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LAKE CHAMPLAIN WALDORF SCHOOL

OUR VOICE | February 7, 2014

email newsletter items to: newsletter@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org

Cats and chickens and turtles... Oh my!

It is an amazing accomplishment when a first grader learns to knit. Both hands must work together, and the child has to bring great focus to the task, watching carefully for mistakes. As the students labor over many classes to complete a project, children build “will”—the capacity to work and persevere through difficulty until a project is done. This capacity is perhaps one of the most important skills we can teach our children.

The first graders began the year in handwork hearing stories about wool and knitting. They then learned to make slip knots, and finger-knitted drawstrings for their handwork bags. After that project, the children made wooden knitting needles out of dowels. Once all of the needles were sanded and oiled, the students learned to knit as a class, watching Ms. Coughlan demonstrate with a pair of huge needles!

First graders can now knit and purl, cast on, bind off, and sew up a project. Each student has completed a few projects using their new skills, including cats, chickens, turtles, headbands, gnomes and sheep. All were shown around with great pride, and many are now on display in the Grade School foyer.



Farm to School Partnerships: Week Two

The first grade and New Village Farm

First grade students are building life-long habits of work, attention, care and perseverance at school and at New Village Farm. What does it mean to keep weeding even when the task becomes “boring”? How does a child manage a tool



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does he or she overcome an initial distaste to a smell or texture, and dive in anyway to the work that needs doing?

First grade students get plenty of practice in all of this as they experience the farm in the fall and spring. The children are helped by short, structured tasks: they are typically divided into groups of eight, and rotate around three different jobs during their hour-long visit. Typical first grade tasks include planting garlic, mucking out cow stalls, and stacking wood—all with the close supervision and support of farmers and teachers.



Gross motor skills, balance, and strength are all tapped, and through the weekly walk and farm chores, students build physical stamina. “Each time we leave the farm, I think, “This is so good for them; how can we get more of this into their day?”” comments first grade class teacher, Rebekah Hopkinson.



Staff Profile: Tai Dinnan Director of the Extended Day Program

“I am so grateful to be part of a school that strives for joy, wonder, and reverence in students. Everyone here understands the importance of free creative play and exploration of the social and natural world. I see the results everyday in students who come to the Woodlands Program—they are creative, imaginative, and rarely complain of being bored.” --Tai

Tai Dinnan, Director of the Extended Day Woodlands Program at LCWS, grew up in Charlotte along the Lewis Creek. She spent much of her childhood playing along the banks of the river, in the forest, and in her family’s garden. Not until she left for college in the city—Tufts University just outside of Boston—did she notice how much she’d always liked having fresh food outside her door and natural spaces to relax in.

Soon after she graduated with a degree in community health and child development, Tai ended up working in school gardens in the city. It seemed a natural fit. Most of the knowledge she brought to teachers and students didn’t come from her degree, though—it came from what she learned working next to her parents in their garden at home.

As School Garden Coordinator for the Somerville School District, Tai worked with eight urban schools in four square miles. She loved the work and the ability to specialize in her passion, but something was missing. “I taught an annual class for area teachers on getting students outside,” Tai explains. “It was great, but also discouraging. There were so many real barriers—crossing busy highways with children to get to parks—but also so many fears of the outdoors. I knew I was ready to come back to a place where growing food and being outside are a natural part of life.”

Tai was LCWS’s first choice to pioneer an outdoor-based afterschool program. She has enjoyed the challenge of building the program from the ground up, and also found a fit with the Waldorf teaching philosophy.

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From playing in the fall leaves of the forest to sledding and playing in the snow, children spend at least an hour outside every day after school. Then they head indoors for a nourishing snack and time to work on seasonal craft and cooking projects, play board games, and enjoy free play. In the fall students picked apples at Shelburne Athletic club and made and put by several batches of applesauce, which they still enjoy. During the recent sub-zero weather, the children made and ate home-made pasta.

Tai is always thinking about ways to enrich the program for the students. Community members, including artists, musicians, outdoor explorers, and cooks, are invited to contact Tai if interested in bringing their expertise as a special guest at tdinnan@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org.

The fourth grade raised \$1,131.05 to benefit New Village Farm!

