

PARTICIPATING IN THE ANNUAL APPEAL

Dear Ashwood Community Members,

Participating in the Ashwood Annual Appeal is about community. Having a high level of participation in our Annual Appeal helps the school show outside funding sources how strong our community is, and the vital role it plays in the life and health of Ashwood. Having a high level of participation also reinforces the strength of our community to our own selves.

Below is an anonymous letter that includes an offer from a current family—I hope one of many:

"I'm from one of those families within the Ashwood community who, whenever the Annual Appeal comes up, debate whether or not our \$5, \$10, or \$20 is even worth sending. It's the idea of 100% participation that gets me writing the check every year. And also what got me thinking there might be a way that I, though our gift is small, could encourage everyone to do the same. How energizing would it be to have 100% of us supporting, in whatever way is appropriate for our family, the community in which our children are educated to become the full, intelligent, inquisitive, creative beings that they are? We are that strong. I see it at assemblies, all school meetings, on campus in the morning, in the office when I walk in, and most especially in the success of the Capital Campaign.

This year, I'd like to give up my coffee, yarn, book, and breakfast out budget (all things I love almost as much as Ashwood) for three months to match \$100 of small donations. ALL of us coming together? It's worth the little I'll give up. Maybe your family could do the same next week?"

It's not how "much" you give . . .

Thank you.

– 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; the deadline to apply is June 1st for the 2010-2011 school year.

– Jana Herbener, Enrollment & Marketing Director

CONTRACTS, DEPOSITS, AND TUITION ASSISTANCE DEADLINES

Contracts, deposits, and tuition assistance applications are due Friday, March 12th. Please return your completed contract with the deposit to the office, along with the Ashwood tuition assistance application and necessary documentation, if applicable. The School and Student Service for Financial Aid (SSS) tuition assistance forms are due to SSS on this date, too. Please remember that in order to be considered for tuition assistance, children must be enrolled (contract and deposit received) by the Friday, March 12th deadline.

YURTS?

A little while ago the Seventh Grade went on yurt trip to Brownfield, Maine. The yurts were actually quite nice, but very small. We rented two yurts with three bunk beds in each. The second day there we went cross-country skiing on the nearby trails. Later in the day we hiked up a mountain and sledged down. The ride down was very exhilarating and treacherous. The next day, after a good night's sleep, we packed up and headed off to Shawnee Peak to go downhill skiing and snowboarding.

– *Arlen, Seventh Grade Student*

SEWING: PIECE BY PIECE

Handwork this year has been very different from previous years. We have a very long term project that we have been working on since the beginning of the school year. We have been making our own pajamas from start to finish!

We made a visit to Mardens to pick out fabric at the beginning of the year. All of us in the eighth grade picked out different fabric to make our pajamas. The patterns ranged widely from Elvis Presley to bucking broncos. We have all learned about sewing machines and how they function. There are many complex parts to sewing; we learned how to thread and take care of machines to keep them running smoothly. All of us are at different stages, some people are cutting out the fabric, some are sewing, and some are done with the pants. We each have our own sewing machine, thanks to the school, so we can progress faster. There is only one handwork teacher, Ms. Wenckus, but she gets around to each of us and helps us individually when we need her assistance. Thanks to Ms. Wenckus, I have finished my PJ pants and worn them already during a pajama day in our class.

– *Mika, Eighth Grade Student*

SEVENTH GRADE WRITINGS

Bushagw

As I entered the hut, I could feel Bushagw's piercing stare follow me as I looked around, dumbfounded. Ever since I had been captured by her tribe I had feared this day, the day I would be used as a human sacrifice to their pitiless gods.

Bushagw had been the one who was intent on bringing death to me, the most painful death she could think of. I am about to find out what that will be. She will probably set her possessed snakes on me. I don't even want to think about it anymore. I am terrified now as Bushagw just sits there staring with her icy, black eyes and her coal black snake. I can hear the sounds of chanting and drumming outside the hut...

– *Lydia*

Who Came Before?

Hundreds of people have been here before us, for hundreds of years, and hundreds will come after us for hundreds of years to come. The people who were here before could be Native Americans or little kindergarteners, but the people I'm thinking of is us, our class, seven years ago in first grade.

For some reason our little brains thought this stream was so cool. We would always ask our teachers to come here and we would roll up our pants and wade in, or sometimes we wouldn't care if our clothes got wet and we would just jump right in and come out soaking wet. Even in the winter we would visit the stream in our big puffy coats and snow pants.

