THE MESSENGER

November 2013

Inspire, Experience, Grow, Create

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: REUNION
Submitted by Holly McDaniel, Director of Development

The New Austin Waldorf School Alumni Association held its first Annual All Alumni Picnic in October, here on the beautiful grounds of the school. Over forty alums and parents attended the picnic and had a chance to revisit the past via photo albums and heartwarming conversations.

The class of 2003 enjoyed their 10 year reunion off campus the same night at The Goodnight on Anderson Lane. The alumni enjoyed good conversation, excellent food and even a few friendly games of bowling.

We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful group of graduates continue to reconnect and reach out to one another through the Alumni Association. Despite the passing of time, their connection to the school made it possible to share a glorious day of reflection and joy.

ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has given to the Annual Fund this year! We have raised $55,447 as of October 24th!

We need your help to reach our goal. Please give to the Annual Fund by clicking here or dropping off your gift to the Development Office.

Gifts to the Annual Fund ensure the Austin Waldorf School continues to offer the most relevant and inspiring education to our community.

Please join your fellow parents, friends, and alumni in giving to the Annual Fund.
PARZIVAL & THE SIXTEEN-YEAR CHANGE

Submitted by Arthur M. Pittis, High School Humanities

Foundational to the practice of Waldorf Education is the concept of developmental ‘changes’ or thresholds, focal points when the forces that characterize any given developmental period are working most intensely. The adolescent experiences two such thresholds during the passage through adolescence to young adulthood. As with the earlier nine year and twelve year changes these thresholds happen at approximately two and a third years into this third seven year developmental period, the first at approximately sixteen years of age, usually at the transition from tenth to eleventh grades, and the second just before turning nineteen. Each of these changes has an existential aspect in that each threshold marks the ever-evolving process of establishing human self-identity. In the third year after the birth of the astral body and the attendant freeing of its creative, life-producing forces, the adolescent finds him or herself struggling with either engaging the world out of a heightened sense of responsibilities or withdrawing from the world. Crossing this first threshold of adolescence can be one of the most challenging in life.

Despite the challenges, the outer and inner manifestations of adolescent’s search for personal identity during the sixteen-year change is a wondrous thing and a sensitive appreciation of the significance of what is being experienced should be recognized and cultivated by the adult world. One of the indicators that an adolescent is crossing this threshold are the deliberate choices made regarding how s/he appears to the world, especially in terms of dress since it is at this age that adolescents perfect the ‘costume’ or ‘uniform’ by which they want to be identified in society.

Each year about mid-tenth grade the outward signs begin to appear. Many of the girls dress more fashionably, and their make-up and jewelry reflect this sophistication. Those boys who concern themselves with clothing add a new, highly visible component, such as a hat or a coat. This creating of ‘costume’ or ‘uniform’ will over the next few months become more refined until by the first day of eleventh grade when all its elements are in place and proclaim, “Here I am; notice who I am; I am not who you thought I am.”

This transformation of self-identity through clothing is but the outward manifestation of the more profound, inward struggle to establish self-identity. There exists a paradoxical relationship between identity’s outward and inward manifestations. Whereas a change of appearance is immediately obvious, inner transformation is not, no matter how much the adolescent might hope otherwise, giving rise to the lament, “No one sees me differently here. I wish I was somewhere else.” Romanticism provides a powerful metaphor for the inner experience of this first threshold — the Dark Night of Soul.

As a result, the sixteen-year-old finds him or herself in a paradoxical condition. On one hand, s/he feels that self-identity is connected with outward appearances, especially within peer groups, while on the other s/he is beginning to recognize that identity can only be truly realized through meeting the responsibilities of the individualized self. They are in the paradoxical situation of wanting to engage with the outer world while wishing to disengage and withdraw into the private, inner self. Consciousness of self and world and their interconnectedness are in continually alternation and need to be pedagogically addressed. While all aspects of the Waldorf high school curriculum address aspects of this struggle the connection between the eleventh grade Parzival block, which interweaves adventures of the outwardly focused Gawan and the inwardly focused Parzival, and the grade’s work experience program is especially strong.

Gawan is always charming and handsome, magnificently dressed, gracious, quick to help, slow to anger, and always dauntless and honorable. He is the perfectly realized outer-self. Parzival, on the other hand, is the very image of the paradoxical nature of adolescence with its profound joys, doubts, triumphs, and failures. While magnificent, he carries many untransformed traits from childhood. He is naive, even foolish, and responds to slights impulsively. And most troubling of all, when encountering new situations, he relies on learned responses that he has neither understood nor examined. Yet beneath all his challenges he is deeply compassionate, except at that one critical moment when he fails to act out of compassion and relies instead on what he has been taught.

