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## LAKE CHAMPLAIN WALDORF SCHOOL

OUR VOICE | February 21, 2014

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email newsletter items to: [newsletter@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org](mailto:newsletter@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org)



### Thank you, Lisa!

For as long as anyone can remember, Lisa Espenshade, our tireless Director of Development, has devoted every Friday to compiling, designing, editing and publishing the school's newsletter. She has infused each issue with passion, knowledge and artistry, and through her tremendous efforts the LCWS community has not just been informed, but inspired.

Remember when Our Voice was printed on a single sheet of paper and we had to pick it up in our pouches each Friday? Or when it became multi-paged and needed to be folded and then stapled together? Or when we had to click through the PDF version to move from one page to the next?

Regardless of the form, Lisa's eye for detail and her sense of beauty have made each issue of Our Voice feel like a weekly gift to parents, grandparents, alumni, prospective families and extended community members.

As we fully transition to our new e-newsletter format, we want to celebrate and thank Lisa for the all love and care that she has poured into the newsletter over the years. While Lisa will still be offering her design and editorial expertise to Our Voice, Lisa is shifting around her responsibilities so that she can devote her boundless energy to other projects. As this transition takes place, we welcome your thoughts and suggestions about the newsletter. We'd also love to hear about why you value Our Voice. [Leave a comment here](#), and be sure to say thanks to Lisa next time you see her!



### Vermont Writes! LCWS Participates in State-Wide Young Writer's Project

Last week every student in our grade school joined in a state-wide celebration of

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writing. Sponsored by The Young Writer's Project, a non-profit dedicated to supporting young people's writing, the event encouraged schools to devote at least seven minutes to free writing. Most of our students spent much longer on their work, as they love to write!



The Young Writer's Project offered several writing "prompts" or topics, listed below. Some teachers in the younger grades narrowed down the choices for their students. The essence of the project though, was to focus on writing joyfully about a topic the student chose. Most of the writing was not edited: it represents the first outpouring of thoughts and feelings—the first step in the journey of the writer.

Some of this great work is posted in the hallway, and some was shared in class. A few samples are printed below from grades 1-4; grades 5-8 coming next week.



Vermont Writes! Writing Prompts:

**Gothic:** Thursday is the birthday of Grant Wood, artist of the iconic American Gothic (1930). Wood uses great detail in his painting--character, setting--create a story of your own, either based off the portrait, or from your own imagination, that delves deeply into the details of the characters and setting.

**Spider:** You are about to crush a spider when something stops you... Describe what happens.

**Valentine:** I love you because...

**Prize:** You have received the best prize you can imagine. What is it and why is it so valuable to you? What is the story behind the prize?

**Alive:** Describe the place where you feel most alive.

**Six Words:** Create as many six word stories as you can in seven minutes.

**General Writing:** Write about anything you like, in any genre, poetry or prose.

Writing from our students:

### First grade

Please see this beautiful [video](#) of the first graders' "I Love You" Valentine's Day writing for their contributions to Vermont Writes!

### Second grade

"Love" by Sky Kamitses

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Dear Bamboo,

I love you because you give me sloppy kisses.

### Third Grade

The third grade was asked to write about the painting "American Gothic," addressing the question, "Why do these farmers, Mr. and Mrs. Gothic, look serious or sad?"

"American Gothic" by Izora Hart

Mr. and Mrs. Gothic's farm is for sale because the Gothics have not paid their bills.

Mrs. Gothic gets a job sewing for other town ladies and Mr. Gothic goes to work as a farm hand.

### Fourth Grade

"Alive" by Isaac Winsten-Pinel

I feel most alive when I am aiming my grandfather's 22 caliber rifle. Will I hit or will I miss? Three shots left to see. Immediately after I pull the trigger, I hear a loud BANG! followed by a click. I dismount the rifle and pick up the shell that flew out when I shot. I raise the binoculars to my eyes and see a hole right near the bull's eye!



## Beans and Greens Community Lunch

*"I like to know that the whole school is sharing."*

---Crawford Phillips, 3rd grade

When Gregory Foster, eighth grade class teacher, was preparing for the school year year, he thought about pizza. A beloved grade school tradition, Pizza Day has traditionally been carried by the eighth grade as a fundraiser for their class trip. Mr. Foster, inspired by the work of our school's new Nourishing Foods Initiative and his own background in early childhood, wondered if it could be something even more.

