

All-School Meeting ADVANCING OUR VISION

Friday, April 16, 2010 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm

The meeting will begin promptly at 5:30. Please arrive as early as 5:15 to get your children settled into childcare.

Don't let dinner plans prevent you from attending the All-School Meeting! Pizza will be provided to all the children who attend the childcare. A \$5 donation per child is requested, but not required, to cover the costs of the childcare and dinner.

From the Administration

BY LINDA ABELKIS, ADMINISTRATOR

Spring has arrived! I hope that Spring Break brought your family much relaxation and joy. While the quiet office time is a great opportunity to accomplish some long-term projects, the Administrative Staff always looks forward to the return of the students, teachers and parents. Welcome back!

(continued on pg. 2)

April

16th All-School Meeting. 5:30-7:00pm

17th Grounds Workday. 9am-12:30pm
Middle School Dance at Denver
Waldorf School. 7pm-10pm

23rd Grandparent's Day

Narnia Middle School Musical at Nomad Theater

28th (6:30pm)

29th (9:30am
& 6:30pm)

30th (9:30am)

Note
Revised
Dates

May

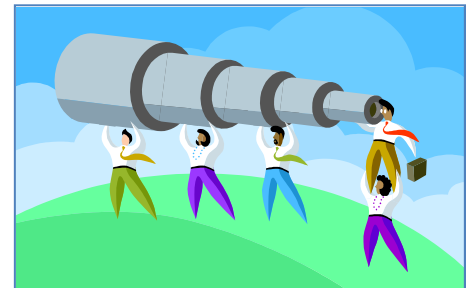
1st May Faire

4th Class Picture Day

7th Music Assembly at First United
Methodist Church in Boulder

Advancing Our Vision

Shepherd Valley Waldorf School
Spring All-School Meeting



Friday, April 16, 2010 • 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

At this annual meeting, attendees will hear from the Board of Trustees and Administration about the 2010/11 plans and the plans for a new direction with our campus master plan. Be informed about the advancement of Shepherd Valley Waldorf School!

Please RSVP in the office or on the kiosk for childcare. Pizza will be provided for children! A \$5 donation per child is suggested to cover the costs of childcare and dinner.

A few updates for you –

- Did you notice the new sign at the entry way to the Boulder Tech Center? Hooray! Thank you to the Boulder Tech Center owners for allowing us to put this sign on the property. Not only will fewer folks get lost on their way to our campus, I hope it provides a welcoming gesture to visitors as they enter an otherwise non-descript center.
- Thank you to **Bill Gruening** and **Chris Menne** for creating a dirt running track on our campus. This track is a great addition to our outdoor physical education program.
- The Third/Fourth Grade building renovation, following the recent flood, is now complete.

At this week's All-School Meeting from 5:30-7:00pm, we will cover topics which impact the future of Shepherd Valley Waldorf School. For that reason, it is called "Advancing Our Vision". While entry signs, running tracks and reconstructed classrooms are progress, we all know that the potential for our campus is much greater than we are currently realizing. With a new focus and new ideas, I look forward to sharing with you an exciting direction that returns us to our roots and is reflective of who we are as a community, school and neighbor.

Also at this meeting, we will discuss the immediate plans for the 2010/11 school year. We currently have 110 contracts which is significantly behind where we started this year, which was 141. Over the past few weeks, the College of Teachers and Board of Trustees have carefully weighed all the options for moving forward. While change is often hard, it is usually a necessary means to an end. Following the All-School meeting, I hope you will agree with me that the changes in store are worth the sacrifice as we all focus on advancing our vision together.

It continues to be a pleasure to serve this community. Please don't ever hesitate to contact me with questions.

Board Update

BY DAVID PICKARD

For those of you who don't know me, I have sons in Second and Sixth Grade and I joined Shepherd Valley Waldorf School's Board of Trustees in January. I wanted to share with you a bit about my experiences joining the Board and an update of recent Board activity.

The Board is the steward of the school; we are responsible for governing the affairs of our school to ensure its long-term success. To accomplish this, the Board works with...

- The College of Teachers, who manage faculty staffing and the curriculum;
- The Administrator, who manages administrative staffing and the daily operation of the school;
- Various committees, who oversee finances, marketing and enrollment, facilities and grounds maintenance, and so forth.

Through this partnership, the Board keeps a finger on the pulse of the school and its community and gathers information in order to make carefully considered decisions about challenges and opportunities.

In March, the Board welcomed new members **Peggy Driscoll** (Sunflower & Second Grade parent) and **Cynthia Weir** (Fifth Grade parent), bringing Board membership to eleven parent and faculty volunteers. I have quickly grown to admire this thoughtful group who are giving many hours of service to the school, trying to ensure that Shepherd Valley students are well educated in a nurturing environment. Although these are lean times, this group and the generous spirit of the many families who help with school activities, continue to fuel my enthusiasm for this school and to assure me that my children are in good hands.

Over the past weeks, the Board has been working on these items:

- Due to unbudgeted and unexpected expenses this school year, and despite a successful auction, the Board and Finance Committee continue to seek solutions to end the fiscal year positively. Part of the consideration is to balance the short-term benefit of changes with the long-term benefit or harm of changes; we don't take lightly decisions that will get us "over the hump" but limit our potential for success in the future. Another consideration is balancing our operating budget with our cash reserve (the school's rainy-day fund); from a fiduciary perspective, this fund must be maintained if needed.
- Speaking of the flood, we all appreciate the patience and flexibility of families and staff to accommodate the shortage of two classrooms.

Restoring classrooms quickly was a focus of the administrative staff; of course, student safety is a prime concern.

