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LAKE CHAMPLAIN WALDORF SCHOOL

OUR VOICE | December 6, 2013

email newsletter items to: newsletter@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org



5th Grade Gold Rush

Fifth grade students, during their American Geography block, were captivated by Randy Archer's gold panning. The guest presenter, with parent Per Eisenman, visited the class to teach about how the Gold Rush was a pivotal part of California history.



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6th Grade European Geography

The sixth grade has been studying European Geography. At first we took a look at our ancestors who came from Europe, and shared stories about friends and relatives from countries such as Germany, Ireland, Italy, Hungary, and Scotland.

We hosted a panel of five people who shared their experiences of growing up amongst or in a European culture. Many thanks to Per White-Hanson (Denmark), Marlene Nice (France), Floh Foerg (Germany), Diana Cilenti (Italy), and Madame Reed (Switzerland). Their animated sharing of culture, tradition and geography was a very enriching experience for us all.

David Sewell McCann also blessed our class with a storytelling workshop. With his guidance we were able to create folk stories of various European countries. Finally, small groups of students gave presentations on various European countries. These included ancestor anecdotes, folk tales and specific facts and information on the climate, geography, and peoples of nations such as Denmark, Hungary, Germany, Greece, Belgium, and Ireland.

All in all it was a rich and memorable study. *Katherine Verman*



December 6 & 7

Our halls are decked
The cakes are iced
The Snow Queen is tuning her lyre
"The Mitten" has been lost in the woods
Baskets are filled with gorgeous gifts
Candles are ready to be decorated
It's Holiday Fair time!

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jenna Perrapato on her acceptance to Eckerd College.

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The Time is Now Capital Campaign: Come see the plans at the Holiday Fair on Friday evening!

Josh Simonds, Chair of the BOT, and Trina Webster and Maureen Wheeler, co-Chairs of our Capital Campaign, are setting up a table with lots of information about the transformation of the Turtle Lane and new high school campuses. They will be available to answer any questions you have about the plans as well as the campaign. Every student and family at our school will benefit from these substantial renovations...come find out more!



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For Holiday Giving: Think Books (Abigail's picks continued...)

In the last edition of Our Voice, we shared [book ideas for Kindergarten--Grade 6](#). This week's suggestions are for Grade 7--High School.

Seventh Grade

Splendors and Glooms by Amy Schlitz. A Newbery Medalist (and author of a brilliant book of medieval monologues for children: *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!*) brings her wit to a darkly comic Victorian thriller.

His Dark Materials series by Phillip Pullman. In this rich and beautifully written fantasy series, daemons and winged creatures live side-by-side with humans. Watch out in this topsy-turvy world: Pullman makes angels into devils and leaves the reader a little uneasy about everything we thought we knew.

The Giver by Lois Lowry. In a future in which everyone is happy, a young boy learns the cost of a "perfect" world. A classic dystopian novel with several companion novels.

The Great Trouble: A Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel by Deborah Hopkinson. Eel is an orphan living on the streets of London in 1854 when the cholera epidemic comes. Clever and brave, he assists Dr. John Snow in proving the real cause of the disease—knowledge that will save many lives. Part medical mystery, part historical fiction, this is a wonderful novel by Deborah Hopkinson, prolific children's author and the mother of our own first grade teacher, Rebekah Hopkinson.

Counting by Sevens by Holly Goldberg Sloan. I love this new novel about twelve-year-old genius, gardener and misfit Willow Chance. The tragic death of Willows parents opens a door into relationships with others.

Eighth Grade

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams. Seconds before the earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by this friend, who happens to be a researcher

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for the *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. A funny, off-beat, slightly philosophical science fiction adventure.

A Separate Peace by John Knowles. Two friends at a boys' boarding school in World War II have an encounter that shows each the darkest side of the other. This is a classic coming of age novel.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith. Sensitive and idealistic Francie Nolan grows up in poverty in Brooklyn. Books, family, and her own imagination sustain her.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian by Sherman Alexie. A budding cartoonist on the Spokane Indian Reservation leaves the rez to attend a school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Darkly funny, poignant, and compelling, this novel explores what happens when you break away from the life everyone thought you had to live.

