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LAKE CHAMPLAIN WALDORF SCHOOL

OUR VOICE | May 2, 2014

email newsletter items to: newsletter@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org



School to Farm: The Fourth Grade at New Village

"I continue to be awed by this class and their dedication to the world around them. They are such an enthusiastic, hard working, and compassionate crew."

--Farmer Michaela Ryan

The fourth grade farm curriculum transformed this year under the combined inspiration of Farmer Michaela Ryan, Farmer Ross Doree, class teacher Meredith Markow and assistant Heather Bauman. Together the team came up with a new vision for the next stage of working with the land and animals.



"Third grade is such an intense year on the farm; we couldn't top that. The curriculum needed to be something different, not oriented so much to service toward the farm and animals, but toward building new skills in themselves," commented class teacher Meredith Markow.

In the end, **the new curriculum fused themes of Vermont and Native American history with intensive work in wilderness lore and craft.** The class spent two months in the fall experiencing aspects of the work and life of Native Americans and European settlers. For each unit the class divided into groups, working with farm mentors and their school teachers on traditional skills and tasks. Their work included weaving grass mats of reeds, tanning a deer hide using traditional methods, and splitting and chopping wood.



The study culminated in an overnight stay at the farm in

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which children cooked a meal (over open fire and in the clay oven) using vegetables they had harvested from the farm, oats they had ground, and apples they had picked. The group slept

in an unfinished barn they had helped to frame when they were in third grade.

Over the winter the fourth grade kept its connection to the farm—and thought a lot about that unfinished barn. On its own initiative the fourth grade decided to raise money to help complete the structure.

The class chose to run a pay-what-you-wish bake sale, asking customers at Shelburne Supermarket and the Waldorf School to donate what they could in exchange for cupcakes, cookies, and other treats. The first sale was to a second grader who had saved a quarter from his allowance. From such small contributions (and many larger!) **the group raised \$1,031.63.**

Michaela Ryan, farmer and founder of New Village Farm, used the funds to buy siding for the barn. Michaela and her builder, Nirmag Leggett, designed a **kid-friendly building technique** so that the children could participate in every step of the process of applying the siding. “The kids did such an amazing job raising the funds,” said Michaela. “They deserve to be a real and integral part of the finished project.”

On Wednesday, the fourth graders gathered at the barn and learned how to measure, cut, and nail the siding into place. “The kids will do the inside layer without us having to worry about the aesthetics of the odd bent nail, hammer dent or slightly imperfect cut,” explains Michaela. “Then the wider finish boards will go over this inside layer, covering any flaws, and the kids will come back again to help screw these outer boards into place.”

The fourth graders spent the afternoon working with their farm mentors to position the boards on the east side of the barn. **There is still a lot left to do, and the children are eager to return.** For the rest of the school year the fourth grade will be making weekly visits to the farm as part of their Human Being and Animal/Zoology curriculum. They will spend time each week with an animal, making drawings and recording observations of its behaviors. “I continue to be awed by this class and their dedication to the world around them,” said Michaela. “They are such an enthusiastic, hard working, and compassionate crew.”



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School News: National Screen-Free Week

Next week the LCWS will be celebrating Screen-Free Week with various classroom events and a school-wide “Read Out on the Lawn!” on Wednesday. Students will head outside for 20 minutes of reading, with older students reading to the youngest children in our grade school. The students will receive a goody bag of small gifts that celebrate reading.

The Upper Grades will also participate in a panel discussion on the benefits and challenges of emerging technologies and new media with experts from our school community, including the executive director of the Burlington-based Center for Media and Democracy, **Lauren-Glenn Davitian**, alternative media company owner **David Sewall McCann**, and Champlain College professor in Emerging Technologies **Ken Howell**.



Check in next week to hear how Screen-Free Week went!

