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LAKE CHAMPLAIN WALDORF SCHOOL

OUR VOICE | March 21, 2014

email newsletter items to: newsletter@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org

Gems from Florian's lecture

"Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something is meaningful, regardless of how it turns out."

--Vaclav Havel

On Wednesday, March 19, Florian Oswald spoke to an audience of 70 parents and community members at our grade school.

Florian is the leader of the pedagogical section in Dornach, the body that helps to lead and inspire the work of Waldorf teachers worldwide. Previously he was a math teacher for 30 years in a Swiss Waldorf school.

Witty, warm, and down-to-earth, Florian's message was to trust—trust our children, their higher selves, and their path, even when it looks nothing like our own.



Below are a few excerpts from Florian's remarks.

"Schools were a concept invented hundreds of years ago. Many teachers working now were trained ten or more years ago, perhaps in methods that are outdated now. Buildings in which schools are housed were often built years ago. The laws that govern schools were established decades ago. **Structures need to change and evolve. Schools need to become the schools for our times.**"

"America is a country founded on freedom, on a question. Where is this impulse now? Where is freedom in your schools and why do you accept curriculums in your state schools that do not meet the children of our time?"

"All the time now we want to know where our children are. We forget that the best times in our life were when no one knew where we were. We should remember in many ways, children are the same. **They need what they have always needed—time to be, and freedom.**"

"When we judge something as good or bad, we miss so much. With our children especially, we need to hold back our

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judgments more. We need to not judge the action, but look at it. We need to listen for what is really being said. Who knows if this thing the child does is really good or bad in the end? Maybe what we want is right for the moment, but not best for the child's future. Only time will tell. **We must not give up our job of guiding our children, but we must remember that they have other guides and their own wisdom.**"

"The process of learning is making something your own. A teacher can never make someone learn. He or she can only invite. What is crammed into the child will at best be forgotten; at worst, it does great damage."

"Around the age of 12, something new happens with the child. The will, thinking and feeling begin to separate. This means the child does not always show what he feels, and that he does not always do what he wants to do. This is a wonderful thing, but the teenager must try it out first, and he tries it out on parents most. He loves you, but he does not show it. **She argues what she does not really believe and you want to scream because it is rubbish. But you must smile and bear it, because this capacity is important to being a mature human being.**"

"The parent's most urgent job is hold the young person in his highest self. Each night before we go to bed we must think of him, not as he was that day, difficult and unpleasant, but as the beautiful, noble being he really is. Don't think the angels do this. Don't think it doesn't matter. This is the most important work parents do."

(If you would like to read more of Florian's comments, Lauren-Glenn Davitian has kindly provided a [link to her notes.](#))

Seniors get insights into their own Waldorf education

This week the twelfth grade has been in our kindergarten and grade school, observing classes as part of their "Transcendentalism and Human Development" block. In this course students read transcendentalist philosophers (who have much to say about human development and human goodness) and observe children at work and play. The seniors are often invited into activities, as in JoAnne's kindergarten, where they helped to carve maple sugar taps.

The block includes a study of each stage of childhood, as students get a bird's eye view of their own education from kindergarten through twelfth grade, and reflect upon their own development. The study culminates with reflections on their observations, and a paper addressing the question "Who am I?"



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High School Spirit Week

The high schoolers showed their enthusiasm for spirit week by creatively embracing each day's theme. Check out the yummy prizes awarded daily to the class with the highest participation, and then see if you can match the photos with the theme days: Pajama Day, Fairy Tale Day, Pop Culture Day, Decade Day and Prom Day. If you'd like to see all the pictures from spirit week, go to the school's [Facebook page](#).



Congratulations Lucien!



Eighth grader Lucien Bryan finished 13th in the SuperG event, 9th in Slalom, and 3rd in Giant Slalom at the Eastern Finals Alpine Competition at Sunday River, Maine. Competitors from six states participated in the Eastern Finals. Lucien finished the season 20th in the Northern Vermont Council Standings and 40th in the Vermont State Championships in his U16 age group.

