Every family who has made, or does make either their donation or pledge, to the Annual Fund Giving Campaign by December 16th will be entered in a random drawing to procure a parking space for next year. That’s right – you would have your very own 24/7 space, located in the lot of your choice, for an entire school year. Everyone is an equal opportunity fun-getter!! One more time, make your donation or pledge by December 16th and join the fun.

We ask for 100% Austin Waldorf community participation in our campaign. We are all in this together and need to combine our collective energies and resources to make this a reality! Every gift, in any amount, is important. Your support ensures our ability to continue to offer the most relevant and inspiring education to our children today, and for many years to come.

You may stop by the Main Office to make your gift, mail your donation or pledge in the remittance envelope included with your Annual Report, or give online by clicking here.

The family receiving the parking space will be announced when we return from our winter break. Could it be you? I hope it is!!

Having fun,

Kim Frankel
"We are all here to serve the community of the Austin Waldorf School. And what a pleasure that is!"

Please let me introduce to you a group of hard working, fabulously inspiring volunteers that work year-round to support the efforts of the Development Office. This band of energetic folks help with the Annual Fund Giving Campaign, assist with ideas for events, and combine their talents and efforts to imagine possibilities and define strategies to bring success to the fundraising needs of our school.

Pictured from left to right, our team includes Jenni Evans (Charlie in the Moongarden, Avery in grade one, and the Board liaison to the committee), Cheryl Newcomb (Jet in grade two), Rebecca Judis (Bailey and Michaela in grade four), Chad Nemec (Cezanne in grade three, Chili in grade five, and Colista in grade seven), Kelli Hoisington (Eva and Ellis in the Sungarden and Miles in the tenth grade), Kim Frankel (Joshua in tenth grade), and Sara Cady (Sofia in grade one and Jaxon in grade six.) So, you see we have kindergarten through grade school on our radar.

Please feel free to introduce yourselves to any one of these wonderful people and ask questions as they arise. We are all here to serve the community at the Austin Waldorf School. And what a pleasure that is!

Warmly,

Kim Frankel

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**You’re Invited! Winter Fair 2011**

Submitted by Abby Parra and Jessie Morin, Winter Fair Coordinators 2011

Winter Fair is only 2 days away! If you are eager to learn about our Entertainment lineup this year, please take a look! Performer times vary, the location is in the Upper Grades Playground, and the cost is free!

- Elena Michaelson
- Patterson Barrett
- A Christmas story read by Robert Harrison
- Terri Everett's Christmas Carolers
- The Zelos Trio
- Vanessa Gordon
- Victor Franco and Doug Stewart
- Jazz ensemble

*The White Bird*

This puppet play will be taking place in the Fifth Grade classroom. Show times are listed below:

- 11:00am, 11:30am, 12:00pm, & 12:30pm

Price is 3 tickets per child.

*The White Bird* is age-appropriate for Kindergarten through Second Grade children.

We can't wait to see you at the Fair!

Holiday Cheers,

Abby Parra and Jessie Morin
Winter Fair Coordinators 2011
THE BOARD CORNER

On our Board of Trustees webpage, available through the Parent Portal Login, you will find:

- A listing of the current members of the Board
- A listing of the standing committees and their members
- The charters of each of the standing committees
- Additional documents related to Austin Waldorf School governance

We are always looking for more committee or Board volunteers. If you are interested in contributing to one of the Board committees or to the Board itself, then please email Don Becker, Board President. Please identify your skills and/or experience that will help you to contribute to the governance of the Austin Waldorf School.

For any matter of concern related to the Austin Waldorf School, you may always contact the school’s Administrator, Susan Darcy. For matters related to student/teacher interactions or any matters of pedagogy, it is generally best to contact the relevant teacher but you may also contact the relevant section chair or Betsy Haanelius, Chair of the College of Teachers. To address issues related to the Board’s responsibilities—the Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan and the fulfillment of fiduciary responsibilities to the Austin Waldorf School—contact Don Becker, Board President.