The Family Guide to A Great Screen-Free Week

National Screen-Free Week begins May 5! Here are some ideas from the Center for a Commercial-Free Childhood for making it a great week for your family:

- Have an adults-only conversation about Screen-Free Week first, and another with the whole family. If adults are

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fully committed, children feel everyone is sharing the experience and taking it seriously.

- Decide what “screen-free” means for your family. Does it include email and texting? Will you Skype with family members in another state or country? There is no right way to do this, but it’s good to have everyone clear on the parameters of the adventure.
- Plan a few activities. One goal of Screen-Free Week is to allow children more unstructured time to generate their own activities. Another is to celebrate connection to family and friends. What is your balance of quiet and active time?
- Reclaim the family meal as a time for talking together and sharing stories. Plan the meal ahead and include the entire family (when possible) in preparation and presentation of the meal. Get creative with napkin folding; light a candle. Think of different ways to spice up the evening...maybe discussing a book everyone has agreed to read (or have read to them)?
- Include friends, family, and neighbors in what you are doing, even if it’s just for one day or evening. Get together with other families at a park, play organized games, or just hang out!
- At the end of the week, talk about how it went, what you have accomplished, and what aspects of the week you’d like to keep going. Will you have a screen-free night once a week with a meal and games? Would you like to get together with extended family or friends on a weekend to spend more time together?

LCWS Faculty and Staff Volunteer at Waldorf Schools Around the World

We have some world travellers among our faculty and staff who have recently devoted their vacations to volunteering at Waldorf schools in Peru, India and Guatemala. Over the next several weeks we'll be sharing their stories.

This was my 12th annual visit to Andahuaylillas, Peru, a remote, impoverished pueblo in the heart of the Andes. There I mentor an early childhood Waldorf school, fondly called Wawa Munakuy. In Qechua it means "giving love to the children". Wawa Munakuy is a strong school educating 24 early childhood students each morning and then another 10-20 students though age 12 who come after school for the arts, music, and homework support not offered in the pueblo government school.

We have broken ground on our Waldorf primary school site and laid some of the infrastructure and now need to raise \$100,000 to build the school. Our vision to offer a full Waldorf education to the campesinos burns brightly in our hearts. **The pedagogy respects the indigenous culture that it serves and each year the children grow more vibrant and healthy despite the deep poverty and other afflictions that touch their lives so deeply.** Most families live on an earthen floor dwelling made up of one room and meager adobe walls - without doors, windows, water, or power. The



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volunteering to bake the weekly snack bread in our adobe oven, and cleaning the building. This small offering can be a significant sacrifice yet the ancient Andean spiritual practice of reciprocity prevails and strengthens the whole community.



We also have an economic initiative called the [Qewar Social Project](#) that is for women and men - a Waldorf doll workshop, construction work, ceramic arts, and biodynamic agriculture. Women in our employ make the dolls utilizing their traditional fibers and skills of spinning alpaca, dyeing the doll clothing fibers with native plants that are then woven on a back-strap loom or knit. I mentor both the school and the doll workshop.

The doll sales enable the tuition to be free and available to ALL!

It must have been out of my long time interest in indigenous cultures, Waldorf education, and being of service to our world family that my angel guided me toward this work with the Qewar Social Project. It was certainly nothing I even imagined doing, yet now I could not imagine my life without my Qewar family any more than I can imagine my life without my LCWS families. Each morning when I wake. I stretch one hand out to South America and one hand out toward the North. We are of one heart. I am forever grateful for these blessings.

JoAnne Dennee, Kindergarten Teacher



Seed Sale Next Week



The Sixth Grade has begun their Spring Seed Sale. We will be selling seeds on May 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th. We will have Seed Selling tables in both the Front Foyer of the Grade School and the Kindergarten Buildings. We will sell sixteen varieties, including: pumpkins, peas, cucumbers, corn and many, many more.

Watch for seeds that can grow popcorn, small sweet watermelons, snap

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there is still more...all profits will go to a charity of our choice. We hope to see you there with Friends and Family!

Happy Gardening, the Sixth Grade.