Dear Lake Champlain Waldorf School Community,

We are so very grateful for your so generously contributing what you could at our Bake Sale efforts to benefit the New Village Farm Barn Project. The 4th Graders brought such heart and will to their service, and your show of equal heart and will demonstrated to them that together, we can make a difference. It was a noble first fund-raising effort on their part, and we thank you for your support. (And we hope you enjoyed the goodies, too!)

most sincere thanks,
Meredith Markow

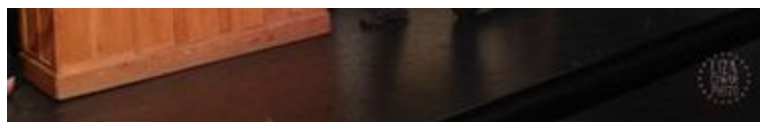
4th Grade Teacher

Urinetown: The Musical

A HUGE SUCCESS!



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Request from the Sixth Grade:

There are lots of people in Vermont that are homeless. Sometimes it is hard to find a job, therefore you do not have enough money to buy food. What would you do if you were in this situation? Most people would find a place such as Harbor Place. That is why we need to help Harbor Place help those in need.

Our Sixth Grade Class has been doing a number of things to support this good endeavor. Currently, we are collecting food from all the classes and delivering it to Harbor Place on February 19th.



January 30, 2014

Katherine Verman's Sixth Grade Class
Lake Champlain Waldorf School
359 Turtle Lane
Shelburne, VT 05482

Dear Sixth Graders,

Thank you so much for your donation of shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste and other items for the people staying at Harbor Place. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

As you all know, Harbor Place is a new attempt to help people who have no home. It's more than a shelter, as we are working with a range of organizations to directly address the barriers people are facing that caused them to become homeless.

I want you to know that your donations are much more valuable than just making sure people that don't have much money have some basic needs. The items themselves are very helpful, but they also show the people staying at Harbor Place that others care. A few weeks ago, a man left us this note:

In a world with hate and cruelty, your kindness, smile and understanding was a great gift

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Please send in food with your child and put it in the boxes outside the classrooms.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely, the Sixth Grade.

ago, a man left us this note:

In a world with hate and cruelty, your kindness, smile and understanding was a great gift for me and gives me hope.

Thank you for your kindness.

Sincerely,

Chris
Chris Donnelly
Director of Community Relations

HEADQUARTERS 88 King Street, Burlington, Vermont 05401 | P: (802) 862-6244 | F: (802) 862-5054
FRANKLIN/GRAND ISLE 13 Lake Street, St. Albans, Vermont 05478 | P: (802) 527-2361 | F: (802) 527-2373
WWW.GSTARS.ORG WWW.CAMPLAININGSTRUST.ORG
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The 7th & 8th Grade Winter Ball

Each year the Upper Grades students learn ballroom dancing as part of their movement curriculum. At the end of the block, the children transform the Community Room into a winter wonderland, don their most festive outfits and spend a Saturday evening dancing the foxtrot, swing, salsa, and waltz.



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Announcing... Turtle Lane Camp 2014!

We are excited to announce our new season of summer camps. 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!

Our art and nature camps capture the joy of a relaxed summer day. Children ages 3-5 enjoy **Kindergarten Camp**. They care for animals and the garden, and play in the forest, sandbox and sprinkler. Each day includes a wholesome morning snack and outdoor circle time, and, for those who stay for the full day, lunch (brought from home), story, rest and more play. Fairy houses, home-made ice-cream and dandelion chains await!

Grade school children ages 6-8 can join our **Woodland**

Adventures for forest exploration and lore, learning about the animals in our marsh and woods, and making crafts from the materials of the earth and forest. Our days include singing, games of skill and agility, nature stories from many cultures, and time for free play.

Children 8-12 are ready for new experiences and new skills, and love to learn from experts. For this age we have four new Adventure Camps:

Splash and Dash

Campers learn to have fun and be safe while biking, running and swimming with friends. Led by Triathlon Coach Maria Cimonetti.

Herbal Lotions and Potions

Explore herbs and make lip balms, soaps, shampoo, teas, and other health and wellness products. Led by high school teacher Danielle Drogalis.

All About Adornment

Campers adorn clothing with needle, thread, feathers, paint, and their own sense of style! Led by Henna Artist and craftsperson Rebecca Freedner.

Green Mountain Hiking

Hike and explore a different peak each day, picnicking, berry-picking and enjoying all sorts of outdoor adventures. Led by teacher Heather Baumann.

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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 adiehl@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org

MARDI GRAS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

LCWS grades 1-8 will be celebrating Mardi Gras on **Tuesday, Feb. 18th** in the Grade School Community Room. Grades 1, 2, 7, and 8 will dance, sing, and eat cake from 10:50-12:10. Grades 3-6 will have their celebration from 1:30-2:50, and will be dismissed as usual from their classrooms. LCWS musicians will play for each celebration, accompanying our traditional Québécois dances.



