



Richmond Waldorf School
MESSENGER

W E E K L Y S C H O O L B U L L E T I N

May 13, 2010

Welcome to Mrs. Craig and Mr. Pollard!

Submitted by Jennifer Fleming, Ph.D. for the Personnel Committee

The Faculty and Board are delighted to announce that we have completed the hiring process for the 2010 – 2011 school year. Please join us in welcoming Phil Pollard as the First Grade Class Teacher and Bethany Craig as the Second Grade Class Teacher.

Phil Pollard

Many of you already know Mr. Pollard, but for those who do not, we wanted to give you a brief introduction. Mr. Pollard has been in the field of education since 1993. He has had experience teaching first grade through high school, as well as lecturing at the college level. Mr. Pollard has been teaching at RWS for the past three years, first as our games teacher, and for the past two years as the part time 7th and 8th grade teacher. Prior to relocating to Richmond, Mr. Pollard taught combined elementary grades at the Mountain Song School in Knoxville (the Waldorf School he and his wife, Dawn, founded and administered for many years), as well as providing a Waldorf home school experience for his own daughters.

Mr. Pollard has a Masters degree in "Great Books" from St. John's College and an undergraduate degree in English Literature. He has attended numerous intensives and trainings in Waldorf education in order to strengthen his skills and understanding of the curriculum, deepen his personal development as a teacher, and his further his knowledge of the underlying foundations of Waldorf pedagogy.

Phil and Dawn (RWS lead Kindergarten Teacher) with their three children have recently purchased a house on Richmond's South Side. Their oldest daughter, Eleanore, attends Trinity School where she is completing her sophomore year. Anna and Thea attend RWS and are in 4th and 2nd grades respectfully. We are delighted to have the whole family as part of our community, and excited to welcome Mr. Pollard into this new position at RWS.

CALENDAR

May 19th

RWS Board Meeting
3:30-6:30 Church Library

May 19th-20th

5th Grade Pentathlon

May 21st

Music Performance Night
6:30-9:00pm

Social Hall

May 27th

Last Day for Kindergarten

No Lunch or Aftercare

8th Grade
Commencement

6:30pm

May 28th

Last Day for Grades
Assembly 10:30am

End of year Picnic 12:15pm

Richmond Waldorf School has been formed to provide, with a sense of community, an education for children which embodies the Waldorf philosophy — fostering learning through the hands, heart, and head.

School News and Bulletin Board

Gratitudes

To all the Kindergarten parents—Thank you for keeping up to date on your children's physical/immunization paperwork. We were recently audited by the city and the auditor told me we were only the second school she's done that had 100% compliance! -Martha

Thanks to Jennifer Fleming for all of the work she does behind the scenes and uncover without people knowing. - Sarah Milston

Happy Hours!

By Olivia Lockwood, BOT President

Many of us are enjoying the RWS Happy Hours, so please mark your calendars for 3 more!

THIS FRIDAY we will meet at Carena's Jamaican Grill. From 4 to 7 pm there are free appetizers with the purchase of an alcoholic beverage. We plan to meet between 5 and 5:30.

On Friday 18 June and Friday 27 August we will meet at Comfort from 5:30 to 7:30. The more the merrier for these adult focused events so do bring friends but not the children.

Please reach out to any BOT member for additional details!

Page 2

May 13, 2010

Welcome to Pollard and Craig cont...

Bethany Craig

Mrs. Craig has been involved in Waldorf education since 1987 and in the field of education in general since 1973. She has taken two classes at the Charlottesville Waldorf School, the first from first to sixth and then a second class from first to fifth grade. She has taught kindergarten, first, and a combined first and second grade class at the Spring Mountain Waldorf School which she founded in 1987. For the past several years, she has been a middle school subject teacher at a private school teaching social studies, language arts, mathematics, library science and media, and drama.

Mrs. Craig has served in administrative positions in both Waldorf and non-Waldorf settings. She has served on the Board at the Charlottesville Waldorf School as well as the College of Teachers. Mrs. Craig has served as an AWSNA delegate and as a mentor of developing schools, including RWS. Further, Mrs. Craig is an experienced mentor for Waldorf class teachers in training through Sunbridge College and has lectured in education at the university level.

Mrs. Craig has a Masters of Education and Waldorf Teacher Training Certificate from Antioch New England Graduate School. Her Bachelor's Degree is in Art Education from Pratt Institute. She has attended numerous trainings, intensives and workshops in topics related to Waldorf Education as well as workshops on dyslexia and other neurologically based topics in education.

Bethany and her husband, Arthur (a wood worker), plan to relocate to Richmond this summer. The move will afford them the opportunity to be closer to their children and grand children, as well as allowing Bethany to return to Waldorf Education, two changes they have been eagerly awaiting

Please join us in warmly welcoming Bethany Craig as the new rising 2nd grade class teacher, and her family as members of our lovely community.