BOARD MEETING NOTES
Submitted by Brittain Pasloske, Austin Waldorf School Board Secretary

Next Board meeting:
Wednesday, December 14, 4:30pm in the High School Math Room

November 16 Report
General Board Meeting Cancelled
The General Board meeting for Wednesday, November 16 was cancelled.

Marketing Report
The Executive Committee of the Board is investigating the feasibility of contracting a market research firm to query the immediate Austin Waldorf School community as well as the greater community. The goal will be to gather and analyze data that will be useful with respect to the planning and development of future programming, campus redesign as well as other important items such as culture at the school.

Tuition
The Board will discuss tuition rates for the 2012-2013 school year at its upcoming December meeting and then shortly thereafter, communicate with the Austin Waldorf School community any anticipated changes to tuition rates.

Annual Giving
All members of the Board of Trustees have contributed to the Annual Giving campaign. Please donate or pledge early. Many thanks to those of you who have already contributed. (See the front page for more information on how to make your gift.)

HIS MONTH IN MAIN LESSON

Grade One— Vowels
Grade Two— Saint Stories/Language Arts
Grade Three— Shelters
Grade Four— Human and Animal
Grade Five— Greek Mythology and Grammar
Grade Six— Mineralogy
Grade Seven— Geography
Grade Eight— Anatomy
Grade Nine— Thermal Physics
Grade Ten— Physiology
Grade Eleven— US History
Grade Twelve— History of Architecture

Events This Month:
- December 1, 12:30pm and 2:00pm—The Shepherds Play
- December 2, Grandparents and Special Friends Day
- December 2, 12:30pm—K-8 Early Dismissal for Winter Fair Setup
- December 3, 10:00am-4:00pm—Winter Fair
- December 3, 4:00pm—Shepherds Play
- December 6, 8:30am—High School Visitor Morning
- December 6, 7:00pm—Grades 4-8 Instrumental Concert
- December 8, 7:00pm—Grade 12 Eurythmy Performance
- December 10, 10:00am-2:00pm—Gingerbread Holiday Camp
- December 11, 2:00pm—Grade 9 Parent Meeting
- December 16, 12:30pm—Schoolwide Early Dismissal for Winter Holidays
- December 19-January 6—Winter Holidays, No Classes Held
- January 9—Classes Resume

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Here at the Austin Waldorf School, December means Winter Fair. And to the Roadrunner faithful, December also means basketball season kicks into high gear with tournaments for the high school teams and non-conference games for all teams. On December 7th and 15th, we will have triple headers of Middle School basketball games. On Friday, December 16th there will be a rare High School quadruple header beginning with the JV girls at 4pm, JV boys at 5:15, and then the varsity girls tipping off at 6:30, followed by the boys at 8pm. You can find the latest schedule on the sports calendar by clicking here. See you in the bleachers - Go Roadrunners!

While basketball season is just getting started, the fall brought historic achievements from our volleyball and flag football teams.

**Volleyball**

The varsity girls team became the first Waldorf volleyball team to win a TAPPS 2A Area championship. Led by new coaches Bobby Jones, Adler Augustin, and Hanna Welborn the Roadrunners came in 2nd place in their district after losing a tough match at home to district champ and eventual state semifinalist Bracken Christian. But their strong 2nd place showing was enough to earn a home playoff game which they handily won 3-0 over Alvin Dominguez Walsh. The magical run came to an end in Plano, where the girls lost 3-1 in the quarterfinal (regional) round in the TAPPS 2A state tournament to Denton Calvary Academy. The girls put up an amazing fight and even won the first game, but it wasn't enough to pull out the match.

Several of the players have been recognized with some impressive district awards: First Team All District: Hannah Clark, Anna Lane-Evans, Emma McNamara, Alexa Richardson, Second Team All District: Sara Lane-Evans, Lana Sabb. Honorable Mention: Elizabeth Beilharz, Marilyn Schwartz, Madeleine Wilson.

Additionally, two students received TAPPS 2A All State Recognition! Second Team-Emma McNamara, Honorable Mention-Alexa Richardson.