"I started my career as a Waldorf teacher as an assistant in the kindergarten," remarked Mr. Foster. "And in the 15 years I've been in the grade school, what I've missed most about early childhood is the focus on nutrition, health, and building community through shared food. This amazing education has the potential to be even more life-giving when we include food as part of the learning that happens here."

Mr. Foster had some questions:

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- **What if our school served food that students liked, and that was the also best quality nutrition we could offer?**
- **What if our school served a meal that everyone could enjoy, without filling out forms or making a payment?**
- **What if we had a community lunch that brought students and faculty together in a shared experience?**

And so Beans and Greens Day was born.

Now once a month, the eighth grade serves a lunch of organic greens, rice, and Cuban-style beans, prepared by local chef Acoy Cofino. Each class is served family style. Students are encouraged to bring their own dishes, cutlery, burritos and toppings to share to make a festive meal. The food is provided free

of charge. The rest of the month, the eighth grade sells pizza as a fundraiser.

This wonderful community lunch is funded by a generous grant from the Forrest and Frances Lattner Foundation, and further supported by donations from many school families. Student reviews of the meal are overwhelmingly positive so far. Below are a few comments collected this Thursday:

*"It tastes so good!"* Eli Quickel, 1st grade

*"I like that you can mix the beans and rice together."* Killian Sweeney, 1st grade

*"It's nice for parents that they don't have to pack our lunches."* Grace Thompson, 2nd grade

*"I like that you can donate to it but everybody gets it."* Bodhi Kamitses, 3rd grade

*"It's nice that you can bring toppings to add."* Mina Pricer-Coan, 4th grade

*"I like that I don't have to pack my lunch in the morning."* Willow DeVoe-Talluto, 6th grade

*"It's great that there's a healthy option for lunch."* Rowan Bauman Swain, 7th grade.

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## High School Community Lunch



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Kudos to **John Creech** and **Emily Laird** for putting on a delicious Valentine Community lunch of lasagna, green salad and macarons and to the 11th Grade Class for orchestrating the sale and distribution of secret Valentines. Each month the high school community gathers to share a meal and celebrate student and faculty-staff birthdays.

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## Welcome International Students!



Zijiao Li and Christopher Krag



Joji Roth and Emma Oblak



Eli Barlow and Dominik Eisl

We extend a warm welcome to our new **11th grader, Zijiao ("Jiao-Jiao") Li** from China's Shaanxi Province.

Jiao-Jiao's host brother is 10th grader, Christopher Krag. Following graduation from LCWHS, Jiao-Jiao intends to continue her studies at a US college. Welcome also to **11th grader Dominik Eisl**, from the Wendelstein Waldorf School in Germany. Dominik is here for three months and is staying with the family of fellow 11th grader Eli Barlow. Finally, welcome to **10th Grader Emma Oblak**, of Geneva, Switzerland. Emma is a student at the Geneva Waldorf School and her exchange partner is 10th grader Joji Roth. Joji will attend the Geneva school later this year.

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## Congratulations to...

**Mairéad Collins** on her acceptance to **Hofstra University** in Hempstead, NY.

**Madi Cook-Comey** on her acceptance to **UVM**.

**Oliver Creech** on his acceptance to **Warren Wilson** in Swannanoa, NC.

**Jenna Perrapato** on her acceptance to **Savannah College of Art** in Savannah, Georgia.

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## Mardi Gras Festivities



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We had two lovely celebrations of Mardi Gras at the grade school this Tuesday, with many kindergartners and parents in attendance. I was so grateful for all the extra help I received this year, making everything go smoothly (in light of a still-injured madame). Particular thanks go to my bakers: Tre McCarney, Manon Roberge, Andrea Kerin, Justine Viets, Tarn Foerg, Tange Barbour, Meg Huffman, Stacy Orbacz, Amanda Phillips, and eighth grader Amara Krag all made delectable cakes that thrilled the crowd! We also had 2 orchestras that sprung into being with less than a half-hour to rehearse, including guitarists to replace me--a great credit to their talents and their music teachers' skill! I also would like to thank all the students and parents who helped set up and clean up, and those parents who beaded dancers and passed around galette, as well as all those who sent in extra mask-making supplies. It really does take a village to pull off this festival, and I am mighty proud to belong to this village! Je vous remercie tous de tout mon cœur!

Love, Madame Reed

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## Thanks from the Sixth Grade

Much thanks to the school for their help in bringing bags and bags and boxes of food to Harbor Place. The shelves were nearly bare when we arrived and by the time we left, the food area was overflowing with all of the donations from LCWS. The staff at Harbor Place were very grateful and food was much needed.