Tomorrow is the 29th annual Early Childhood Mayfest

"I love bringing my children to a festival that is so beautifully geared to the young child. There are families with blankets on the lawn, fiddle music, seed planting and corn grinding-- everything is fun, and nothing is too much. It's a joy to have a day like that every year." ---Abigail Dielh-Noble

This Saturday the grade school campus will be transformed into a joyous festival for young children. The 29th annual Early Childhood Mayfest takes place from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Come join us for a day of face painting, pony rides (for a small fee), maypole dancing, live music, crafts, garland making, and delicious food.

We still need volunteers. Please call Pam Graham at 985-2827 x12 if you would like to volunteer or simply sign up on the poster in the grade school lobby. If the weather is questionable on Saturday, please check the school's website for event details.



Simplifying Summer

Thursday, May 8

7:00-9:00pm, FREE

Summer doesn't have to feel like a whirlwind! Often, families feel compelled to fill those long summer days with more fun, more activities and even more commitments. You can do less, though, and find more time to connect with your children. Come learn about simplifying summer and finding ways to joyfully balance relaxation, creativity and activity. We'll look at daily rhythms, and a variety of age-appropriate games and activities.

Anne Shapiro, Simplicity Parenting coach, Waldorf class teacher, Creative Tuesdays volunteer and mother of three adult children, will present fresh strategies for making this summer your simplest and best ever!

RSVP to Pam Graham: 985-2827x12 or

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pgraham@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org



New Signs

Next week the Turtle Lane campus will have some new "No Idling Signs" in the circle...and not just ordinary, prefabricated metal! These signs were hand carved by woodworking teacher **Chris Ramos**, with shadows painted by LCWS 11th grade student **Eva Espenshade**, from a design created by LCWS alumnus **Lindsay Graham**, with recycled mahogany wood salvaged by LCWS Maintenance Manger **Mike Doran**.

Many thanks to The Forrest & Frances Lattner Foundation for funding the signs. And please, No Idling in the circle!



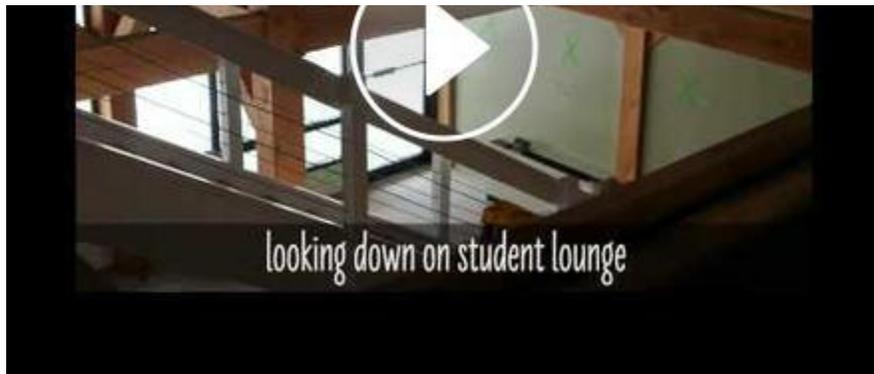
Looking for five adventuresome kids who want to have fun this summer

Our fabulous hiking Adventure Camp needs five more campers in order to run this summer. Join counselor **Heather Bauman** for a week of hiking, picnicking, and berrying at mountains from Snake to Camel's Hump. Ages 8-12. Questions? Email Abigail Diehl-Noble at adiehl@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org or find [registration forms online](#).

Slide show "tour" of the new campus construction



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Huge thanks to parent volunteer and capital campaign co-chair, **Maureen Wheeler**, for creating this video. The high school students requested an update on the construction, and so Maureen pulled together all the pictures she could find and gave the students a slideshow "tour" of the property at their morning meeting on Monday. For more photos, visit our [Facebook page](#).

Lake Champlain Waldorf School
***Grandparents &
Special Friends Day!***



Friday May 16
8:30 am - 11:00 am
359 Turtle Lane
Shelburne, VT 05482

Come experience a bit of the curriculum, and visit with classes.