RWS in Pictures

This week's pictures are courtesy of Claudia Thomas and Sarah Milston. Claudia captured the lift off of Phil Pollard's eighth grade class balloon ride. Sarah snapped a few pictures of the sixth grade doing calligraphy by candlelight and another May Faire picture. If you want your pictures to be featured, please submit them to messenger@richmondwaldorf.com.

The Messenger ...

The Messenger deadline is Tuesday by 12pm for that week's issue. Please email submissions to: messenger@richmondwaldorf.com

Richmond Waldorf School 804.377.8024 wholechild@richmondwaldorf.com

School News and Bulletin Board

New Developments for 2010-2011 School Year

Submitted by Jennifer Fleming, PhD for the Faculty College

The Faculty College has been hard at work reviewing our curriculum and making decisions about how to enliven our offerings while staying within our facility and budget constraints. As a result, we will be implementing some exciting changes next year.

The most significant of these changes that will affect our entire grade school will be in our foreign language program. After many years offering German and Russian, RWS will be offering Spanish and Russian. The reasons for this change involve several factors. To begin, we want to maintain two languages that come from different language families while keeping one language with a unique alphabet. In addition, one of the objectives of the Waldorf foreign language curriculum is to create a bridge to other cultures in our community. Richmond has a significant Spanish speaking population. Finally, we have a strong German influence in the RWS community separate from the foreign language program and feel that connection will remain strong even with this change.

In the Upper Grades, as your children are reaching towards adolescence and High School, we have found that they need something different from school; they need to feel a change that mirrors what is going on inside of them. Because of this, we are continually seeking ways to stretch them, lift them up and make them feel they are encountering something new, refreshing and challenging in the upper grades. Next year you will notice more changes to this end, as well as a schedule that will strengthen academic rigor, balance art and music, extend class periods for deeper more meaningful work and add an exciting Thursday after school program.

Here are the changes you can look forward to in the Upper Grades:

1. There will be 5 extra academic periods per week to allow for a full practice of math and language arts skills.
2. There will be five 1-hour periods each week. These will be used for Visual Arts (to explore pastels, charcoal, painting, clay modeling, etc.), Practical Arts (rotating blocks of Handwork and Woodwork) and Recorder Ensemble.
3. In the foreign language program, middle school students will study only one language; either continuing with Russian or beginning with Spanish. The decision as to which language a student studies will be made by the faculty, with input from parents and will be based on the best interest of each child and a balance in the foreign language program.
4. Strings Ensemble, Latin, and Eurythmy will continue and the Movement program will be expanded to include cooperative games, gymnastics, team sports, circus arts and dance.



Page 3

May 13, 2010

School News and Bulletin Board

New Developments for 2010-2011 School Year Cont....

5. Thursdays – The Middle School students are ready for a full day on Thursdays. To begin this gradual transition for the school, we will have an Optional Afterschool Thursday program for 6-8th graders. This hour and a half will be used to enrich the curriculum for the benefit of your children:
- Performing Arts Blocks during which the students will work on choral music and a full theatrical production.
 - City Classroom during which the rich resources of the city of Richmond (museums, natural structures, historical sites, etc.) become the classroom.
 - Service projects to deepen the students' connection to philanthropy and the needs of the greater Richmond community.
 - We hope that you are as excited about these developments as we are! Please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or any member of the College if you have further questions.

Thank You to Frau White

Submitted by Jennifer Fleming, PhD for the Faculty College

As you have read in the preceding article, RWS will be implementing a change in our language program from German to Spanish beginning in the Fall of 2010. While we are confident in our decision, we are deeply saddened that Frau White will be leaving our faculty. Gisela White has given many years of service to RWS and will be greatly missed next year. Frau White inherited a strong German program and made it even stronger. She joined the faculty as our German teacher in 2005 and helped the program grow into a 1st through 8th grade program. She established herself with the students as a lively, engaging



teacher who challenged each student to bring their best to their work at all times. We have all seen what she has been able to accomplish as evidenced by her delightful presentations at the assemblies! From Hansel and Gretel in 1st grade, to conjugating at the café in 6th, to the Goethe poem in 8th – all wonderful, challenging, and culturally enriching for our students. Less visibly, Gisela has been a valuable colleague, participating in faculty work, open and willing to work with parents, supporting parent education and committed to continuing education and the study of Waldorf pedagogy and anthroposophy. The College is deeply grateful to her for the commitment she has shown to RWS. In the coming weeks, we hope that your family will take an opportunity to thank her for her contribution to your child's education and to our school. Thank you, Frau White!

