

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ashwood Waldorf School is thrilled to announce that Michael Braun-Schweizer (Mr. Brown) has been hired as its new music teacher and ensemble conductor. Michael will begin teaching at Ashwood on Monday, February 22nd. Michael was born in Salzburg, Austria and raised in Zürich, Switzerland. Michael had the great fortune to spend the first 14 years of his education at two well-established Waldorf schools, in Zürich and Pforzheim. His parents were deeply involved supporters of Waldorf education. Michael earned a bachelor's degree and teaching certificate in elementary and special education from the Pädagogische Hochschule Zürich. He then went on to get his master's degree in music education from the Mozarteum, Universität Salzburg, and later from Truman State University (MO). In Salzburg, he was a member of the Camerata Academica under Antonio Janigro and toured the U.S. and Canada in 1978, playing NYC Town Hall, The Kennedy Center in DC, Massey Hall in Toronto, and dozens of other venues. After emigrating to the U.S. in 1981 Michael played violin with the Rapid City Symphony (SD), the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra (CO), and the Glens Falls Symphony (NY).

Michael has extensive teaching experience, having worked with early childhood to college-aged students. He has taught in classrooms as well as given private lessons on all strings, recorder(s), clarinet, French horn, hammered dulcimer, and lyre. He has worked at several Waldorf schools both as a class teacher and as a music specialist. In addition to playing music and teaching, Michael has considerable experience conducting orchestras, and directing choirs and theater companies.

Adding to Michael's considerable skills is his ability to make and sell instruments. Michael has built several dozen pentatonic lyres and chromatic hammered dulcimers. He is a skilled builder, with over 12 years of professional experience in home improvement and historic building restoration.

Michael has been a serious student of Anthroposophy, the philosophy developed by Rudolf Steiner in the early part of the 20th century and out of which Waldorf education grew. He loves to discuss and consider just about any subject, so long as there is good debate, energetic thinking, and a willingness to be open to new ideas. Michael currently teaches an online graduate course at Antioch University, Seattle, about the four temperaments of human nature, an idea first developed by the ancient Greeks and taken up anew at the beginning of the 20th century by Steiner in his pedagogical insights into human and child development.

He will be driving from Washington state to Camden in mid-February. Please be sure to say hello when you see him on campus!

– Jody Spanglet, School Director

ALL-SCHOOL MEETING – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH

The All-School Meeting is tomorrow night, Thursday, February 11th, from 6:30-8 p.m. at Carver Hill Gallery, located at 264 Meadow Street in Rockport.

The Board of Trustees will review the school's future enrollment projections as well as several new Board initiatives to address our enrollment needs. Jana Herbener, Enrollment & Marketing Director, will discuss the activities of her office. The new Public Relations Committee will inform us of their plans for the future.

We hope to see you there!

– Richard Ailes, Board of Trustees President

NEW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OFFERED AT ASHWOOD

Ashwood is celebrating its 25 years in midcoast Maine by launching a new scholarship program designed to introduce new families to the school. Called the "25th Anniversary Outreach Scholarship – The Gift of Waldorf Education for the Next Generation," it offers a limited number of one year 75 percent tuition scholarships to first-time students at Ashwood. This program is not need-based. The purpose is to provide an incentive for families interested in Waldorf education to take this step for their children's education, while stimulating growth in the Ashwood student body. It reflects the Board's commitment to maintain eight separate grade-school classes. This scholarship is separate from Ashwood's Tuition Assistance program.

Students who apply for the scholarship will complete the normal application process, which provides opportunities for families to become acquainted with the school through classroom observations and meetings with key faculty members. This program will be available to students entering 1st through 6th grades, and the deadline to apply is June 1st for the 2010-2011 school year.

Please come to the All-School Meeting on Thursday, Feb. 11th from 6:30-8 pm. at Carver Hill Gallery to hear more about this scholarship program and other enrollment initiatives.

– Jana Herbener, Enrollment & Marketing Director

HAVE YOU PICKED UP A TUITION ASSISTANCE PACKET?