Please RSVP to Lisa Espenshade your name(s)
and classes you wish to visit:
802.985.2827 ext 16 or email (preferred method!):
lespenshade@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org



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Have you been getting all your LCWS emails?

With the built-in sorting functions of gmail and other email services, some communications from the school might be landing in your SPAM or PROMOTIONS folders. Our school uses two mailing programs, Emma (for the newsletter, announcements, festival information and the like), and iContact (for events, sales and campaign updates, etc.). Automatic filters are very helpful, except when they aren't. If you do not want to receive emails, it is best to find the button that says "manage your subscription" and click on or off what you want to receive. Here is to our brave new communications world!

TUITION PAYMENTS: Please do not delay

Please remember to get all tuition payments current to avoid to avoid late fees and finance charges. Tardy tuition payments cost the school time and money! Please attend to this immediately. If you need to have a statement emailed to you, please email tborden@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org

Thank You, Terri Borden

Shout-Outs

We are experimenting with a new section of the newsletter where readers can express gratitude toward other community members. If you'd like to submit a Shout-Out, please email: newsletter@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org.

Shout-out to **Judy Newman** for her skill in mask making and set design and to **Andrea Kerin** for costume design and creation. Together these dedicated and talented volunteers have brought the seventh grade production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to a level it could not have reached without them.



Shout-out to **Heather Byers** who, with help from others, transformed our faculty room with her effort, imagination and two very long days of hard work! We so appreciate this gesture of love and caring for our teachers.

Thank you to **Lisa McCullough** and **Elliott Rice** for lovingly caring for the sheep at the school. Twice a day they feed and water the sheep and give them attention. The animals are blessed by their care. Katherine Knox

A shout-out to **ALL the parents who have so graciously provided delicious (and well-appreciated) afternoon nibbles** for the staff meetings. Judy Ververs

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Community News

Turtle Lane Camp. Our days at Art and Nature Camp are filled with singing, outdoor play, traditional games, handcrafts, animal care, art, and nature stories, with plenty of time for children to explore and play on our 22 acres of fields, forest, and gardens. A healthy, homemade snack and herbal iced tea are provided daily. Sessions for younger children, ages 3-5, are set at a gentle pace just right for them. Activities include forest play, a seasonal circle time, nature walks, story, and rest. Grade school children ages 6-8 enjoy more complicated nature crafts, woodland lore and active games. Questions? Email Abigail Diehl-Noble at adiehl@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org or find [registration forms online](#).



Sunbridge Institute Summer Series 2014 Courses and Workshops. Immerse yourself in inspiring Waldorf Education this summer! Fun-filled Waldorf Weekends, The Child in Nature with Helle Heckmann, Intro to Waldorf Early Childhood Education, Collaborative Leadership, Eurythmy and the Growing Child, and professional development for early childhood educators and grades 1-8 teachers, on a beautiful 140-acre campus 30 miles from NYC. Details at www.sunbridge.edu.
Ivy Greenstein, Director of Outreach

Camp Hoopla! Let's Put on a Show! 7/21-7/25, 10am-3pm, Charlotte Central School. 10-14 year-olds. Spend an unforgettable week laughing with Woody Keppel (the endearing and eccentric character, Woodhead), Andy Smith (music teacher extraordinaire), and Wendy Bratt (LCWS mom)! Emphasis on collaboration and fun. Students of all levels: music, theatrical clowning, juggling, and improvisation of all kinds. Wendy Bratt; 802-777-1057, wbratt@gmavt.net, <https://www.facebook.com/CampHoopla>, Charlotte Rec Office: recreation@townofcharlotte.com.

