its fundamental principle is that independent education is "good for students, good for families, and good for America."

**Check out two brand new features on the Why Waldorf Works web site!** The **Regional Pages** is a place where you can find schools by region, contact information for Regional Leadership Council Representatives, events going on in each region, and more. Please feel free to contact schools and regional representatives for more information or for answers to your questions. Also, remember that regions can e-mail event information to [webeditor@awsna.org](mailto:webeditor@awsna.org). **Green Resources** is a place where affiliated schools can access detailed purchasing information about the best green products to use in schools. Launch date for the Green Resources Pages is Earth Day, April 22, 2009.

**According to the Cambridge Primary Review (CPR)**, children's lives are being "impoverished" by an education that is "fundamentally deficient." The recent report from England, part of the biggest inquiry into primary education in 40 years, argues that children's right to a broad and balanced curriculum has been eroded by an obsession with literacy and numeracy - subjects that are constantly tested to assure government standards are being met. Other subjects, such as history, geography, the arts, and even science have been "squeezed out," according to the study. The CPR is a wide-ranging independent inquiry into the condition and future of early education - ages 4 through 11. The launch of the study was preceded by three years of planning and consultation with government, opposition parties, education officials, teaching unions, and many other public bodies involved in education.

**Summer Camps Doing Well In Spite of Recession:** A recent article from the Associated Press states that most summer camps across North America are filling up despite the recession. Camp Glenbrook, which claims to "weave Waldorf Education with traditional New England camping" is featured in the article, which can be read on-line at [www.whywaldorfworks.org](http://www.whywaldorfworks.org). Even families hit hard by the economy don't stint on summer programs. "The decision wasn't difficult at all, even though we're struggling," according to single mother Maurren Wrinn, who recently lost her job. "Camp Glen Brook has offered my son a sense of place where he's developed into his own self, in a way that only a summer camp can do." Parents like Wrinn are helping keep America's vast summer camp industry in a relatively upbeat mood as the recession takes a toll on many other sectors.