Now, seven years later, we still like to come here, not to play, but to have a break from classes. It doesn't seem as big anymore and we don't have our little kid brains anymore, so it just doesn't seem so special anymore.

– *Emma*

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

EARLY CHILDHOOD OPEN HOUSE

Come visit Rosewood on Saturday, February 27th, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Toki Oshima, the Early Childhood teacher, will answer questions about Waldorf 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.

WALK THROUGH THE GRADES

Wednesday, March 17th, 8:15-10:30 a.m.

This guided tour of our grade school classes will start with half an hour in the first grade. We'll then visit three other classes before spending time with our School Director, Jody Spanglet, for the question and answer session. Space is limited so please call the office to register, 236-8021.

PUPPET SHOW AT CAMDEN LIBRARY – NEW DATE

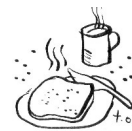
On Saturday, March 20th, Early Childhood teachers Toki Oshima and Liz Ferrero will present a beautiful story entitled "The Sandal Seller" at 10:30 a.m. in the Jean Picker Room at the Camden Public Library. This Japanese folktale will be performed with marionettes. All are welcome to attend.

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.

BAKER NEEDED



One dozen muffins or a loaf of quick bread would be so greatly appreciated by our next Walk Through the Grades group! If you can offer this to us, please contact Jana in the Enrollment Office at 236-8021. Thanks!

THIRD GRADE DIORAMAS AT THE CAMDEN LIBRARY

Have you stopped by the Camden Public Library to see these beautiful housing and shelter constructions? If not, time is running out! The dioramas will be on display through February 28th.

TUITION ASSISTANCE DEADLINE REMINDER

The deadline to apply for Tuition Assistance for the 2010-2011 school year is March 12th. Please pick up an application in the school office.

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

PARENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL (PCC) CORNER

NEXT PCC MEETING

Our next meeting is fast approaching! It is Wednesday, March 10th from 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the Buttercup Room. We will be doing a lot of fun planning for the May Faire, as well as for other upcoming events.

CONRADANCE – SATURDAY, MARCH 6TH

Come one and all (all ages) and share together the joys of dancing and music with our Ashwood community. NO experience is needed. Chrissy Fowler (creator of Belfast Flying Shoes) dances, with over 20 years of experience calling family dances and our own Toki Oshima and John Pranio and others will provide us with delightful tunes! Bring your dancing shoes and light finger-food snack to share and be part of a fabulous night. Dancing is on Saturday, March 6th from 6-8 p.m. in the Buttercup Room in the Rosewood Early Childhood Center. Please bring inside shoes for dancing. Suggested donations to fundraise and cover costs: \$10 -\$20 per family. See you there!

PARENT CAFÉ – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

The PCC is hosting the first Parent Café Evening this 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—complete with tasty snacks and warm beverages. Join us as we build our parent community stronger and have fun doing so!

PARENT SERVICES DIRECTORY

Please turn the page to read about the new Parent Services Directory being compiled by the PCC. We had too much news for one page – a very good sign of the many activities and ventures of the PCC!

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

PCC STEERING COMMITTEE

I am delighted to share with you the exciting news that the PCC has decided to form a Steering Committee, as I depart my role of PCC Chair next month. This Committee is made up of enthusiastic parent volunteers: Jen DeJoy, Kim Sampson, Sarah Smith, and Kristen Eckmann. When you see them, please give them a big “THANK YOU” as they continue the positive and rewarding work of the PCC.

– Tina Mott, PCC Chair

“THE SPRING PARADE”- WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

This spring the PCC will host a second workshop with Margrethe Ulvik, a professional multidisciplinary artist and art therapist who has practiced for many years in Waldorf schools in Norway, the U.S. and Québec. The workshop will be Saturday, March 27th, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Ashwood. The cost will be on a sliding scale from \$60 - \$90. Please pay at the level most comfortable for you; proceeds support the PCC. **No previous artistic/watercolor experience necessary.** Contact Sarah Smith to enroll, 338-0730 or sarahwilliamssmith@gmail.com, by March 19th. Space is limited. Below is a note from Margrethe to our community:

Dear Parents and Friends of Ashwood Waldorf School,

The New Year has already moved in loud! So here I suggest another Saturday of “ACTIVATING THE SILENCE” by working consciously with the colors. And everyone is welcome regardless of experience. Last fall when I came and gave a painting workshop I was so delighted by your enthusiasm for the colors and it was a real treat for me to be guiding you. Last workshop we worked with the primary colors. This time I suggest we take a step further and explore some of the endless possibilities of color spaces in-between the “mother colors.” I will prepare guidelines for you, concrete enough to make you feel safe and wide enough to encourage your personal research.