Lucien is 14 and this is his first year in this new age group. He has been an alpine competitive athlete for 5 years, starting his career with the Smugglers Notch Ski Club at age 9. Recently, he trained for 2 seasons with Cochran's Ski Club in Richmond, Vermont and this year he is a member of the Mount Mansfield Ski Club and attends the Mount Mansfield Winter Academy for the winter term.

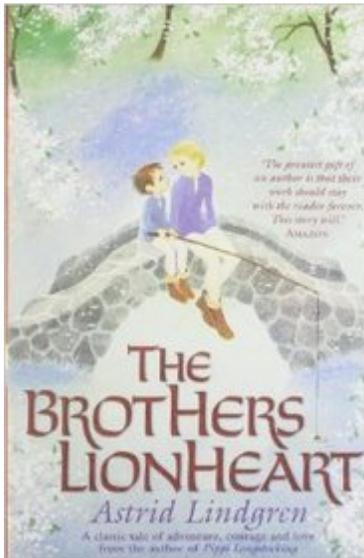
Congratulations, Lucien, for your dedication, passion and skill!

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A warm welcome to our incoming first grade teacher

I am delighted to announce that **Dana Cudney** has accepted our offer to teach First Grade next year. Ms. Cudney brings to this position a great deal of teaching experience, impressive skills and an educational background in rigorous academics and the arts, a passion for outdoor education and a wealth of life experience that will serve her beautifully in this position. We are confident that she will be an outstanding class teacher. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Cudney to our school community.

Andrea Bayer



Book Review: The Brothers Lionheart

By Astrid Lindgren

Reviewed by Abigail Diehl-Noble

"In Nangiyala you have adventures from morning to evening and at night, too. Because it's in Nangiyala that all sagas happen."

--Astrid Lindgren, *Brothers Lionheart*

Brothers Lionheart is a middle grades novel by Swedish author Astrid Lindgren, best known for her unforgettable Pippi Longstocking. In this very different tale, two boys, brothers, die in the first chapter—and there their adventures begin.

It turns out that what we think of dying is just a way to another world. Nangiyala, "land of campfires and storytelling days," waits on the other side of the stars. There the boys find a cozy cottage with their names by

the front gate, horses and rabbits of their very own, and a quest ready for them. A tyrant king, spies, a fierce dragon, and a rebellion move the story to a breathtaking end.

With echoes of the Norse sagas and medieval quests, this novel is part fantasy adventure and part timeless fairy tale. Like all fairy tales, it can be read for its archetypal truths or as a good story. Everywhere there is light against the darkness, and a certainty that our life is not bound by our physical body.

Lindgren said she wrote *Brothers Lionheart* because, in our time, we need new ways to talk about life after death. As a parent and teacher, I agree. Read this book for yourself, and decide when to bring it to your child. But don't be afraid of it. As Astrid Lindgren knew, children are often much more sure than we that this life is just one step on the journey.

Title: Brothers Lionheart

Author: Astrid Lindgren

Published: 1973

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Ages: 9+

Wood for Sheep? Say yes!

On Saturday **Erik and Sarah Thompson** hosted a games and dinner night, one of the fabulous A La Carte Auction events. Getting to know each other over a feast of delicious homemade Mexican food, cocktails and mocktails, we all suddenly realized that hours had gone by, and we hadn't even started playing Settlers of Catan! Dividing into two game boards, we somehow separated into a men's and women's table (so third grade!). Sarah and Erik were terrific teachers, and even let other people win....not easy for seasoned Catan players. Thank you Erik and Sarah!



L-R: Lisa McCullough, Lisa Espenshade, Erik Thompson, Peter Espenshade, Billy Gourlay, Kirsty Gourley and Rick Rice.

Meet your Adventure Camp counselors!

Our camps are beginning to fill with children from outside our school and usually the sessions have waiting lists by late spring, so be sure to register now. Please visit the [website](#) to find registration forms and more information. See you at camp!



Splash and Dash, June 30-July 3

Leader: **Maria Cimonetti, Triathlete and professional coach**

Maria, mother of two LCWS graduates, has been coaching athletics at LCWS for 10 years. She spends most of her time outside with kids: running, jumping, hula hooping, biking, swimming, and playing tag.