Eleventh graders delight in Wolfram’s Parzival, and each day spirited conversations arise around its themes. The reason for this enthusiasm is simple. The interweaving stories of Parzival and Gawan reflect the inner and outer challenges of crossing the threshold from childhood to young adulthood, and is experiencing daily as s/he struggles to establish self-identity by freeing the self from group identity and creating the foundations needed for individualized adulthood.

We always schedule Parzival before the work experience when the eleventh graders leave campus to work in a service organization for two weeks. It is hoped that the classroom discussions about Parzival’s triumph over existential despair, egotism and cynicism will serve as a foundation for the type of work experience in which the students encounter two types of people, those who have not enjoyed the opportunities the students themselves have had and those who have dedicated their lives to serving fellow human beings in need.

As is integral to every aspect of the Waldorf Curriculum, it is hoped that each pedagogical experience can serve as a seed for a life experience, one that will sprout in the inner life and grow into that student’s outer experience of life, ultimately blossoming in a purposeful, self-guided life gesture. Such are the intentions of the Parzival block and its relation to the work experience. It is further hoped that when the much more mature adolescent experiences the second threshold and its first conscious premonitions of personal destiny and what is needed to achieve it, that the reflections inwardly experienced in these blocks will guide the individual consciously into the responsibilities of being human.
THE BOARD CORNER
Submitted by Jenni Evans, President, Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees wishes to extend enormous thanks to Susan Darcy for her service as an administrator and an educator at the Austin Waldorf School. Her work with the Community, Faculty, and Board while at the Austin Waldorf School will leave a positive imprint for years to come. As our 2011 ISAS/AWSNA accreditation validated, the Austin Waldorf School is an exemplary academic institution. For all that she has done, we thank Susan, and we look forward to her continued dedication through this coming academic year.

In October, the Board of Trustees formed a governance task force of Board Members, College Members, and Community members who will be studying current governance models at Waldorf Schools in the United States. This task force will guide the Board of Trustees and the College of Teachers to have a deeper understanding of how Waldorf Schools have embraced new governance models. Their recommendations will move forward the process of hiring the next school administrator for the Austin Waldorf School.

The Board of Trustees is also saying good bye to one of its members, Luis Rego. His professional duties called him in other directions. His visionary leadership and entrepreneurial thinking will be missed. His year of Board service was very much appreciated, and he left us with some very valuable management tools to use in the future.

The Board of Trustees is always working with our standing committees: Site, Finance, and Development to identify new members. We welcome parent involvement in serving on a committee or the Board of Trustees. If you are interested in more information, please email Kathryn King, Vice President BOT, at kkking003@austin.rr.com

The festival life at the Austin Waldorf School is about to be upon us. Please remember to take a moment to give your full support of these festivals by making your donation/pledge to the Annual Fund. All families at the school have received the Annual Fund Giving Letter. The school thanks you for not only the monetary gift you will make, but also for the many other ways we know all families support the Austin Waldorf School.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:
GRADE 2 COAT DRIVE
Submitted by Kathy Rodgers, Second Grade Teacher

Martin was a Roman soldier who had heard of the teaching of Christ, to love one another. As a member of the elite cavalry corps, he had a very special woolen cloak to ward off the cold. One evening as he approached the gates of the city, he saw a nearly naked beggar shivering in the cold. Upon seeing such suffering, he jumped off his horse, tore off his precious cloak, and using his sword, cut the cloak in two. He gave half to the beggar and kept half for himself.

In the spirit of Martinmas, join the second grade in supporting this year’s annual coat drive by bringing your gently used coats or any seasonal clothing to the designated boxes…”

OUTREACH: CAR KITS
Submitted by Corey Horton, Parent Society Advisory Council President

The theme for November’s Outreach Efforts is “Holiday Cheer”, and at Tea Garden on Friday, November 22, we will be writing holiday cards to people in hospitals and nursing homes. On Friday, October 25th, the Tea Garden Outreach Project made “Car Kits” to distribute to homeless people. We now have about 50 kits with food, toiletries and water. They are in two Tupperware bins on the Juniper Tree porch. Help yourself to as many as you will have the opportunity to hand out. When the bins are empty, we will have another Car Kit making session. In the bottom of the smaller of the two bins, there are some warm clothing/cover-ups. These would be great to take along with some kits if you are going to go out on a particularly cold night to help those who don’t take advantage of shelter even on such nights. Thank you Sherry Blum, for leading this activity and to all the parents and children who helped out!
F INANCIAL AID
Submitted by Lee Uerkwitz, Finance Director

Financial Aid for the 2014-2015 Academic Year
Financial Aid applications for the 2014-2015 academic year will be processed by SSS (School and Student Service for Financial Aid) starting November 1st. Anyone interested in qualifying for the upcoming academic year will find information and forms available for download on the school’s website under Admissions/Tuition Assistance. Printed copies are also available in the business office. The application deadline for current AWS families is January 15th, 2014.