*Best regards,
Margrethe*

ASHWOOD PARENT SERVICES DIRECTORY UNDERWAY

The Ashwood Parent Community Council (PCC) is creating a directory of businesses and services offered by people in the school community. If you would like your business/service/talent(s) to be included in the Parent Services Directory, please read on!

Each business or service listing costs \$5 per year to cover costs (we will print copies for the school office and the library for borrowing, and whatever is left over will go into PCC savings...we are thinking this can work as a PDF resource and we can save a couple of trees by printing fewer copies). Please drop \$5 into the envelope in the office (if you pay by check, please make the check out to Ashwood PCC), and send your info to Jen DeJoy by March 5, 2010.

There are two ways to send info: 1) Pick up a form in the office at school, fill it out, and return it to the school office; or, 2) send your information via e-mail to: dejoyjen@yahoo.com. Don't forget, please submit your info by March 5th.

The Directory will be available in late April in PDF format. Please include your e-mail address so we can send you the final Directory. Thank you!

Business or Individual's Name:

Business or Service Description (short):

Business or Service Expanded Description (20-30 words):

Contact Person(s):

Contact Telephone:

Contact Email:

Address, if applicable:

Ashwood Connection (i.e. Ashwood Class, Parent, Faculty Member, Alumnus, Alumni Parent, etc.):

Send PDF Directory to (email address, if different from above):

We look forward to receiving your listing!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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.

Recovering Childhood for 21st Century Children: A Public Talk by Joan Almon will take place on Thursday, March 4th at 7 p.m. at Merriconeag Waldorf School in the Community Hall, Grade School Campus, 57 Desert Road, Freeport. Joan Almon is a co-founder and director of the U.S. Alliance for Childhood and a Waldorf preschool and kindergarten teacher in Maryland for 18 years. She will speak about the "growing gap between our understanding of what children need for a healthy and creative childhood and the actual practices and policies that deeply affect children's lives."

CLASSIFIED ADS

Lost but hopefully found: Last Spring, two separate bags of hand-sized balls, used for eurythmy, were left in the Buttercup Room of the ECC by a visiting eurythmy teacher, Kristin Ramsden. One bag contained about 2 dozen wooden balls. The bag was recovered with about half of the original collection of balls, but we are wondering if anyone knows where the missing ones went. The second bag disappeared entirely, and it contained a smaller number of copper balls. We are also trying to track those down. If anyone has any memory of seeing these items, or knows where they are now, would you please contact Susan Junge (236-0505) or Bridget Qualey (236-2019).

Wanted: to borrow a slide projector for about a month. Please contact Andrew (Mr. Purdom) at 342-5678.

SEVENTH GRADE WRITINGS (CONTINUED)

The Lime Industry

Back in the day when the lime industry was grand,
Back in the day when kilns ruled the land.
Men toiled all day for \$10.50 a week,
I do believe that pay sounds quite meek.
The lime would be shipped to many a far place,
The workers aboard would prob'ly not wear lace.
For as a more dangerous job this would be hard to top,
But the men needed work and they could not stop.
Until one day when no one was around,
The kilns caught on fire and burnt to the ground.

– Arlen

My Most Prized Place

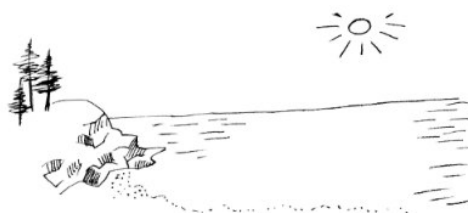
My most prized possession is a thing you can feel and touch, you can walk on it, and sail on its waters. You can ski and snowboard on a small and very special mountain with views of the beautiful ocean. What is this thing? It's a place and a place it can only be. The question is what place? It is the coast of Maine where the mountains meet the sea. The sea so clear with small and cluster islands. When you sail the exquisite Penobscot Bay you never have to worry about losing sight of land. All the little islands are scattered off the water's edge.

In the winter you can skate on small ponds or the large Megunticook Lake. There is also a good amount of snow for skate skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, and of course, downhill skiing. In the summer you can swim in warm freshwater or in the colder salty ocean. There are beautiful old schooners on which you can explore the expansive Penobscot Bay for a day or a week.