Trad Camp for Kids! July 14th-18th, 2014, Montpelier, VT, U32 Campus. Register with a friend and each of you save \$25! Ages 8-17. Camp begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. each day, with an extended day on Friday for our performance from 4-5 p.m. We will offer a "Stay and Play" hour from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. for an additional fee of \$10.00 per day. Limited scholarships available. Email: director@summit-school.org for application. Fees are \$300. website: <http://summitschool.wix.com/summitschool> Joan Kahn

Happy Spring! The flowers fairies are popping their little heads out all over the forest here at Miss Terri's Morning Garden. This is just a gentle reminder that it is time to lock in your wish for summer dates here at Terri's Morning Garden and Summer Fairie and Gnome Camps. Dates: Last 2 weeks in June; last 2 weeks in July and first 2 weeks in August.) 802) 343-0471 or terispirit2002@yahoo.com.

Tai's Garden-Themed Camp

LCWS's Extended Day Director Tai Dinnan is excited to be offering a new garden-themed day camp in Charlotte for 1st-5th graders! There are two weeks to choose from: June 23-27th and/or August 4-8th - situated conveniently before and after LCWS's Turtle Lane Summer Camp.

What: Your thumbs will turn green after a week in Charlotte's school gardens this summer! Play and work with friends to deepen knowledge and boost excitement about vegetables, fruits, seeds, pollination, decomposition, and garden ecosystems. Become an animal lover during our walking field trip to visit sheep at nearby Fifth Fence Farm. Each afternoon, transform into a chef to prepare a daily snack using ingredients just harvested from the garden. Don't forget to save some energy for playing on the playground, creating garden-themed art, exploring around the base of Pease Mountain, and making discoveries in and out of the gardens!

When: Sign up for one or both of our week-long camp sessions: June 23-27th and August 4th-8th. Our days run from

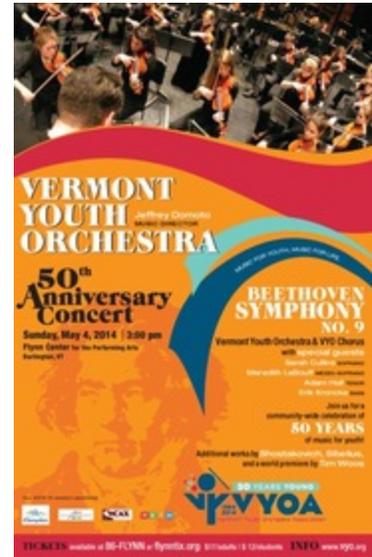
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Who: Rising 1st-5th graders are welcome. Campers are encouraged to sign up with friends! **Cost:** \$250/week, need-based scholarships are available **Where:** Charlotte Central School Garden and Grounds **Bring:** Weather appropriate clothes and closed toe shoes that can get dirty, a bag lunch, water bottle, and sunscreen. A snack will be prepared and enjoyed by campers each day. **More Information + Registration:** Visit www.charlottevt.org and click on "Recreation" or email ccsgreenthumbs@gmail.com

VYOA Celebrates 50th Anniversary with 2 Concerts This Weekend!

Join us by attending one or both concerts and celebrate with LCWS musicians who will be playing on Friday evening or Sunday afternoon. Friday's concert commemorates the first Vermont Youth Orchestra performance 50 years ago recreated and performed by Vermont Youth Strings, Vermont Youth Sinfonia and Vermont Youth Philharmonia. LCWS students among these ensembles are: **PHILHARMONIA** - **Rowan Bauman-Swain**, Concertmaster; **Joji Roth**, French Horn; **Faith Thompson**, Principal Viola; **Addison White**, Violin. **SINFONIA** - **Alison Simonds & Lark Thompson**, Violin; **Celilo Bauman-Swain**, Cello. **STRINGS** - **Matthieu Schwendler**, Cello.

Sunday's culminating VYO 50th Anniversary Concert features a piece performed by VYOA Alumni under the direction of former Music Director Troy Peters (also a former LCWS music teacher!) with LCWS alumni **Emily Bayer-Pacht**, Violin; **Ruth Heindel & Noah Marconi**, Cello. The current VYO & VYO Chorus will also perform the monumental Beethoven's Ninth Symphony! LCWS students playing are: **Dana Govett**, Cello; alumni **Eileen O'Grady**, Violin and **Graeme Waples**, Cello; and LCWS parent **Erik Kroncke** as Guest Soloist, Bass.



