



# Corvallis Waldorf School

## Newsletter

Fall 2023

### Winter Events:

- Dec 2 ~ Dine Out at Chipotle Restaurant on Monroe in Corvallis.
- Dec 3 ~ CWS Strings Concert
- Dec 9 ~ Winter Light Faire
- Dec 18 to Jan 3 ~ Winter Break
- Jan 15 ~ No School, MLK Jr. Day
- Jan 24 ~ All School Meeting
- Feb 19 ~ No School, Presidents Day
- Feb 20 to 23 ~ No School, Prof Development, Teacher Prep Day & Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Mar 14 ~ Dine Out at Common Fields
- Mar 21 ~ Grandparents & Special Friends Day
- Mar 22 ~ Spring Assembly
- Mar 25 to Apr 5 ~ Spring Break

Dear CWS Community,

Our 2023-24 school year has started with enthusiasm and energy! We are fully staffed this year, able to add a full time Spanish teacher to our robust subject offerings, bring back our Parent/Child class, and expand our development work. The school feels solid with two Administrators at the helm. The committees and branches, in partnership with school leadership, have been working hard to improve school offerings.

Our Parent Council has renewed energy and a full leadership structure helping them in planning many events and ways for our community to connect.

We appreciate your part in our community and invite you to these upcoming events:

- Dec 3rd is our **CWS Winter Strings Concert** at First United Methodist Church at 3pm. This will include choral and orchestral performances from grades 3 through 8. All are invited and it is free!
- Dec 9th is our **Winter Light Faire**, on campus from 10 to 4pm. Join us for candle dipping, silk dyeing, and many other crafts, activities, and our Woodland Village Marketplace. Admission is free with a small charge for the activities. Do you want to volunteer at one of the events? Email the office for the link! ([office@corvalliswaldorfschool.org](mailto:office@corvalliswaldorfschool.org))

We would also welcome you to contribute to our **Annual Giving Campaign**. We use an Annual Fund within our budget to help keep tuition low and give our wider community the chance to support our mission and the work we do! Please consider making a possibly tax deductible donation to help support our work!

CWS has availability in some of our classrooms! Do you know of families who would like more information about our school? Encourage them to connect with us! Our Enrollment Director, Maggie Seldera-Bahnson, is available at [enrollment@corvalliswaldorfschool.org](mailto:enrollment@corvalliswaldorfschool.org) to answer questions and give tours.

Thank you for your continued support of CWS and for being part of this community.

~Executive Council

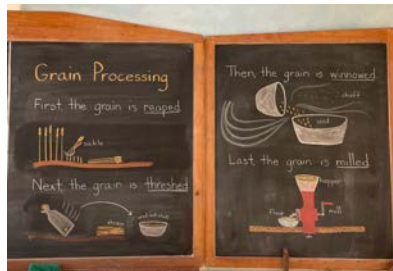
Chalkboard drawing from our grade one teacher, Ms. Anna



FALL 2023

## Agricultural Arts Expands Indoors

Our Agriculture Program continues to thrive. We have renamed the program “Agricultural Arts” to better encompass the many aspects of the the program that extend beyond a typical agriculture focus. This includes cooking, herbalism, broommaking, basketry, woodwork, wildlife and native plant study, forestry, orcharding, regenerative agricultural practices, and agricultural allies--a diverse set of role models of environmental stewardship and social justice as related to agriculture, both locally and globally. We also have a new “home base” of the easternmost classroom in the SAGE building that will greatly support our indoor work. We continue our outdoor work as well, taking advantage of our garden, greenhouse, orchard, forest & beyond. This Fall we have benefitted from two helpers. First, a wonderful intern, Abi, a senior at OSU studying Horticulture who has supported the students’ work. Second, Ms. Wilma! Wilma is a trained Waldorf teacher volunteering her time as she visits this year from the Netherlands. We’re excited to have this support to enhance our program.



## Grade 5 Bracelet Exchange with penpals in Ethiopia

Last year, Ms. Monroe’s class began a partnership with a school in Gondar, Ethiopia (Bridge Magdalena Academy) on a pen pal project. As part of the fourth grade geography block, our students did comparative studies of Oregon and Ethiopian geography. This year they are continuing their studies of Ethiopian culture as well.



The penpal project went so well that the students enlisted the help of their schoolmates and made 1,200 friendship bracelets – one for each child in the partner school. Ms. Monroe recently received photos of our partner school receiving the bracelets and distributing them throughout their classrooms! We’re thrilled to continue this penpal relationship this year.