- For the coming school year, enrollment is down somewhat from this year and an operating deficit is already foreseen. The Board is considering paths to resolve this based on recommendations from the College and Administrator. We wish families of graduates and other departing families well, and look forward to welcoming some new incoming families.
- The Board continues to pursue campus improvement projects. Pledges from generous donors remain earmarked for capital improvements as part of our recent Capital Campaign. Wait – you say – how can we be discussing campus improvements at the same time we’re trying to resolve a deficit? Remember, the Board’s mission is to work toward achieving both short-term and long-term goals for the school, so we’re exploring ways to make better use of our land resources and to add “curb appeal” to our facilities to make the campus more attractive to visitors and potential enrollees.
- Just prior to spring break, Board members met with members of the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA) regional delegates. Shepherd Valley is partway along a multiyear path to accreditation. AWSNA’s goal is to ensure that Waldorf schools continue to develop and best serve the needs of their geographical communities. The next step Shepherd Valley would take is a self-study in which we would “inventory” and document all aspects of our operations (curriculum, policies, facilities, etc.) for assessment by AWSNA.

For more information about these issues, join us at the All-School Meeting Friday, April 16, 2010 from 5:30 - 7:00pm.

Resignation – Lisa Johnson, Piano Accompanist

We are sorry to report that **Lisa Johnson**, who has served as a talented and committed Piano Accompanist in our Eurythmy and Choir programs for two years, will be unable to complete the semester for health

reasons. We wish her the best and send her healing and warm wishes for her future.

Fortunately, **Pamela Hayoun**, will be substituting throughout the end of the school year. Pam works as the piano accompanist for Shining Mountain Waldorf School and Tara Performing Arts High School.

An Evening with Nancy Poer

Shining Mountain Waldorf School and Natural Transitions is delighted to present an evening with **Nancy Poer**, one of the revered pioneers of Waldorf Education and Anthroposophy in America.

On **TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2010, FROM 7PM TO 9:15PM** Nancy will present the documentary, “The Most Excellent dying of Theodore Jack Heckelman.” She appears in the film with her brother, the subject of the film. The film is a moving and inspirational work that received broad acclaim when it was aired on PBS. Nancy will speak on legal, practical, and spiritual ways to honor and care for loved ones at home, before and after death. Please join us for an informative, uplifting, and deeply heart warming evening with Nancy Poer.

Location: Shining Mountain Waldorf High School, Assembly Hall. 1179 Union Ave. Boulder, Colorado 80304. **(303) 444-7697**

Nancy has helped found a number of threshold groups throughout America, and has written a book, Living into Dying, Spiritual and Practical Deathcare for Family and Community. She recently addressed the California State Hospice conference on the home death movement and has served as a consumer advocate on the end-of-life policy committee for the state of California.

2009/10 Star Publication Schedule

FRIDAY	WEDNESDAY
SUBMISSION DEADLINE	PUBLICATION DATES
Apr. 16	Apr. 21
Apr. 30	May 5
May 14	May 19
May 28	June 2

AUG 2010

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

21st Classroom Workday
27th New Family Orientation and Games Night

SEP 2010

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

1st First Day of School for Grades. Welcome Tea for all Early Childhood families
2nd First Full Day of School for Early Childhood
3rd PTO Meeting
6th Labor Day. No School
10th Back to School Night
11th Niwot Nostalgia Days
18th Grounds Work Day
24th All-School Meeting
29th Michaelmas

OCT 2010

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

2nd Harvest Faire
11th All Culture's Day. No School
31st Halloween Journey

NOV 2010

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

1st All Saint's Day. No School
3rd-5th Grades Parent/Teacher Conferences. 12:40pm dismissal
5th PTO Meeting
11th Class Tour. Martinmas
13th Open House & Grounds Workday
22nd-23rd Early Childhood Parent/Teacher Conferences. No Early Childhood. Afterschool offered.
24th-26th Thanksgiving. No School

DEC 2010

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

3rd PTO Meeting
6th St. Nicholas Day
9th Classroom Tour
13th Santa Lucia Day
16th Shepherd's Play (AM & PM performances)
17th Last Day Before Winter Break. 12:40pm dismissal. No Afterschool

JAN 2011

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

3rd School Resumes
7th PTO Meeting
13th Classroom Tour
17th Martin Luther King Jr. Day. No School
22nd Open House
25th First Grade Readiness
28th Music Assembly & Re-enrollment deadline
31st World Cafe. 6:30pm

FEB 2011

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

1st World Cafe. 8:30am
4th PTO Meeting
10th Classroom Tour
12th Open House & GroundsWorkday
21st-25th Teacher Conference Week. No School

MAR 2011

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

4th PTO Meeting
10th Classroom Tour
11th Curriculum Assembly
14th-16th Grades Parent/Teacher Conferences. 12:40pm dismissal
24th & 31st Grounds Work Afternoon

APR 2011

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

1st PTO Meeting
7th Grounds Work Afternoon
8th All-School Meeting. Grandparent's Day
14th Classroom Tour
15th Last Day Before Spring Break. 12:40pm dismissal. No Afterschool
18th- 29th Spring Break

MAY 2011

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2nd School Resumes
7th May Faire
13th 5th Grade Pentathlon
20th Music Assembly
21st Grounds Workday
27th 6th Grade Medieval Games
30th Memorial Day. No School

JUN 2011

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

7th Last Day of School for Early Childhood. Afterschool offered. Eighth Grade Graduation
8th Last Day of School for Grades. 12:40pm dismissal. No Afterschool

Key

- ▼ **No School.** (Early Childhood & Grades)
- Early Grades Dismissal
- No Early Childhood
- △ Assembly
- 🏠 Open House
- Festival

All dates subject to change.
 Revised 4/13/2010