Camden Hills is a beautiful state park that you can investigate. You can go to the top of Mt. Battie or Mount Megunticook and see gorgeous views of the bay. A short hike up Beech Hill is another great choice. The hill is surrounded by blueberry fields and when you get to the top there is a hut that they just restored. Usually, you can see great views of the ocean.

The Camden area is my most prized place because of its extraordinary beauty. I would love to travel to other parts of the world but I will always want to come back to the place where the mountains meet the sea.

– Sonia



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
21	22 	23	24 7-8:30 p.m. MASG Study Grp	25 9-10:30 a.m. 7 th & 8 th grades Drumming Workshop 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 MASG Study Grp	4 1:30-5:50 p.m. Parent-Teacher Conferences	5 No School 8:30-3:55 Parent-Teacher Conferences	6 6-8 p.m. PCC Contradance
7	8 9 a.m. Ashwood Leaflet Submissions Deadline	9 7-9 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting	10 Ashwood Leaflet Published 8:30-10:30 a.m. PCC Meeting 10-11 a.m. Tea & Puppets Playgroup 7-8:30 p.m. MASG Study Grp	11	12 8:45 a.m. Friday Assembly - 2 nd Grade	13
14	15	16	17 8:15-10:30 a.m. Walk Through the Grades 7-8:30 p.m. MASG Study Grp 	18 5:30 p.m. 3 rd Grade Play	19 No School Faculty Work Day	20

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

Grab your knitting needles!
Get ready to participate in The Ashwood Waldorf School Knit-a-thon!

Why a knit-a-thon? Because we are a creative community that enjoys each other's company! Knitting is a way for us to remember and share one of the many ways that Waldorf education works; knitting develops fine motor skills, requires focused will, necessitates practical math, and produces a beautiful expression from the knitter. The money raised for the school will help it deliver the Waldorf education that we all value so much, and a pile of knitted squares that will be stitched into blankets and given to a local charity.

We are going to knit as many 8" squares as we can, get as many sponsors as we can to pledge as much money per knitted square that we can! We will knit on our own, we will knit as families, we will gather at "stitch-in" parties and knit as a community.

If 50 of us knit, and we each encourage 10 friends, family or community members to sponsor us \$5 per square, and we each knit 10 squares... we will raise \$25,000 for our school!

One special blanket will be auctioned off, and passage for two aboard one special knitting cruise on the Schooner J&E Riggin in either June or September will be raffled at the conclusion of the fundraiser - the Cast-Off party! All knitters and sponsors will be eligible for entry in this very special raffle! We will have until March 26th to knit and collect pledges. All will be welcome and everyone should mark calendars to admire our handiwork and celebrate our success at a **Cast-Off Party** to be held on March 27th at Carver Hill Gallery. (Details to come)

Please participate. Here's how:

- Start knitting! Fill out the attached form. Begin inviting friends, family and members of your community to sponsor you
- Help a knitter solicit and collect pledges
- Sponsor a knitter
- Host a "stitch-in" gathering
- Assist in stitching the knitted squares into blankets
- Help with the Cast-off party

If you are a knitter, you can begin knitting now!

Knitting Instructions:

8-inch square

#9 US needles

Cast on 30 stitches

Knit each row until you have a square*

Bind off

****weave in ends****

* to see if you have a square, lay your knitting on a flat surface with the needle holding the working yarn at the top. Take the bottom, left corner and fold it diagonally up to the top, right of the knitting. This will form a triangle. If you have two, even triangles on top of each other - or if the top and right edges line up with no extra peeking out - then you have a square.

8-inch square:

Larger needles and/or larger yarn

Use the same pattern but cast on fewer stitches

Smaller needles or smaller yarn

Use the same pattern but cast on more stitches

- Use only natural fiber yarn
- you are welcome to knit patterns into your squares
- your squares do not have to match each other
- worsted weight to bulky weight is better than really thin or really thick yarn

Upcoming Stitch-ins:

March 4 6:00 - 9:00pm

Hosted by Carlie Cloyd at her home 340 Belfast Road, Camden
RSVP cmcloyd@roadrunner.com

March 14 2:00 - 5:00pm

Hosted by Hannah Demmons at her home 8 Winter St, Rockport
RSVP hannah.starr@gmail.com

more to come!

Please join the fun! Please let us know that you are participating by emailing or calling Hannah, Carlie or Annie.

Questions? Need help getting sponsors? Plan to host a Stitch-in? Contact Hannah Demmons at hannah.starr@gmail.com, Carlie Cloyd at cmcloyd@roadrunner.com, or Annie Mahle at annieandjon@riggin.com