Thanks to CWS parent Patty Harris for this idea and for making it happen!





## From the Board of Trustees

As another enriching academic year has begun at CWS, the Board of Trustees has ramped up its work for the year. After transitioning and hiring Karim and Jeff, the Board has full confidence in the Executive Council to ensure the day to day operations of the school are running smoothly, ensuring the faculty, staff and students have what they need for a successful year of learning and growth.

This year, the Board is focusing on future visioning, strategic and facilities planning. This behind the scenes work sets the stage for future growth and opportunities for CWS to continue to deliver the benefits of Waldorf education to current and future students. These efforts are a tremendous undertaking that are accomplished in partnership between the Board and its committee volunteers and CWS Collegium.

The Board is always looking for volunteer support and looks forward to welcoming new members later this winter. We extend a heartfelt invitation to our dedicated parents, proud grandparents and committed alumni and alumni parents to consider the opportunity of Board service as an opportunity to contribute to the Board and be part of the efforts to continue to steer CWS toward a bright and sustainable future. Board recruitment occurs in the fall of each year. Volunteer efforts are a critical component of what makes up the vibrant tapestry of CWS's school community.

The Board generally meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm on CWS campus. (December is an exception, meeting Wednesday December 13). If you are interested in learning more about the Board's work, please attend an upcoming board meeting or reach out at [board@corvalliswaldorfschool.org](mailto:board@corvalliswaldorfschool.org).

~ Board Chair Amy Singh

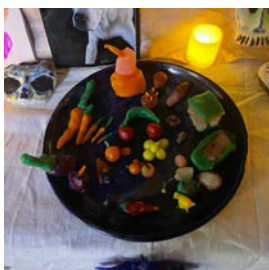


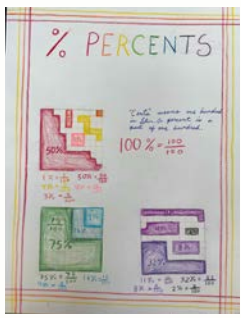
## Dia de los Muertos

El altar de Día de Muertos comes from an ancient pre-Columbian Mexican tradition. Every element present there represents an offering (ofrenda) to those who have passed away, because the belief says they are still between us. The school ofrenda was a community effort and each element had special meaning. First and second grade made beeswax fruit representing love and refreshing for the souls. Third grade students made Monarch butterflies, representing transformation. Interestingly, Monarch butterflies migration often brings them to Mexico at the time of this celebration. Fourth grade made skulls painted in river stones to bring the element of earth to the altar. Fifth grade made Cempasúchil flowers (marigolds). They bring aroma and color to the altar. Sixth grade cut Papel Picado, representing the meeting between heaven and earth. Seventh grade modeled Calaveras de azúcar (sugar skulls) as a symbol of death, a natural part of life. And Eighth grade decorated Guaguas de Pan (Dia de muertos bread), bringing to the altar sweetness and hospitality. This activity was a syncretism that Maestra Daniela brought from her Ecuadorian culture.

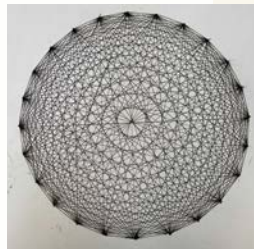
All the elements were made with the kids in a meaningful and respectful way towards the tradition. They listened to stories, drew the elements and learned about the symbols. It was a beautiful space for reflection.

~ Maestra Daniela





Grade 6 work studying math and geometry.



Grade 7 performed "The Phantom Tollbooth" play ~ working on the costumes, set design and lighting in addition to their roles.



Grade 8 painting of the Achafhammi tribal plankhouse. The class visited this site and the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center as part of their Ag Arts class with Ms. Marta.



## Eurythmy Troupe visits CWS

We had a visit and several performances from the Portland Eurythmy Troupe this Fall. The group was able to lead our faculty in an engaging workshop the afternoon they arrived. That evening they performed "Earth: This Being Human" and the next day for the students they performed: "The Woman Who Flummoxed the Fairies." The performances were filled with music, movement, color and a live storyteller. Eurythmy is an expressive movement art originated by Rudolph Steiner.



## Alum Update

Valerie Delos-Reyes, 2019 graduate. My name is Valerie Delos-Reyes and I graduated from CWS in 2019. After Waldorf, I attended Crescent Valley High School where I earned the Global and State Seals of Biliteracy in Spanish and was a valedictorian in the CVHS class of 2023. I am currently a freshman at Hamilton College in Clinton, NY, studying languages and psychology. I'm enjoying exploring topics of my own choosing and in my spare time, playing Dungeons & Dragons with friends.