Parents/Guardians are required to submit an application online to SSS as well as a Financial Aid Request Form and other supporting documents directly to the school. In order to qualify and receive assistance, it is important that you submit all of the necessary forms by the application deadline. Questions regarding the process should be directed to the business office.

T EACHER TRAINING: SEMINAR LAS ESTRELLAS
Submitted by Kathryn King, Vice President, Board of Trustees

Family, friends, and faculty were on hand to witness the culmination of work created by the teacher trainees over the course of their first year in teacher training. There was a grand finale on May 11 that ended in a veritable feast catered by Wildwood Bakery and Cafe. They presented recitations in small groups, sang several songs under the direction of Dawn Harrienger, made up Haiku poetry on the spot, and serenaded the spectators with recorder music.

Each trainee spent the summer researching the achievements of an important scientist. Their findings were presented for the public in thirty minutes segments this September. They also had a cross-stitch project to finish that had been assigned by Marian Vitucci. Now they are learning to crochet. We are back in full swing from 9:15 to 5:30 on three out of four Saturdays each month. We are fortunate to have Giselle Whitwell leading us for thirty minutes every morning in Werbek singing exercises.

The first classes actually began again mid-August when we spent two very full Saturdays with Robyn Brown, expert instructor with challenged learners. She put us through the paces by having us roll around like eggs or logs, slithering on our bellies, racing across the floor like crabs, and walking along a low beam with eyes closed. Tough challenges for sure! Robyn stressed over and over how the four lower senses are the key to integrating all our learning channels ... the sense of touch, sense of life (well-being), sense of movement, and sense of balance. She is a true master at eliminating even the slightest hint that a student could consider himself to be incapable or insufficient in some way, and demonstrated creative ways to break down a challenging lesson into manageable steps. Then the teacher needs only to keep encouraging the student in a very matter-of-fact tone, “You can do it. You can do it!”

Robyn’s classes were a most inspiring way to start the second year and brought us quickly back into focus for the intensive course of study ahead. Besides the local AWS faculty who are scheduled to teach courses such as Reading and Writing, Teaching Science, Festivals and Crafts, Eurythmy, and Philosophy of Freedom, we will be hosting several more visiting faculty during the fall. Our Michaelmas weekend with Dr. Hilmar Moore grounded us in the increasing need for inner work and a growing sense of responsibility for our role in the Cosmic Order. The ranks of Archangel Michael’s Legions definitely swelled in number that day! The November weekend open to public attendance will be November 8/9 with Dennis Klocek. Dennis will take us deeper into our understanding of the hidden senses and subtle bodies that are evolving throughout life! Call Kathryn King at 512-356-9243 or email kking003@austin.rr.com if you would like to visit classes.

Warm Regards,
Kathryn King
Executive Coordinator for Seminar Las Estrellas

A DULT EDUCATION: PARENTING AS INITIATION

Great news! We have another outstanding FREE event for current AWS parents and faculty.

Dennis Klocek’s presentation of PARENTING AS INITIATION will take place on Friday evening, November 8th, at 7:00 p.m.

Since pre-history the role of initiation in human life has been recognized as the keystone of human development. Through stories and artistic exercises this workshop with Dennis Klocek will explore the opportunities for parents and all human beings to realize the spiritual benefits of initiation into the secrets of the Divine Child that waits within each human soul.

The evening begins a weekend seminar centered around INITIATION AND THE DIVINE CHILD. If you would like to attend the weekend long seminar, please contact Kathryn King at kking003@austin.rr.com

DON’T FORGET!
Your specially reserved copy of The Austin Waldorf School on Film is available in the main office.
If you haven’t already stopped by to pick one up, feel free to come by any time and grab a copy for yourself to share with friends and relatives.
Cooler Fall weather is upon us, and with it brings the brisk, colder days of winter and, of course, our community’s annual Winter Fair.

Grandparents & Special Friends Day & Winter Fair Are Coming!

Winter Fair will be Saturday, December 7th from 10am-4pm and Grandparents Day will be the morning before on Friday, December 6th.

Many hands make light work on these two days, so if you would like to help, please contact us directly, or you may go to the Winter Fair volunteer signup sheets hosted at http://vols.pt/k9CADH.