The middle school volleyball teams did not reach the giddy heights of the high school team, but both teams showed marked improvement in their play over the course of the season. The 8th grade team competed in the AIPL 4A division and battled to a 7-6 overall record. The girls used their "Get Pumped Up!" cheer under coach Kelly Horton to great effect, winning all five matches where they went to a 3rd set! The 7th grade team competed in the AIPL 2A division under new coach Ileana Dominguez Walsh. The Roadrunners finished strong with a straight set victory over St. Austin to win the AIPL 2A "2nd Division" tournament!

**Flag Football**

Unprecedented success came to our boys flag football program, as our high school and two middle school teams combined to go undefeated with a perfect 23-0 record!

The high school team won the Greater Austin High School Flag Football League with a 6-0 record under the leadership of Coaches Erik Olson and Keith Graves. The team featured a remarkable TEN seniors including Gavin Fraser, who played all six seasons of high school and middle school flag football.

With nineteen players, the middle school formed two teams, both coached by Erik Ol-
ARTICLE: CHARLES GREENHALGH—WALDORF SCHOOL CAN PROVIDE BEST EDUCATION FOR YOUR CHILD

To the editor:

It seems as though every day brings news on the state of education in America. On the national, state and local level, our nation collectively struggles to insure that our children receive a high quality education. The news never seems good. American students don't seem to exceed the testing abilities of other smaller and less affluent nations. Locally, in this community and others, there is a struggle to divide up budgets among the needs of citizens while insuring what every parent wants for their child, an education that will provide them with a better future. If you're like me, you may wonder how can you provide the best education for your child.

When you wonder, look to Finland. In the April 11, 2011 issue of Time Magazine, in an article titled "Finnishing School," the author describes a group of 9-year-old students in Helsinki learning math. The students, who are in a clearing behind their school, are sitting back to back. They arrange pine cones, sticks and berries in to shapes on the ground. The arrangers must describe the arrangements using geometric terms so the kids who can't see them can say what they are. Their teacher notes that by conceptualizing math in this fashion, rather than with pencil and paper, the concepts go right to the brain. In Finland, the same teacher stays with the class from first to sixth grade. Finns do little or no testing, as they believe it does no good. In Finland, the school day is shorter than the U.S. Students get no more than an hour of homework, one teacher noting "these kids have a life." School rules include no iPods or cell phones at school. Competition among students isn't important. Everybody is average but the average is very high.

It hasn't always been this way in Finland. Since the 1960s the Finns have experimented with various education systems. The present system, however, has delivered spectacular results. In four global surveys, the Finns have placed in the top three in reading, math and science. The U.S. has placed 15th. Finland puts money into educating its teachers, requiring high standards and providing good salaries. Teaching colleges in Finland are very selective in admitting teachers.

The same concepts of experiential education, caring, professional teachers, no testing, honoring childhood are available in our community at the White Mountain Waldorf School. My daughter, Tessa, started in the early childhood program at White Mountain Waldorf School at age 3. Now she is in eighth grade. In the early days of my daughter's education I wondered and worried. Sometimes sticking with Waldorf seemed like a leap of faith. Now I firmly believe Waldorf was the best decision we've ever made for her.

This article was written by a parent at the White Mountain Waldorf School and appeared in the Conway Daily Sun newspaper on November 15, 2011. To continue reading, please click here.

SPOTLIGHT: WOODWORKING PROJECTS, FALL 2011

Submitted by Daniel Smith, Woodworking and Blacksmithing, Ext. 243

The woodworking program is finishing the year strong. The students are completing their projects and learning new skills.

In 5th grade, the students are winding up their spinning tops and will be carving whistles. The 6th graders are sanding and oiling their spoons and the 7th grade are making mechanical toys of their choice. The 8th grades' stool project has been very successful.

In high school, the 11th graders are making hanging Japanese lanterns. This will incorporate a small electric light and a switch which will produce a beautiful glow.

“Sometimes sticking with Waldorf seemed like a leap of faith. Now I firmly believe Waldorf was the best decision we’ve ever made for her.”