Mischa Fiske, 2002 graduate. I graduated with my RN in 2013 and spent 10 years working mostly in the ER. Last year I completed my Masters, and have since started working as a Nurse Practitioner at an outreach clinic in the walk-in clinic.

I currently live in Grants Pass with my husband and our two children, the oldest of which was able to start second grade at a Waldorf charter school this year. It has been a really special thing to be able to share this education system with him, and he was surprised to know I remembered some of the songs he sings in class!

I am forever grateful for the education I received at CWS as well as the community that helped raise me.



Are you an alum of CWS? We'd love to hear from you! Email our Enrollment Director Maggie Seldera-Bahnsen at [enrollment@corvalliswaldorfschool.org](mailto:enrollment@corvalliswaldorfschool.org)

## Oaks & Acorns



This Fall we began offering our Parent-Child class again, for children 3 & under. Eileen Chanti leads the very popular 2 hour class on Friday mornings with a mix of ages.

If you are Interested in the Winter term, or know someone who is, contact our Enrollment Director Maggie Seldera-Bahnsen at 541-758-4674 or via email at [enrollment@corvalliswaldorfschool.org](mailto:enrollment@corvalliswaldorfschool.org).



## Learning the Alphabet in First Grade



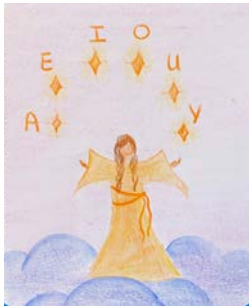
Ms Anna's grade 1 class has been practicing their letters through fairy tales, stories, and exploring the world around them. A recent trip to the forest involved the students pairing consonants with objects they found.



From "Waldorf Education: A Family Guide", first grade:

The year begins with the discovery that behind all forms lie two basic principles: the straight and curved line. The children find these shapes in their own bodies, in the classroom and in the world beyond. The straight and curved line are then practiced through walking, drawing in the air and sand, on the blackboard and finally, on paper. These form drawings train motor skills, awaken the children's powers of observation and provide a foundation for the introduction of the alphabet.

Through fairy tales and stories the children are introduced to each letter of the alphabet. In this way the children experience the development of language in a very concrete yet creative way: instead of abstract symbols the letters become actually characters with whom the children have a real relationship. "S" may be a fairy tale snake sinuously slithering through the grass on some secret errand; the "W" may be hiding in the blackboard drawing of waves.



Our Early Childhood preschool and kindergarten classrooms and play yards are filled with peaceful beauty for play, rest, exploration and nourishment.





In Handwork, Grade 3 and Grade 5 recently dyed their own yarn using indigo, madder root, cochineal, annatto and sappanwood. 3rd graders will use their yarn to crochet hats while the 5th graders will use their yarn to knit socks.

Handwork is one of our Subject Classes that we teach in order to learn practical skills and dexterity but also to further cognitive development. Handwork supports every student's unfolding as a well-balanced individual with self-confidence.



Salmon eggs

Grade 4 has been studying the life cycle of salmon, including Salmon biology, riparian zones, aquatic macroinvertebrates and river water quality.

They were fortunate to work with ODFW to receive a setup for salmon eggs and have been able to watch them emerge from eggs to tiny fish! This drawing is a main lesson book page showing the life cycle.



Grade 3 drawing as part of their work of Creation Stories from Around the World.



## Parent Council Update: Halloween Festival & Winter Light Faire

Our Parent Council launched into the year strong with full leadership and PC reps for each classroom! With energy they've hosted numerous successful events including an end of summer social, Back to School Picnic, several dineouts, and a wonderful Halloween Festival! Our Halloween festival included five skits put on by faculty and one skit by students in grade 7. Cookies and cider in the gym along with the music of Mr. Highfield and crew made it a fun night! Thank you to all of the volunteers that made it possible!

As we gear up for our annual and much loved Winter Light Faire we encourage all to attend! Would you like to volunteer in a craft room or help with candle dipping? Call or email the office to get on the list! Alumni students are welcome! And all are invited to attend the day ~ next Saturday, Dec 9th, from 10 to 4pm at the school.

As we look into the Winter and coming Spring we're eager to continue to increase parent involvement and build community at the school. We have weekly handwork hours and have started an evening handwork hour once a month. Want to get involved but don't know how? Send an email to [parent\\_council@corvalliswaldorfschool.org](mailto:parent_council@corvalliswaldorfschool.org).