Lotions and Potions, July 7-11

Leader: **Danielle Drogalis, chemistry teacher and amateur herbalist**

Danielle is a chemistry teacher at our high school and an amateur herbalist in her spare time. She recently started "Bean and Bear," a line of hand-made herbal health and wellness products.

Danielle loves making things from what we find in nature, and sharing that passion with children.



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All About Adornment, July 14-18

Leader: **Rebecca Freedner, Henna artist and craftsperson**

Rebecca is a professional henna artist, and lover of adornment of all kinds! She spends her days working to bring more beauty to our world. She has taught a Henna Camp for four years, and works the rest of the year from her own henna studio in Vergennes.



These Green Mountains, July 21-25

Leader: **Heather Bauman, outdoor enthusiast and obstacle racer**

From childhood wanderings through the Cascade Mountain to more recent explorations of the Green Mountains, traipsing down a trail is one of Heather's favorite pastimes. She particularly enjoys her explorations of wilderness with her daughters and the students in the LCWS fourth grade.



Check your inbox for your re-enrollment forms

I hope that you all received the new, online form for re-enrolling your students. Thank you to **Terri Borden and Brenda Baker** for the countless hours of set up, revising, tweaking, and problem solving. Please let me know if you have not received the email with this form or if you have questions. Pam Graham

Thank you for the many ways you support the Lake Champlain Waldorf School.

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

Community News

The Magic Lake at the End of the World: A folk tale from Ecuador. Puppets and faculty from Lake Side School present two puppet shows: Saturday April 5th. 11:00 a.m. in Willsboro, NY and 2:00 p.m. in Keene Valley, NY. Contact admin@lakeschoolinessex.org for more information.



Auction Item from White Mountain Waldorf School in New Hampshire: Every year we hold our Annual Auction and every year the wonderful [Camp Cody](#), located just miles from our school donates 3 two week sessions to hopeful campers! We are reaching far and wide to other schools in order to hopefully reach the happy camper who will want this great opportunity. If interested, please contact Karen: karen@whitemountainwaldorf.org

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Classifieds

Mother's helper, nanny, personal assistant, farm helper, doula available: I'm a Waldorf graduate moving to Vermont from California this spring and am available to help families in a variety of capacities. I'm a trained doula, experienced Waldorf childcare provider, personal assistant, and a dedicated worker. I have a delightful three-year old who will be with me. Local references available. Osha Maloney, oamaloney@gmail.com, 831-227-7334. (Osha is Karen White's cousin).

Do you need a babysitter? Call me, Sienna DeVoe-Talluto, certified Red Cross babysitter and 8th grader at LCWS. I have experience with 6 month olds to 11 year olds and bring lots of creativity and playfulness to the lives of children. 540-0104

Now accepting bookings through August. Contact DJ Ian Wheeler @ ianwhlr95@gmail.com or 802-343-6369. I have lots of experience in parties for teens including dances for LCWHS and Vermont Commons. As part of my Senior Project, which is turning my passion for DJing into a business, I will be giving a 50% discount off the normal \$300 for a 3 hour function, if booked before April 5th. Lights and sound system are included.

Upcoming Events At A Glance

March 21: NO SCHOOL

March 27: Simplicity Parenting Series: Filtering Out the Adult World, Turtle Lane Campus, 7:00p.m

April 12: Everyone Around the Table: Routines, Rhythms and Stories for a Healthy Family Meal 9:30-noon

April 16: Senior Project Evening, Ferry Rd Campus

April 17: Simplicity Parenting Series: Simplicity Parenting to Go, Turtle Lane Campus, 7:00p.m

April 18- : NO SCHOOL, April Vacation

May 3: Mayfest, Turtle Lane Campus 10:00-2:00

May 15: Spring Benefit Family Concert

May 16: Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day, Turtle Lane Campus

May 17: Spring Benefit Gala, Coach Barn at Shelburne Farms

June 4: Last Day of School, K-12

June 5: 8th grade graduation

June 7: 12th grade commencement

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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