The students have made masks in school and at home, and are asked to wear bright colorful clothing for this “Fancy Dress” festival, so please dig out those loud ties and twirly skirts! (If your child has outgrown something wonderful, please send it in Monday, as I'd be happy to match it with a younger student.)

I am looking for eight Galette des rois bakers amongst our parent body, and will happily provide recipes that provide either easy or elaborate choices, and we'll need a gluten-free cake of course. I can e-mail recipes to those who contact me at cjy.reed@comcast.net, or sign up in the Grade School foyer.

Parents are welcome to watch from the sidelines (although they may find themselves pulled into the dance if a partner is needed!). You can count on being pressed into service handing out Mardi Gras necklaces and cutting and distributing our Galettes after the dancing, which will be cautiously eaten as students look for the hidden beans which crown new Kings and Queens.

Please leave me a message (ext. 42) or send me an e-mail if you plan to attend or would like to volunteer in any capacity. Cameras are welcome, because it is a spectacular sight! Hope to see you there!

Love, Madame Reed

A Donation to Inspire Us All

In September an historic challenge grant was given to our school to help us meet the original timeline of our capital campaign: If \$300,000 can be raised from the community, members of the four pillars of our school---grandparents, alumni parents, current parents, and the Board of Trustees--will award the school an additional \$200,000!



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We are only \$78,000 away from meeting this Four Pillar Challenge! Thank you to everyone who has made a gift or pledge.

This week, we are honored to share the news that after much personal reflection, **a donor has gifted \$100,000** from an inheritance, and hopes that others will be inspired and moved to consider such once-in-a-lifetime legacy gifts. "We are blessed and honored to be able to make a significant gift to the campaign," said the donor. "Our family believes this a resource that will benefit so many children, present and future. We hope you can support this effort too."

As we know, gifts of all sizes matter significantly at this stage of the campaign. If you haven't contributed yet, please consider making a gift now. You can mail in your contribution, or donate or pledge online using the buttons below. If you'd like to talk to Lisa about a gift, please call: 985-2827x16.

Look for a detailed capital campaign email update from Josh Simonds, President of our Board of Trustees, in the next couple of days.

[Pledge!](#)[Donate!](#)

Support the school
while enjoying good food
and the company of friends!



Next Monday, February 10th, LCWS launches our very first **À la Carte Gatherings Auction!** Our À la Carte hosts have created ten marvelous events that range from the sublime to the playful. But there's a twist! Each event has limited seating, and it is up for grabs to the highest bidders.

Bid on one, two or ALL of the available seats. Get some friends together and try to outbid other groups. Or, jump in as an individual or couple. All are welcome!

Bidding begins next week, and it will take place online as well as in the grade school foyer. Look for an email with all the details.



Maple Syrup Sale!

Orders due by Friday, March 7th.

A Medium, grade A Dark, and grade B.

Gallons - \$48 each

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½ Gallon glass jug - \$40 each NEW THIS YEAR! Think “refillable”

[Click HERE to order Maple Syrup](#)

LCWS parents Lisa and Beckner Bryan are once again donating their organic maple syrup from Windridge Farms.



An assortment of delicious popcorn is available from YOLO! Snacks, created by LCWS parent Steve Faust.

YOLO! Popcorn Sale

YOLO! Snacks popcorn, sold by the box for \$18 per box, contains 24 individual bags of popcorn. **The LCWS community is receiving a 25% discount from the recommended retail sale price**, AND YOLO Snacks will be donating 33% of the sales to the school.

Orders due by Friday, March 7th.

Deliveries: week of March 10th.

Original Popcorn- A unique marriage of herbs, buttermilk, and sea salt
Cheese Popcorn- Sharp Vermont cheddar and aged Parmesan
Maple Popcorn- Vermont kettle corn, maple sugar kissed kernels
Barbeque Popcorn- Chipotle heat with sweet. Opposites attract.

[Click HERE to order Popcorn](#)



This Sunday! "FOOLZ" Wells & Woodhead perform to benefit LCWS:

Sunday February 9, 3:00. This Sunday, our Charlotte neighbor, Woody Keppel, one half of the internationally renowned vaudevillian duo, Wells & Woodhead will perform at Shelburne Town Hall. Blending classic vaudeville routines with cutting edge humor, their music, comedy and antics will entertain both kids and adults. Tickets at the door. Adults: \$10.00 Kids:

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\$5.00 Proceeds benefit LCWS!