High School

I am the Messenger by Mark Zusack. An underage cab driver without much of a future accidentally stops a bank robbery, and finds he's chosen to be "the messenger." As he becomes a hero and helper, the question remains—who gave him his mission?

Stargirl by Jerry Spinnelli. A quirky, ultimately hopeful tale of nonconformity. *Star Girl* is initially adored by her classmates for her eccentricity. When the tide turns, her best friend asks her to be something she can't be—just like everyone else.

The Help by Kathryn Stockett. A beautiful coming of age novel. Twenty-two year old Skeeter, just out of college, returns to her Mississippi home in 1962 to find change is coming. She forms a deep friendship with three black women in her community, and together they step across lines that no one in that time and place thought white and black could cross together.

Winterdance: The Fine Madness of Running the Iditarod by Gary Paulsen. In the tradition of Jack London, Gary Paulsen gives an unforgettable account of his run in the 1,100-mile-long dogsled race called the "Iditarod."

The Alchemist by Paul Coelho. A transcendent book, this modern classic tells the story of shepherd boy Santiago as he learns to live his dreams.

A great family read (grade school and above):

My Family and Other Animals by Gerard Malcolm Durrell

When the Durrell family can no longer bear the English weather, they do what any sensible family would do: sell their house and relocate to a sunny Greek island. *My Family and Other Animals* tells the story of a budding naturalist and his long-suffering family's experiences with the animals he collects, including an endless procession of puppies, toads, scorpions, geckoes, ladybugs, glowworms, octopuses, tortoises, bats, and butterflies. This is a story about following one's passions, and the deep love of family.

Magazines

My favorite ad-free children's magazines are published by Carus Publishing. Starting with *Babybug* and proceeding through *Ladybug*, *Spider*, *Cricket* and *Cicada* (for 14+), and including special interest magazines covering history, science, art, nature, and much more—these are magazines I love to have around.

Audio

Our home-grown **Sparkle Stories** of Charlotte, Vermont offer exquisite audio subscriptions (often in a series, one story a week for a year) ranging in topic from fairies to far-flung animal tales. Wonder, reverence and love for family and friends permeate these stories for ages 3-10. www.sparklestories.com.

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Parent Education Workshop this coming Monday....

Anne Shapiro, parenting coach, Waldorf teacher, and mother of three, will share ideas, strategies, and inspiration for creating holidays that are a peaceful and joyous time for your family.

SIMPLIFYING THE HOLIDAYS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 | 7:00 PM

FREE ADMISSION
RSVP to Pam Graham at (802) 985-2827 ext. 12
or pgraham@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org

Lake Champlain WALDORF SCHOOL
359 Turtle Lane, Shelburne, VT
www.lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org

Nourishing Foods Initiative Meeting

Thursday, December 12, 1:30-2:30 p.m., JoAnne's Kindergarten Classroom

Have you heard about the Nourishing Foods Initiative? There are many places where food intersects with the life of the school, and we are a group of faculty, staff, and parents who help to support wholesome food offerings and food education at LCWS. This committee is open to all, and we welcome parents who would like to join and play a part in developing this initiative! Questions? You can e-mail to ask about becoming involved, or just come to the next meeting! Caroline Homan, caro.homan@gmail.com or JoAnne Dennee, idennee@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org.



Santa Lucia Treats

The second grade will make delicious Coconut Macarons for the whole school next Friday, December 13 in honor of Santa Lucia. You can try making Coconut Macarons at home with [this recipe](#).

Photo and recipe: [Elana's Pantry](#).

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Interesting Articles & Resources

[The Reading Brain in the Digital Age: Why Paper Still Beats Screens](#) by Ferris Jabr *Scientific American*

[Reading at Five: Why?](#) by Joan Almon *Southeast Education Network*

NBC visited the Waldorf School in San Diego in October and uncovered the many reasons why Waldorf students knit.