Tuition assistance packets are available in the office for families with children enrolling in the grade school. The link to the tuition assistance forms is also available on the Ashwood website. The contracts, deposits, and tuition assistance applications are due March 12th.

HISTORY

In Main Lesson the eighth grade is deeply immersed in U.S. History. We have finished our study of the Civil Rights movement. To supplement our knowledge, each of the eighth graders is currently doing a project on an important event in, or aspect of, U. S. history. We will present our findings to the class in a presentation, as well as draw a picture and write an essay. I am studying women's suffrage, which I think is really interesting. In addition to these projects, we are studying an invention; for example, the bicycle or escalators. Ms. Watson has been helping us in this study also, by assigning each of us a presentation and essay on an important individual in history, like Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln. We have each chosen a biography as well, which we will read over February break, on another influential person such as Nikola Tesla or Al Capone. This block is very exciting and interesting. I am learning a lot about the United States and its fascinating history.

– Emma M., Eighth Grade Student

FLYING WITH PHYSICS

Recently, as part of our physics block, Ethan from the Owls Head Transportation Museum came into our class to teach us about the aerodynamics of a wing. We started off by identifying all the forces that work on an airplane (thrust, drag, lift, and gravity). We then looked at an air foil (the cross-section of a wing) and learned how it created lift as well as the principles behind it. These principles are Bernoulli's effect and Newton's laws of motion. In short, the air foil, when thrust is applied, creates a relatively low pressure zone above it, because as Bernoulli's principle states, as the velocity of a fluid increases, its density decreases, while keeping the original air pressure below. Seeking equilibrium, the denser air below pushes up on the wing. The air foil also sends air down, and Newton tells us that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction, thus when the air is pushed down, the wing is pushed up.

Obviously, the next logical thing to do with our new expertise was to make paper airplanes. With Ethan walking us through it, we were able to apply all the principles of the air foil to our pieces of paper, thus creating the best paper airplanes I have ever had the privilege to toss.

Having Ethan come in to teach us about a new and interesting subject was excellent; learning how to bore the guy next to me on an airplane out of his mind with lectures on pressure zones and Newton's laws was just the icing on the cake!

– Ari, Eighth Grade Student

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

It's time to sign up for your parent-teacher conference. The conferences begin after dismissal on Thursday, March 4th (1:30-5:50 p.m.), and continue from 8:30 a.m.-3:55 p.m. on Friday, March 5th (there is **no school on Friday**). Additional times are available for the Early Childhood and Sixth Grade to accommodate these larger classes. We ask families with two households to be sure to schedule just one parent-teacher conference; this ensures the best communication possible and allows the teachers to meet with all the parents in their class during the scheduled meeting days. Sign-up sheets are in the office; please stop in or call the office at 236-8021 to schedule a conference. Parents are asked to arrive promptly and limit the conference to the scheduled time. **Please remember that no children may be on campus without adult supervision during parent-teacher conferences.** Thank you!



ENROLLMENT & OUTREACH NEWS



TEA & PUPPETS PLAYGROUP

Wednesday, February 24th, 10-11 a.m.

This free playgroup is for children 18 months to three years old who are not currently enrolled at Ashwood. Past and present Parent/Child students are welcome to attend. Children may bring a stuffed animal or doll to the tea party. After tea, Miss Toki will present a puppet show. Space is limited. Call the office, 236-8021, or e-mail enrollment@ashwoodwaldorf.org to save a place at the table.

EARLY CHILDHOOD OPEN HOUSE

Come visit Rosewood on Saturday, February 27th, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. One of the Early Childhood teachers will answer questions about Early Childhood education and how it is manifested at Ashwood. A sample program activity like coloring with beeswax crayons, making butter, grinding grain, molding beeswax, or a simple circle or story will fill out the informal morning. Parents are encouraged to bring their children and experience these activities. All are welcome to attend.

PUPPET SHOW AT CAMDEN LIBRARY

Early Childhood teachers Toki Oshima and Liz Ferrero will present a beautiful story entitled "The Sandal Seller." This Japanese folktale will be performed as a marionette puppet show at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 6th in the Jean Picker Room at the Camden Public Library. All are welcome to attend.