Page 5

May 13, 2010

School News and Bulletin Board

Administration Office Hours

	Martha	Pete	Jennifer	Sarah	Amy
Monday 5/17	7:45- 3:00	vacation	7:45-11:30 1-3:15 6:30-8	off	10-11:45 1:15-3
Tuesday 5/18	7:45-3:00	vacation	7:45-9:30 11:30-5	off	10:00- 6:00
Wednesday 5/19	7:45-7:00	vacation	7:45-4:30 (olympics)	8:30-6:30	10:00-6:30
Thursday 5/20	7:45-3:00	vacation	(olympics) 1:30-5:30	9-4:30	10:00-5:30
Friday 5/21	7:45-1:30	vacation	7:45-3:15 Music Nite	off	10:00-3:00

Faculty and Staff Appreciation Week

Submitted by Jennifer Dyson

Faculty and Staff Appreciation Week is NEXT WEEK! It's time to let the Faculty and Staff of our wonderful school know just how much each and every one of us truly appreciates what they do for our children. Faculty and Staff Appreciation Week is right around the corner! In fact, it is NEXT WEEK! The Parent Association will be coordinating a couple of specific events that week to honor the faculty and staff--but feel free to improvise with your own ideas at other times, too!

First, Tuesday, May 18th--Flowers Flowers Flowers! This has been such a fun success that we just have to continue the tradition! If you choose to participate, on Tuesday morning, each student will have the opportunity to bring in a flower stem for each faculty and staff member that they would like to thank. The Parent Association will have tables set up outside by the playground before drop off with a flower vase labeled with each faculty and staff member's name. Try to come a few minutes early and place your flower(s) where you want them and we'll take care of the rest! If you'd like to help with the set up and flower delivery, or if you have flower vases you could loan us, please contact Jennifer Dyson Lerch.

Second, Thursday, May 20th--Treats Treats Treats! We'd like to duplicate last year's yummy offering for the Thursday afternoon Faculty and Staff meeting. The Parent Association took a collection from those who chose to participate and then used the money gathered to purchase some delicious treats and small gift cards to places like For the Love of Chocolate and Ellwood Thompson's for everyone to take home with them. Everyone was drooling over this one! If you would like to contribute in this way, please place your offering in an envelope and put into the Lerch(Dyson) mailbox by the stairs. Any amount is gratefully received. Deadline to contribute money is Tuesday, May 18th, 8:30am. Amounts received after this time will be offered to our school's annual fund.

Questions? Contact Jennifer Dyson Lerch.



Parent Association News

By Monica Hopkins, PA Moderator

Make plans now to attend the End of the Year Picnic on the last day of school, Friday, May 28th after the assembly from 12:15 – 2:30. Bring a lunch for your family and the PA will provide water, cake, and watermelon.

Did you check out school library books this year? Don't forget to return any library books and mark them off the list so we know they are back.

We are making plans for next year to increase parent participation in the life of our school. Things being planned include: meeting on a W/TH/or F and including a Waldorf craft at some meetings (lanterns, stars), another social breakfast, and more family socials and events (block parties, potluck picnics).

Page 6

May 13, 2010

Parent Association News

Parent Association Minutes

By Anne Jones

The Parent Association met Tuesday May 4th. In attendance were Betsy Milburn Town, Cyndi Willard, Jennifer Fleming, Sarah Van Dam, Sarah Milston, Ruth Vest, Brenda Jones, Monica Hopkins and Anne Jones.

Class Parent Reports:

Acorn and Walnut Kindergartens - planting, getting ready for Mother's Day

Dogwood and Walnut kindergartens - set up a May Pole in classroom, making cards for Mother's Day, excited about upcoming field trip to Reedy Creek

1st grade - have had a substitute teacher, working on math block

2nd grade - working on math block, planning strawberry-picking field trip

3rd grade - planning overnight trip to working farm in NC

4th grade - preparing for class play "The Death of Baldr"

5th grade - preparing for upcoming Olympics

6th grade - great knighting ceremony, performed Robin Hood-May Faire, working on math block

8th grade - preparing for end of year overnight trip to NC



Committee Reports:

- **Recycling** - 8th grade responsible for month of May, discussion regarding handling re-shelving of library books this way next year
- **Library** - re-shelving of books may be handled same as recycling next year (a different grade responsible for each month)
- **Social** - be on the lookout for news regarding a family-friendly social event sometime this summer, possibly in July
- **Development** - 2010 Bazaar will be held in October rather than December, will be more festival-like, will include a walkathon fundraiser
- **Playground equipment** - PA provided new sand, will fund jump ropes and balls for 4th grade, Willard family will soon donate basketball backboard, plans to create secure storage place for playground equipment this summer
- **Security Concerns** - plans tentatively in place to build window in wall between Martha's office and hallway sometime this summer, most labor/supplies will be donated, PA will pick up difference
- **PA meeting attendance** - discussion regarding ways to increase attendance in the coming school year - some suggestions: PA presentation at back to school night, PA sponsored class parent orientation, combine PA meetings & handwork meetings, plan more family socials
- **End of Year Picnic** - will be on May 28th at 12:15. Bring lunch for your family. Cake and watermelon will be provided.

Page 7

May 13, 2010