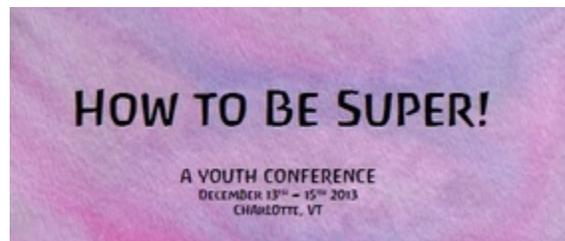
[Watch the clip on on NBC.](#)

Community News

How to Be Super! A youth conference (all ages welcome)

December 13th – 15th 2013, Lake Champlain Waldorf High School, Charlotte, VT

Guest Speaker: Torin Finser (President of the Anthroposophical Society in North America)



Each of us has incredible capacities. We are striving to become better human beings, to find our talents and put them into the service of our destiny. Through exploring our passions and our quirks, we will dive into the depths of what is possible. We will cultivate our abilities and look into our biography to explore our unique mission. We will take a fresh look at the four temperaments, build body awareness and practise the four A's of intuitive storytelling.

Facilitated by Per Eisenma, David Sewell-McCann, Hannah Schwartz, and Seneca Gonzalez, this is a casual, creative and open event for spiritual seekers. Co-sponsored by the Youth Section of the School for Spiritual Science and the Green Mountain Branch of the Anthroposophical Society. Special thanks to the Lake Champlain Waldorf School for hosting this event.

For more details and registration contact: Per Eisenman (802)825-8636, peisenman@gmail.com.

Congratulations Kroka

After more than 18 months of in-depth internal and external assessment and review, Kroka Expeditions of Marlow, NH has been granted accredited status by the Accreditation Council of the Association for Experiential Education (AEE). Attaining accredited status through the AEE accreditation program is solid evidence of an organization's commitment to quality and safety, belief in professional standards, and allocation of resources toward continued excellence and improvement.

Kroka's mission states, "Kroka Expeditions is committed to awakening in young people a connection to nature and the spirit within, and a capacity for conscious living and compassionate service. We strive to achieve this through wilderness adventure, community living, farming, and the practice of traditional and indigenous skills."

For the past twenty years Kroka has served thousands of students ages 6 – 18 through its summer and school programs. Since 2004 Kroka has led semesters in the wilderness for high school and gap year students in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Ecuador. Registration for 2014 programs is now open. "Many outdoor organizations have an environmental consciousness, but at Kroka they act on it and live it. This thoughtfulness extends to how [staff] interact with one another

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please visit their website: www.kroka.org, call: (607) 835-9087, or stop by: 767 Forest Rd. Marlow, NH 03456.

Classifieds

The Magic Forest Early Childhood Center

The Magic Forest is a early childhood center providing childcare, classes, playgroups, and parenting support and education for families in the Burlington, Vermont, area. We just opened in Shelburne. Our programs are inspired by the principles of Waldorf early childhood education, and the infant and toddler care philosophy of Emmi Pikler and Magda Gerber. We will be offering The Magic Playground, a drop-in playgroup offering parents and children the opportunity to gather together for play, snack, and circle time. We will also be offering a childcare program for infants and young toddlers beginning in January of 2014. We are Enrolling NOW. Contact me for more information about these and other exciting programs www.magicforestearychildhood.com or by phone at 413-575-5338. -- Dean Lawson

SEEKING PET-FREE HOLIDAY HOUSING: My brother-in-law, who is highly allergic to animals, is visiting us the week of Christmas and is looking for pet-free housing. He is willing to pay modest rent for an apartment or home in the Shelburne/Burlington area for the 22nd through the 28th. If you would consider letting a Waldorf family of three from NY stay at your place, please let me know: jdevoetalluto@yahoo.com. -- Jim Devoe Talluto

Items for Sale: Solid wooden Noah's Ark, 9" x 16" with 11 pairs of wooden animals. 5 other wooden animals included. \$20. Multi-Pure 750 Stainless Steel Water Filter. New in box with solid carbon filter included. Easily attached, sits on counter. Best purification for town water. Below value at \$395. "Tree Blocks" Build-A-Tree, all wood. Like new, original box, with stairs, pulley, ladders, look-out perch, etc. 7 wooden animals and people included. \$135 OBO. Please contact Trisa Gay (802)221-1127.

The Week Ahead and Beyond...

TO SEE THE SCHOOL CALENDAR [click here.](#)

There are four, layered calendars (All School, College Guidance, Middle and High School Sports), which you can turn on or off. Click on the drop-down arrow next to the "Agenda" tab.

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