“The woodworking program is finishing the year strong. The students are completing their projects and learning new skills.”
“Parent Society is trying to organize an Austin Waldorf School Community Outreach Day in late January or early February”

Thank you to everyone who attended our Waldorf FAQ Panel Discussion. Thanks especially to our panelists: Bill Toole, Carol Toole, Bob Brockett, Betsy Hanelius, and Kate Moran. Thanks also to Cinnamon Nemec and Aaron Adams for their work in setting it up. With topics ranging from music to computers to sports and photography, a lot of ground was covered. We are looking into having similar events in the future, so please let us know if there is an aspect of the school or Waldorf education that you’d like to learn more about!

Grandparents Day, Winter Fair, & Shepherd’s Play are all just days away. We know many of you are working hard to pull off these spectacular events for the benefit of our wonderful community. And Parent Society wants to thank each and every parent who volunteers at this school. As part of that thanks, we are offering free childcare on campus on Saturday, December 10th from 1pm-5pm. Make it a Date Afternoon with your favorite person, do your holiday shopping, or just enjoy some quiet time. You’ve earned it!

In addition, the holiday season is a great time to think about how we as families at the Austin Waldorf School could give back to the greater Austin community. At the November Parent Society Meeting, we talked about how we could do more for the greater Austin community, and reach out to help others. Parent Society is trying to organize an Austin Waldorf School Community Outreach Day in late January or early February on a Saturday or Sunday. We envision an event where parents and students, faculty and friends of the school work together helping our Austin neighbors, and we would like to have your input to make this a meaningful and worthwhile event. We also would like to start a count on just how many people would be willing to participate so that we can initiate discussions with the organizations and ensure a match between their needs and our volunteer count. We would like you to take time today to fill out this short survey asking for your input on the idea of an Austin Waldorf School Outreach Day. Even if you have no interest in attending, we’d like to know. Please click here to take the short survey.

There will be no Parent Society Meeting in December, so please take the time to fill out the survey and send us any comments you have, as we will be planning in earnest when we meet again on the evening of Thursday, January 19th. In lieu of a December meeting, we will be gathering at Waterloo on Escarpment & Slaughter at 8:30am on Thursday, December 8 to work on revising the Parent Handbook (available on the Parent Portal of the school website). We invite all parents to take this time to review the handbook, and send us any changes you would like to see in the next revision, or join us at Waterloo. You may contact the advisory council with feedback on any of these topics by emailing parentsoociety@austinwaldorf.org

“Austin Waldorf School had the strongest level of participation and acceptance in our history this year.”

Auditions were recently held for the Texas Music Educators Association Region 18 Orchestra. This competitive event is open to all Austin area (including Austin ISD and Eanes ISD) middle and high school string students. Austin Waldorf School had the strongest level of participation and acceptance in our history this year. Of the 20 students who entered, 13 were accepted into one of several orchestras. Congratulations to: Sixth graders Emma Olson and Lillian Bisantz; Seventh graders Jessica Lenz and Ethan Denson; Eighth graders Keith McBrayer, Tamara Shamir, McKenna Cosway and Yuji Inoue; Ninth grader Hudson Bell; Tenth grader Caitlin Kalk; and Eleventh graders Wendy Snowden, Molly Steimle and Kenji Inoue. Two students, Yuji on cello and Tamara on viola, won first chair positions in their sections.
NEWS FROM AWSNA

In this season of holidays and the seeking of light in the dark days of wintertime, all at AWSNA send out thanks to all of you in our schools for the fine work you do—as teachers and staff in service to the young and as parents who sacrifice to give your children an independent Waldorf Education.

The Association for a Healing Education, AHE, is in its 21st year of offering professional development programs. For the fall of 2012, a new cycle of courses begins: “Classroom Education Support,” a two year part-time program, and “Remedial Education.” a three year part-time program. Both courses will begin together October 18, 2012 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The curriculum for the two year course will address the developmental needs of children and methods that can be used in classrooms or groups in kindergarten, grade school, and high school. The third year will prepare a teacher for a profession as an Educational Support teacher. It will address deeper issues regarding the children such as honing observation skills, and understanding the causes of today’s challenges in childhood behaviors and learning styles. For more information, contact Mary Jo Oresti at admin@healingeducation.org

For more AWSNA News, please click here.