Katherine Verman




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## Voices of Support

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2/14/14

Dear L.C.W.S.

In these trying times it is difficult to realize our dreams and aspirations—so many people struggling day-to-day just to survive. That being said, it is a huge campaign/renovation that you are involved in.



We were there on Grandparents Day and got to spend time in the class rooms of our beloved grandchildren —Zeke, Zoe and Cleo. We also were able to tour the Morgan Horse facility you are in the process of renovating, and we were very impressed!

We know how important this is to our children, and more importantly, to our grandchildren.

We wish you the very best in achieving these dreams, these goals, and are anxiously looking forward to seeing the progress in reaching them!

Sincerely,

John and Linda Baker

*Linda Baker  
Dear L.C.W.S. 2/14/14  
In these trying times it is difficult to realize our dreams and aspirations—so many people struggling day-to-day just to survive. That being said, it is a huge campaign/renovation you are involved in!  
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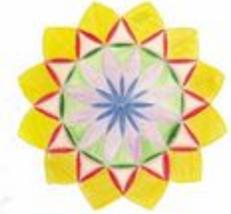
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Sincerely,  
John & Linda Baker*

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of our beloved grandchildren-Zeb, Joey & Ole  
We also were able to tour the Morgan  
Norse facility you are in the process  
of renovating, and were very impressed!  
We know how important this is to  
our children, and more importantly, to  
the future of our grandchildren.  
We wish you the very best in achieving*

## LCWS on Facebook

This week on Facebook we showcased work from the **fifth grade**, shared a **video** of Waldorf alumni talking about how their education prepared them for high school and college, featured a photo gallery of the **new high school** at sunset, and posted pictures of the **4th graders** on the top of Camel's Hump. We also posted **Valentine's Day photos** and gave a shout out to the accomplishments of one of our **eighth graders**, directed folks to our **A la Carte Auction**, and informed our community about a **snow-day** and a **free workshop**. Click on the yellow geometric drawing to the right to go to the school's page or follow this [link](#).



Click on the image to go to our Facebook page.

LCWS on Facebook gives you and your extended family yet another glimpse into the beauty we are creating each day for our students.

## Registrations are rolling in!

### Sign up today

With art and nature camps for ages 3-8, and a whole new series of adventures camps for children ages 8-12, we are looking forward to a great summer here at Turtle Lane!

Dates: June 30-July 25

Hours: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (extended day from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.)

Price: \$285 (includes morning snack and afternoon cool treat)



For more information and to register, see our [website](#) or contact

Camp Director Abigail Diehl-Noble at [adiehnoble@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org](mailto:adiehnoble@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org)

New date - Saturday, March 15th, 10:00-11:30 am

## Maple Syrup Magic

Families with 3-6 year olds are invited to visit the kindergarten for a morning. Puppet play, circle time, and pancake making...come play!



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parents while the children play.

Please invite friends with young children to this glimpse into the magic of kindergarten.

FREE Event. RSVP to [Pam](#).



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Mark your calendars - Wednesday, March 19 at 7:00 pm

## Face-to-Face: Teaching Teenagers What They Really Need to Know

### Public Talk by Florian Osswald

Our school is fortunate to have Florian Osswald, a 30-year Waldorf teacher and consultant to Waldorf schools around the world, spend a few days with us in March. Florian has a particular expertise around teaching teenagers.



**“Teaching adolescents in this time of great complexity demands that we develop our capacities of intuition, moving toward the future rather than working with concepts and actions based on the past,” explains Florian. “To succeed in our schools, we must also address the young person’s longing to build strong community out of the power of a healthy ego.”**

Please RSVP. [Pam Graham](#)

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## Huge Thanks to the Bryan Family and to Steve Faust

We at LCWS wish to express our deep gratitude to The Bryan Family at Windridge Farms, and Steve Faust at YOLO! Snacks for their incredible generosity to the school. This sale grows in volume and benefit to the school each year, and that is only made possible by the kindness of these wonderful supporters. If you have, or are planning to place an order, please hold in your heart thankfulness for such magnanimous supporters!

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**Windridge Farms Maple Syrup** Orders due March 7th  
[Click HERE to order](#)



**YOLO! Snacks Popcorn** Orders due March 7th  
[Click HERE to order](#)



## Childcare with Tai Available During Conferences

Childcare will be available at the Turtle Lane Campus on March 3, 4, and 5th from 8:30-3pm. There will be no school on these days due to Parent Teacher Conferences. Tai Dinnan, LCWS Extended Day Program Director, will be offering care to families of children in Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Programming will be based in the Community Room, and will include outdoor play and exploration, indoor activities, cooking, and a quiet rest after lunch. \$8/hour for the first child, \$6/hour for siblings. First

come, first served with a preference for families who need care for the full 8:30am-3pm day. Email [tdinnan@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org](mailto:tdinnan@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org) for more information or to sign up.