VYOA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Concert

Friday, May 2, 2014

Hunt Middle School, Burlington

7:00PM

Vermont Youth Orchestra & Alumni Concert

Sunday, May 4, 2014

Flynn Center

3:00PM

Tickets for both concerts @ flyntix.org

Classifieds

Seeking Housing. I will be teaching first grade next year at LCWS and will need to relocate to the area this summer. I am open to all housing possibilities (apartment, room, yurt, etc.) as long as the price is right. I would like to live as close to the school as possible but will consider all areas. If anyone has any leads please email me at dcudney@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org or call me at home after 4 pm at 802-649-2849. I am excited about joining the LCWS community! Thank you, Dana Cudney.

CSA Shares Available. We have openings for summer CSA shares in Charlotte. Three share sizes to choose from to fit your needs. Certified organic, lots of unique, beautiful, farm-pick-ups, story-telling around the bonfire. Great place

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for kids to roam and experience a working farm, and the freshest veggies and flowers around.

www.stonyloamfarm@hotmail.com or 238-0255. Thanks! Dave

One bedroom apartment for rent. Very sweet 1 bdr apt for rent in Shelburne village. Wood floors, open space, private and serene setting. Feels like living in a tree house. \$850 /mo. includes utilities, except heat (propane). Available in June. Please call Margaret or Jay 489-5696, or email margaretcoan@mac.com

Looking to rent living space and space for pottery workshop within range of Shelburne. Also looking for storage space. Willing to work in exchange for part of rent. pollywhitcomb@vermontel.net, 802-885-3698 or 802-952-9325. Polly

Surprise someone you love by having a delicious brunch home-delivered the morning of May 11 (Mother's Day). Each bag contains two fresh croissants, fresh rolls, a pint of strawberries, a bag of chocolates, a wedge of brie, a lovely rose, and a personalized card - all attractively packaged and delivered for just \$25. Brunch bags may also be purchased as a donation to spread cheer to residents of COTS, Cathedral Square, Women Helping Battered Women, or the Lund Center. Towns eligible for delivery include: Burlington, Winooski, St. George, Colchester, Essex, Essex Jct, Charlotte, Hinesburg, Milton, Shelburne, Williston, South Burlington, Richmond, Huntington, Vergennes, Ferrisburgh. All Proceeds Benefit The Schoolhouse Learning Center which provides childcare and education for children ages 2-12. To order: theschoolhousevt.org. Please note that Josh May (LCWS parent) sold you this bag. Questions? 802-881-8125 or call the Schoolhouse at 355-7023. Rachel Daley

Thanks for the many ways that you support the Lake Champlain Waldorf School.

Pledge!

Donate!

Upcoming Events At A Glance

May is a very full month at LCWS. There are class plays, class trips, parent evenings, sports events, and field trips taking place weekly. For a more detailed look at class-specific activities, please visit our [online calendar](#).

May 3: Early Childhood Mayfest, Turtle Lane Campus, 10:00am -2:00pm

May 5: 5th grade parent evening. Turtle Lane Campus, 7:00pm

May 6: Kindergarten and Grade School Observation Morning. Turtle Lane Campus, 8:30-10:30

May 8: Simplify Your Summer, Turtle Lane Campus, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

May 13: High School Observation Moring, 8:30-10:30am

May 13: Grade School May Day, Turtle Lane Campus, 10:45-12:15

May 15: Spring Benefit Family Concert, St. Michael's College Chapel, Colchester

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

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

May 22 and 23: Pentathlon, The Field House

June 4: Last Day of School, K-12 (end of the year picnic at Shelburne Beach is in the works)

June 5: 8th grade graduation

June 7: 12th grade commencement

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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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