Join the slow parenting movement and learn ways to simplify and slow down your home environment, rhythms, and your child's schedule—and build the family life you really want.

The Simplicity Parenting Series



Led by Anne Shapiro, a Waldorf teacher with 20 years of teaching experience, a mother of three grown children, and a trained facilitator in Simplicity Parenting. She loves the work of helping parents create the family life they want for themselves and their children.

THURSDAY EVENINGS

7:00–9:00 pm

Lake Champlain Waldorf School
Shelburne

FEBRUARY 13

What is Simplicity Parenting?

FEBRUARY 20

Soul Fever

MARCH 6

Rhythm and Schedules

MARCH 13

Filtering Out the Adult World

MARCH 20

Simplicity Parenting to Go

COST:

February 13 Introductory Session

FREE

All other sessions \$20/person
or \$30/couple

**Pre-registration is required,
as space is limited.**

Contact Pam Graham at 802-985-2827 x12
or pgraham@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org

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New Parent-Child Session begins February 28th

We have six spots available in our star garden program, a Waldorf playgroup for children ages 20 months to 3½ years and their parents. We meet once a week for 10 weeks and offer parents and children time for outdoor play, crafts, stories, songs, puppet shows, and snack.

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.

Please let your friends, neighbors and colleagues know that we have space in the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday groups.

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

Camp Glen Brook

You are invited to the home of Christopher, Karen, Sarah and Hailey White on Sunday, February 16th from 3–4:30 p.m. to learn about Camp Glen Brook. Glen Brook is located in southwestern NH and has been weaving Waldorf ideals into an amazing summer camp experience for 3rd-10th graders since 1946. Please RSVP: 802-425-5961 or

office@glenbrook.org. For information and to watch a video about Glen Brook in which Karen and Christopher appear, please visit: www.glenbrook.org. In addition, Camp Glen Brook's Director will have an information table at school on Monday morning (2/17) during drop-off.



Waldorf in the News

<http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/photobooth/2014/01/chengdu-waldorf-school-in-china.html>

Community News

Open House: Mara's Morning Garden, Saturday February 15, 10:30 am-12:00 noon

We will play, color, bake and eat cookies. For parents and their 2-4 year old children who are interested in learning about Morning Garden and meeting Mara in anticipation of the September 2014-2015 school year. Just come, 92 Overlake Park, Burlington, or phone Mara 802-864-4423 for more information.

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Classifieds

Looking for summer home mid-July through August: Friends from the west coast are planning to spend six weeks in Vermont this summer. They have two young children and would love to be close to the lake and/or in Shelburne/Charlotte. If you'd like to rent your house or know of a place, please email, Sa: sa@budnitz.com.

I'm an LCWS Alum in search of a family to nanny next summer, returning mid-may from college. Experience babysitting all ages. I was a summer camp counselor with ten, seven-year-old girls! Can provide transportation, meal preparation, homework help, bedtime care and overnights. Lilly Cartularo: (802)-881-2341 or lcartularo@gmail.com.

Arctic Sport Black Muck boots have been missing since the beginning of the school year. The right boot has a rip on the outer side mid-boot that has been patched, with the name Cooper Strong written on the inside in red sharpie which is hard to see. Contact Julie (7th Grade parent) at 865-9145.

Upcoming Events At A Glance

February 9: FOOLZ: Wells and Woodhead, family entertainment benefiting LCWS, Shelburne Town Hall, 3:00pm

February 10: "A la Carte" auction begins (runs two weeks)

February 13: What is Simplicity Parenting? workshop, Turtle Lane Campus, 7:00 FREE

February 18: Healthy Fats with Doug Flack, Turtle Lane Campus, 7:00p.m.

February 20: Simplicity Parenting Series: Soul Fever, Turtle Lane Campus, 7:00p.m.

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

March 6: Simplicity Parenting Series: Rhythm and Schedules, Turtle Lane Campus, 7:00p.m.

March 7: Maple Syrup and Popcorn orders due

March 8: Maple Magic in the Kindergarten, for families with young children, 10:00a.m-12:00p.m.

March 10: Grains, Nuts, Beans and Seeds with Doug Flack, Turtle Lane Campus, 7p.m.

March 13: Simplicity Parenting Series: Filtering Out the Adult World, Turtle Lane Campus, 7:00p.m.

March 20: Simplicity Parenting Series: Simplicity Parenting to Go, Turtle Lane Campus, 7:00p.m.

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.

lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org

359 Turtle Lane | Shelburne, VT 05482 US



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