“The performance will require tickets to help us stay within our seating limit in the theater. The tickets are free but necessary.”

SHEPHERDS PLAY

Come one, come all to The Shepherds Play! Sing along to the songs! Chuckle at the comedy! Sigh at the simple beauty of this musical and lighthearted portrayal of the Christian Nativity story. Discover who’s in this year’s cast (a secret not revealed until the curtain goes up!) This play is presented every other year as a gift to the greater community by faculty, staff, parents, alumni and friends. Join us in this worldwide Waldorf tradition that stretches back to the 15th Century.

The Shepherds Play will be presented in the PAC on Saturday December 3 at 4:00pm to top off this year’s Winter Fair and begin the holiday season. The performance will require tickets to help us stay within our seating limit in the theater. The tickets are free but necessary. Tickets will be available in the Main Office during business hours and at the Winter Fair ticket booth on Dec. 3.

“In this season of holidays and the seeking of light in the dark days of wintertime, all at AWSNA send out thanks to all of you in our schools for the fine work you do.”

OPEN HEART, OPEN HOUSE!

You are cordially invited to the Holiday Open House!

Where: The Main Office

When: Monday, December 14th, 8am-4pm

As a thank you to this wonderful community, we are holding our annual Holiday Open House. Come by and visit, eat, drink, and be merry with us, anytime, all day long!

We look forward to seeing you, even briefly, and celebrating the blessings of this community.

Come one, come all.

“Come one, come all to The Shepherds Play! Sing along to the songs! Chuckle at the comedy! Sigh at the simple beauty of this musical and lighthearted portrayal of the Christian Nativity story. Discover who’s in this year’s cast (a secret not revealed until the curtain goes up!) This play is presented every other year as a gift to the greater community by faculty, staff, parents, alumni and friends. Join us in this worldwide Waldorf tradition that stretches back to the 15th Century.”
ANTHROPOSOPHICAL EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Novalis Branch Study Group meets on Wednesdays 7-8:30 pm in the Austin Waldorf School Eurythmy Hall. Overview of Rudolf Steiner’s work, founder of the Waldorf Schools world-wide. No charge. Potluck light refreshments and conversation after the study. For more information, contact Steve Usher 512.288.6130

Twelve Nights of Christmas, begins on December 25, 7:00 pm. in private homes and Austin Waldorf School Eurythmy Hall. Reading and discussion of festival related lectures by Rudolf Steiner, with light refreshments and conversation after the reading. Please call Beth Usher for more information and locations. 512.288.6130 – Twelve Nights continues through January 5

Save the Date! Birthday Party: Eurythmy is turning 100! Come celebrate on January 29, 4:00 pm at the Austin Waldorf School. Chaparral Eurythmy will perform on stage with the Austin Waldorf School Eurythmy Faculty, Anthony Tobin performing piano, Pasha Sabouri performing violin, and Steve Usher performing recitation. Music by Ludwig von Beethoven, poetry by William Shakespeare. Donations at the door. Family friendly. www.chaparraleurythmy.org

REGISTER FOR GINGERBREAD DAY CAMP TODAY!

On Saturday, December 10th, Emma Lambert (of Tea Garden blueberry muffin and Camp Roadrunner cooking week fame) will host a Gingerbread House Building Workshop for Austin Waldorf School students in 2nd through 8th grades. Give your kids something fun and festive to do while you complete your holiday errands! Space in this camp is limited, so sign up early! Registration ends tomorrow, December 2nd. Price per participant $60.00, plus an optional $5.00 to have a healthy lunch provided. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Saturday, December 10th

The Austin Waldorf School is a non-profit educational institution, 501(c)3, that welcomes students of any religion, race, national or ethnic origin.