You'll be hearing much more in the weeks to come, but now is the time to get signed up for your favorite activities and times!

Feel free to contact us with questions at parentsociety@austinwaldorf.org

GREENERY SALES THROUGH NOVEMBER 8TH

Fall is in the air (well, at least rain is) and thoughts turn to... Greenery! Each year, 6th-12th graders sell beautiful holiday greenery to raise money that pay for their 8th and 12th Grade Class Trips. This Friday, November 8th, is the FINAL DAY OF GREENERY SALES. If you have missed out, the 7th Grade will be selling at Tea Garden. Greenery can either be delivered to your home, or you can order it shipped anywhere in the country. Greenery will arrive in early December in time for the holiday season. If you can't find a seller to buy greenery from, contact us at parentsociety@austinwaldorf.org, and we will hook you up!
NOVALIS
BRANCH
ALL SOULS
FESTIVAL

"Something there is more immortal even than the stars,..." from On the Beach at Night by Walt Whitman

All are welcome to a time for remembering our beloved family and friends who have gone before us through the end of life. The Novalis Branch All Souls Festival will be Saturday, November 2 at 7:30 pm in the Austin Waldorf School Eurythmy Hall.

The evening will include poetry, song, music, a eurythmy performance by Chaparral Eurythmy, and a few words about crossing the Threshold with an anthroposophic compass. Free, donations at the door.

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS....

The 3rd Grade is hosting the Barn Dance

Saturday, November 16th from 5-9pm at the Stunt Ranch on Fitzhugh Rd.

Parent Society is sponsoring the entertainment and the 10th & 11th grades will be selling dinner, drink & desserts to raise money for the class trip fund.

We can’t wait!

Come One, Come All

AWS Barn Dance
Presented by Grades 3, 10, 11 and Parent Society

Saturday, Nov. 16 - 5 to 9 PM
Kیرlake Event Center
18317 Fitzhugh

Square Dancing
With Marc Ahrhart calling

Food & Beverages

Sliding Scale Admission
Proceeds go to the AWS libraries $5 or $10 or $20 per carload

TEA GARDEN CHATS: JOIN US!

We continue to host a "Tea Garden Chat" each Friday, where one or more speakers will lead a topic of interest. We have now had three topics - "Fall Festivals", "Community Outreach at AWS", and last week Laura Olson led a talk on "Taking the Hectic out of the Holidays". Thank you, Laura! If you would like to be a presenter or have an idea for a Chat, please let us know!
**Volleyball Season Surges at the Finish**

This season will be remembered as a rebuilding year for the Roadrunners, as a team with just one senior and freshmen at the setter and libero spots are going to struggle sometimes when faced with older competition. Coaches Adler Augustine and Kristen Lee focused on building the team up, and tried various rotations to make things work. The team was struggling with a 5-15 record and were just 3-5 in district play, and they needed at least one more win in district to secure a playoff spot. That's when it seemed things finally started to click.

They played hard in a road loss at Veritas, grabbing the first set but lost the next three in close sets to a superior defensive team. Then, at home, they dropped the first two sets to first place John Paul II. But there was no quit in the girls, as they rallied to win the third set 25-23 behind monster serving from junior Alexa Richardson and monster spikes from junior middle hitters Emma Graves and Elena VanDelinder. When senior Sara Lane-Evans dropped a dink over a double block to take the fourth set 25-23, the crowd roared. But the Roadies could not finish off the upset, as they fell into a 9-2 hole and lost the 5th set 15-8.

Our Senior Day ceremony was short and sweet, with the players renaming it “Sara Day” in honor of our sole senior, Sara Lane-Evans. But the Roadrunners were anything but sweet to their opponents, overwhelming New Braunfels Christian in four sets and clinching a berth in the playoffs. But that was just the appetizer.

A year ago, Shiner St. Paul came to our house on our Senior Day and beat us in straight sets to take 1st place from our hands. This year, it was our turn! After a loooong ceremony for St. Paul “Parent's Night”, the Roadrunners came out a little slow, falling behind 21-16 and 24-21. A late run fell short and we dropped the first set 25-23, and it was looking like it could be a long 2+ hour drive back for the Roadies. But in the second set, the Roadrunners turned it on early, going on a 6-0 run to build a big 18-8 lead and cruising to a 25-17 win. At that point, the Roadrunner confidence was high, and it showed. Down 15-18, the Roadies went on a 9-1 run that eventually led to a 25-21 win. In the fourth set, we saw a 20-14 lead dissolve into a 23-23 tie. But we won back the serve on a big point where freshman setter Eliza Callahan jammed some fingers on a block. Naturally it was Eliza's serve, and with fingers aflame she stepped up to the line and served an ACE to seal the victory and knock Shiner St. Paul out of first place in the district, and remind them that this was a rivalry!