THIRD GRADE DIORAMAS AT THE CAMDEN LIBRARY

The carefully constructed habitat dioramas created by the Third Grade will be on display at the Camden Public Library from February 13th– 28th. Stop by and see these beautiful housing and shelter constructions!

NEW FAMILY – WELCOME FAMILY GET TOGETHER CANCELLED

The New Family - Welcome Family Get Together scheduled for this evening has been cancelled. All new parents are encouraged to attend tonight's PCC meeting at 6 p.m. in the Buttercup Room (see the PCC Corner notes on the following page).

– *The Welcome Committee*

MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENING

Thursday, February 25th, 6-7:30 p.m.

How are Ashwood students prepared for the transition to high school? Where do Ashwood graduates go to high school? What is the curriculum of the middle school? Do the children take tests and have homework? The answer to these and many other questions will be addressed at this evening workshop. Call Jana in the Enrollment Office for more information or to register.

*Please contact Enrollment & Marketing Director
Jana Herbener at (207) 236-8021 or
enrollment@ashwoodwaldorf.org for more info.*

ASHWOOD ANNUAL APPEAL

No independent school relies solely on tuition income to pay its annual expenses. At Ashwood, Annual Appeal donations make up less than four percent of our budget. This is a very low figure for an independent school and it has a direct impact on our school community. The more we have to rely almost totally on tuition to cover the expenses of running the school, the higher the tuition is going to be and our school community will be less economically diverse.

Yesterday members of the Ashwood Board of Trustees committed 100 percent to the Annual Appeal. We need each grade and segment of our school to make the same commitment by donating to this year's Appeal.

Ashwood's ability to receive grant funds is impacted by the level of community participation in our Annual Appeal. As you can imagine, foundations are not eager to contribute to Ashwood if its own community does not. Foundation support is another way for Ashwood to meet its program needs, have an economically diverse community, and manage our tuition.

A successful Annual Appeal starts with each of us. Please join the Board of Trustees and contribute to Ashwood. We all count!

Thank you.

– Richard Ailes, Board of Trustees President

PARENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL (PCC) CORNER

PCC MEETING TONIGHT

Our next PCC meeting is tonight, February 10th, from 6-8 p.m. in the Buttercup Room in the Early Childhood Center. Randi Stein, an Ashwood consultant and a Waldorf remedial specialist, will be joining us for the first half an hour of the meeting to give an overview of remedial education in Waldorf schools. All are welcome to attend!

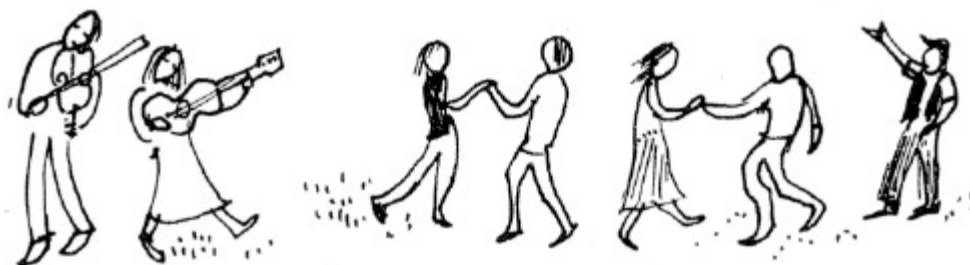
CONTRADANCE

Get ready to dance into spring! We are organizing a contradance for some time in March. Last year's was a lot of fun! Stay tuned for upcoming details.

PARENT CAFÉ

The PCC is at it again! Building on the success of the Stocking Stuffer Supper in December, the PCC will host the first of (hopefully) many Parent Café Evenings on Friday, February 26th from 7-9 p.m. in the third grade classroom (located downstairs in the new building). The Parent Café is a time when parents can gather to enjoy conversation, discuss what's on their mind, and catch up with old friends - without having to huddle together in the cold and wind at pick-up - complete with tasty snacks and warm beverages. Join us as we build our parent community stronger and have fun doing so!