## New Parent-Child Session begins in March

We have a few spots available our Waldorf playgroup for infants and their parents. Led by early childhood specialist and LCWS staff, Kirsty Gourlay, these classes are a wonderful introduction to the beauty, simplicity and richness of a Waldorf education.

Contact [Pam](#) for more information or share this [link](#) with your friends.

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## New Re-enrollment Process

We are about to launch a new re-enrollment process. Every parent with returning students will receive an email from Pam Graham with a link to online forms to re-enroll your child. This will help us all streamline the process and eliminate a lot of paper! Please be watching for this important email. The re-enrollment deadline will still be April 1.

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## Asbestos Management Plan

Pursuant to A.H.E.R.A. regulations (40 CFR 763.93 [g] [4] ), we are notifying parents that we have Asbestos Management Plans on file for all our school buildings for the safe control/maintenance of any materials containing asbestos in our buildings. Plans are available & accessible to all. Just contact the Administrator (985-2827, x15) or Building and Grounds Manager (985-2827, x19) to review the plan or obtain a copy of it. These plans are located in the building and grounds office file drawers on the Shelburne campus, and the Charlotte campus plan is located at the high school front desk's file drawer.

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## Community News

**Open House at Terri's Morning Garden**, 291 Thompson Road, Shelburne. Saturday, February 22, 2014 at 10-11:30

**Send your kids to play outdoors and visit baby animals during conferences.** New Village Farm is offering childcare by the hour or day for parent teacher conferences March 4th and 5th only. \$15/hour per family. Call to reserve, request a scholarship or for full day rates. Michaela, 802-338-0116

**Seeking Student for Beginner Viola Lessons for Senior Project:** My name is Nancy Lewis, and I am a senior at LCWS. For my senior project, I would like to teach beginning viola to a student and I need help finding that student. Do you know of a student that would like lessons and can assist with my senior project? I can be reached at 825-1948. Lessons will be at my house, and of course, there will be no charge. Call for details. Thank you! Nancy Lewis

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## Classifieds

### **Need Car to Use February 25 (Evening) through March 2nd (Morning):**

Marissa Guidry and Nancy Lewis, LCWS seniors, will be traveling together during winter break, and need a car to borrow to drive to New Jersey to visit colleges they may attend next year. All the other details are taken care of, we just need transportation. We have experience driving on road trips, and we are very safe when driving. Car will need to be an automatic. On our return, we will have your oil changed, gas tank filled and car cleaned. Can you help? If so, call Nancy at 825-1948, or Marissa at 373-5646.

### **Nanny Available Beginning This Summer or Fall**

I'm a Waldorf Adjunct of Italian and Spanish and am seeking work as a nanny beginning this summer. I have thirteen years experience as an educator and am hoping to find a long-term commitment with a like-minded family. I have two children (one and four years old) and will have my youngest with me during the day while my eldest attends school. For information and to request a CV: 434.6192 or [awilliamswenschhof@yahoo.com](mailto:awilliamswenschhof@yahoo.com). Ashley Williams-Wenschhof

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## Upcoming Events At A Glance

February 24-28 NO SCHOOL: February Break

February 28: New Parent Child Session begins, All Souls Interfaith Gathering

March 3-5: NO SCHOOL Parent-Teacher Conferences

March 6: Simplicity Parenting Series: Soul Fever, Turtle Lane Campus, 7:00p.m

March 7: Maple Syrup and Popcorn orders due

March 11: Observation Morning at Turtle Lane, 8:30-10:30a.m.

March 12: Morning Preview at the High School, 8:30-10:30a.m.

March 11: Grains, Nuts, Beans and Seeds with Dough Flack, Turtle Lane Campus, 7p.m.

March 13: Simplicity Parenting Series: Rhythm and Schedules, Turtle Lane Campus, 7:00p.m.

March 15: Maple Syrup Magic in the Kindergarten, for families with children ages 3-5, 10:00a.m-11:30p.m.

March 20: Simplicity Parenting Series: Filtering Out the Adult World, Turtle Lane Campus, 7:00p.m.

March 27: Simplicity Parenting Series: Simplicity Parenting to Go, Turtle Lane Campus, 7:00p.m

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**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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