The season came to an end in the same place it ended a year ago, 3 hours away in Huntsville at the hands of Alpha Omega Academy. The Roadrunners played a great game, but were outmatched, and left with their heads high after a 25-18, 25-21, 25-23 defeat to end their season.

**Middle School Volleyball Finishes Strong!**

29 girls played middle school volleyball this year, and all three teams finished strong, beating teams in the tournament that they had lost to in regular season!

The 4A team, coached by Scott Richardson, finished the regular season with a 4-5 record, with most of the losses close, and closed with a decisive win over Veritas to claim the #6 seed in the AIPL tournament. They leveraged that spot to upset #3 St. Francis in a thrilling 25-23, 25-23 win in the first round, and then beat #2 TSD 25-20, 11-25, 15-7 to advance to the Finals! In the finals, undefeated St. Austin prevailed 25-15, 25-18, but the team and their fans celebrated their 2nd Place Finish!

The 2A team really showed improvement under the guidance of new head coach Darcell Smith. They finished their regular season at 1-5, but then won 2 games in their postseason tournament to take 2nd place in the Consolation bracket!

The 1A team finished with a 2-5 record in regular season, and had a tough draw in the tournament. But after losing in the first round, they upset Regents en route to winning the Consolation Bracket! Coach Rosy Osorio summed up how many of us coaches feel about coaching these great kids. *I just want to tell you that been a coach of 1A Volleyball team was an amazing experience that fulfills my soul and spirit with...*
joy, happiness, gratefulness and a lot of fun. For most of the girls this was their first experience in Volleyball, so watching how they were improving with practices and games was very touching. One of the greatest games was against Regents at the Tournament, when one of the girls started saying before the game started “I have a good feeling today, so I think we are going to win” and everybody else agreed with her and so they did! They were able to control the ball, to have three contacts and even some of them were spiking the ball and serving overhand. It was awesome watch them jumping of joy and happiness each time they won a point!

High School Flag Football Scores Too Soon!

For the first time since joining the Greater Austin High School Flag Football League in 2011, the Roadrunners failed to have a perfect season, as their youth could not quite keep up with a strong senior-led Khabele team. The team was led by coach Erik Olson and had nine players. They lost their regular season finale to Khabele due to a pair of missed red zone opportunities, negating the passing attack of quarterback Jeff Wilson as he spread the wealth to seniors Miles Hoisington & Cole Holland, sophomores Jack Holland & Jose Luis Turincio, and freshmen Ben & John Callahan.

The Roadrunners looked to avenge the loss in the championship tournament a few days later. And when Jeff walked across the goal line to put us up by 5 points with just 3 plays left, it appeared the championship would be ours. But on their first play, Khabele struck for a deep pass to move into scoring territory and they finished off the comeback on the final play of the game, to win 32-30. Ouch!

Middle School Flag Football Dominate with Defense!

The middle school flag football team is in its first year under new head coach (and former defensive coordinator) Corey Horton. The team excelled at defense all year, only giving up four touchdowns and never once giving up a touchdown unless they were up by two scores already. In a league where teams averaged 20+ points a game, the Roadrunners gave up a total of just 40 points.

Unfortunately, they had one misstep. On a rainy day and missing three key starters, the Roadrunners traveled to St. Francis for the game that would decide the regular season championship. St. Francis averages over four touchdowns a game and our defense... Shut. Them. Down! St. Francis would get just a couple of first downs all game and would never get inside our 20 yard line. Meanwhile, we had a few scoring opportunities just miss - a dropped pass in the endzone, a long run where the runner's foot just caught the sideline, an interception in the end zone. This game looked like it was heading to overtime until a St. Francis defender made a brilliant defensive play and raced through the backfield, intercepted a pitch and ran it back for a touchdown and a 6-0 St. Francis win that would keep Waldorf from a perfect regular season.

The finals was a rematch with St. Francis, and the Roadrunners came out ready to play. They scored on two of the first three times they had the ball on deep passes and though they gave up a “Hail Mary” touchdown at the end of the first half, they dominated the St. Francis offense once again and rolled 21-6 to claim the AiPL Championship!

Join us for the First Annual End of Year Beach Volleyball Tourney!

When: Sunday, Nov. 10th
Where: Aussie’s Grill, 306 Barton Springs Rd.
Come and support the Middle School & High School teams!
Email or call Heather Steiner at: CoachHeather@me.com or (808) 870-4050 to register for the tournament!