Please contact PCC Chair Tina Mott at tinakmott@hotmail.com for additional information.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Join the Terra Diddle Collective and celebrate the winter sky with dancing, drumming, large puppetry, story and song! The Terra Diddle Collective's new show, "Starry Nights" will appear twice on Monday, February 15th, at 3 p.m. & 4 p.m. (snow date: Tuesday, February, 16th, 3 p.m. & 4 p.m.) in the Cider Barn at the Carver Hill Gallery in Rockport. Admission is \$5. The Terra Diddle Collective performers consist of nine children, ages 7-10, who have just completed a 5-week transformational theater workshop with instructors Kathryn Oliver, an Ashwood parent, and Kristi Williamson. "Transformational theater" refers to the process of creating visual storytelling through structured creative play, song, artwork, and a deep connection to nature. For more information please visit www.terradiddlecollective.com or for questions about the upcoming shows contact Kathryn, kathryn@kathrynoliver.com, or call 763-4038. The Carver Hill Gallery is located at 264 Meadow Street in Rockport.

Primrose Puppets presents The Snow Maiden on Saturday, February 27th at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. at the Gibbs Library in Washington, ME. Come see this Russian folktale performed with marionettes by this talented troupe, including Ashwood student Sylvan E. For more information contact the library at 845-2633 or Ashwood Parent/Child Teacher and puppeteer Joanie Dean at fandj@fairpoint.net.

Register for Waterfall Arts Winter/Spring classes and workshops now! Located at 256 High Street in Belfast, Waterfall Arts offers a variety of youth, adults, and family classes including a Winter Vacation Art Camp offered during the February vacation week! For more information or to register call 338-2222, e-mail info@waterfallarts.org, or ask Ashwood mom Martha Piscuskas, Director of Programming. Detailed descriptions can be found on their website, www.waterfallarts.org.



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Jody Spanglet – Director – ext. 103
Susan Curry – Business Office Manager – ext. 109
Mark Ferrero – Facilities Manager – ext. 102
Jana Herbener – Enrollment & Marketing Director – ext. 105
Lauren Lynch – Administrative Assistant – ext. 101

E-MAIL CONTACTS

Board of Trustees: boardoftrustees@ashwoodwaldorf.org;
Alumni Committee: alumni@ashwoodwaldorf.org;
Parent Community Council: pcc@ashwoodwaldorf.org.

School Office hours are 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
(8 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. on Thursdays)

Thank you to Toki Oshima for artwork used in *The Ashwood Leaflet* and Parent Handbooks.

We encourage your contributions to this bi-weekly school newsletter. Please give submissions, paper or e-mail, to the Administrative Asst. in the office or e-mail newsletter@ashwoodwaldorf.org. Deadline for submissions to *The Ashwood Leaflet* is Monday at 9 a.m.. the week of publication.

February/March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7	8	9	10 6-8 p.m. PCC Meeting 7-8:30 p.m. MASG Study Grp	11 5 th Grade Field Trip 6:30-8 p.m. All-School Meeting - Carver Hill Gallery	12 8:45 a.m. Friday Assembly - 7 th Grade 5 th Grade Returns	13
14 	15	16	17	18	19	20
Winter Vacation Ashwood Closed						
21	22 9 a.m. Ashwood Leaflet Submissions Deadline	23 6 p.m. 1 st Grade Parent Evening	24 Ashwood Leaflet Published 10-11 a.m. Tea & Puppet Playgroup 7-8:30 p.m. MASG Study Grp	25 6-7:30 p.m. Middle School Evening 7:30-8:30 p.m. 5 th Grade Parent Meeting	26 8:45 a.m. Friday Assembly - 1 st Grade 7-9 p.m. PCC Parent Café	27 10 a.m.-12 noon Early Child Open House
28	1	2 6:30 p.m. 2 nd Grade Parent Evening	3 7-8:30 p.m. MASG Study Grp	4 1:30-5:50 p.m. Parent-Teacher Conferences	5 No School 8:30-3:55 Parent-Teacher Conferences	6 

We encourage you to post this calendar in a visible place in your home. Thank you!