

180 Park Street • Rockport, ME 04856 • www.ashwoodwaldorf.org • phone: 207-236-8021 • fax: 207-230-2423

KNIT-A-THON WRAP-UP

In a short two and a half weeks, 181 people and seven businesses created 154 squares and five blankets and raised close to \$5,000!

Look at what we did! Imagine what we could do with more time! Good job and thank you to everyone who participated in ANY way. Don't discount your effort, it was enough. It was more than enough. The blankets were given to New Hope for Women last Friday by the leaders of our student body—the 8th grade. It's a good feeling to know that they might be a small comfort to someone who dearly needs it.

Special thanks go to:

All of the knitters who put their hands to work in creativity and THEN found the sponsors to boot.

Each and every one of you who sponsored, by saying "yes" to a knitter who asked or by finding a knitter and volunteering without them having to ask.

Hope Spinnery and Swans Island Blankets for the gorgeous yarn.

Carver Hill for their perfect, blanket-sewing space.

Sasha Laurita for terrific, blanket-sewing sustenance.

Carlie Cloyd for all of the details.

The Board and Faculty for 100% participation!

All of the children who brought home more flyers than they thought were possible in such a short time.

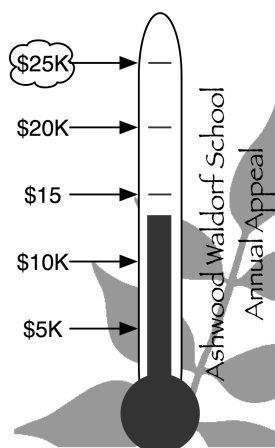
All of you who read those flyers!

Not all of the numbers are in, so if you've sponsored someone, it's not too late to find them and follow through with your commitment. If you've got squares still hanging out there, bring 'em in, we'll use them somehow. It's also not too late to have 100% participation in each class. Many classes are just one or two families shy of 100%. Just a tiny bit puts it over the top. You could be the tipping point.

Lastly, the winner of the trip for two Schooner J. & E. Riggin Knitting Cruise Raffle is: Jessie Laurita-Spanglet. Congratulations, Jessie!

– The Knit-a-Thon Committee – Annie Mahle and Carlie Cloyd

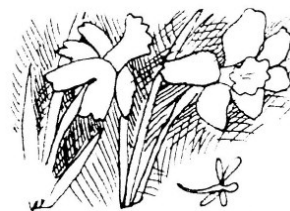
ANNUAL APPEAL



Spring is here; please share the warmth and donate!

LEAFLET PUBLICATION DATE CHANGES

The Ashwood Leaflet will not be published on Wednesday, April 21st due to Spring Vacation. The next issue of *The Ashwood Leaflet* will be issued on Wednesday, April 28th. Newsletter submissions will be due by 9 a.m. on Monday, April 26th. Mark your calendars!



EIGHTH GRADE ESSAYS

The eighth grade students recently studied Asian geography. Here are some samples of their writings about the monsoons.

The first thing I heard when I awoke was the young boys and girls in the streets, making as much noise as they could, yelling with joy. When I got up and went over to the window, I saw they were dancing and running about in a frenzy of anticipation, occasionally pointing to something in the southwest and laughing. I had lived here for long enough to know what the little children of the village were so excited about, but like every other time the rain came, I had to see it for myself. I dressed myself hurriedly, anxious to see the water falling in the distance, and went outside. There it was, a wall of slanting lines under great grey thunderheads headed in our direction. All around, the village was alive with children, while the adults prepared to collect the liquid that seemed so blessed after the drought which had lasted for so long.

When the rain came, everyone, children and elders alike, was outside in the sheets of water pouring from the heavens. Looking around with my hand held up to shield my eyes, I could see the children playing, completely soaked but with huge grins on their faces, as they spun round and round, or played games which lost their charm when played in dry weather. Being too old for such fun, I stood aside with friends I had known since childhood, remembering the days when it had been our generation spinning and spinning and spinning until we could not keep our feet under ourselves, and then falling to the ground, laughing away all the sorrows of life. I felt a joy in my body that came only twice every year, with the Northeast and Southwest Monsoons, and though dulled with age, I laughed like a child again. The Monsoons had come.

– *Duncan*

Twice every year, the villagers put down their plows and shovels. They trade work for play, and the dusty streets are transformed into a wild and muddy party. Everyone, save the oldest grandparents and tenderest babies, charges into the pouring rain to begin the wild merry-making.

In the weeks leading up to the monsoon rains, every free moment is spent squinting at the sweltering horizon. The sun seems intent on burning the very dirt on the ground. Every morning I leap out of bed before the sun has risen and race to the window to peer expectantly at the sky. I see the clear blue and sigh, knowing that it will be another day of dusty labor in the sweltering heat. Tensions are high in town, my grandparents—not happy with my early morning bounding to the window—testily kick me out of the house, before even the birds are awake. In the streets, I join most of my friends, who share similar plights due to upsetting their slumbering parents. As the rest of the village stumbles sleepily outside to find the horizon a clear and flawless blue, there is a mounting sense of disappointment.

You can imagine my excitement when one day as I leaped over my sleeping family to examine the heavens, I found a tentative but determined looking cloud sleeping in the West. I woke my entire family with my jumping and hollering, and it was not long before the entire village was hugging and celebrating in the streets. Work for the next few days progressed slowly, as everyone was forever glued to the clouds mustering in the distance. Everyone nowadays was waking up hours before the sun, and sticking a hopeful head out the door to check for leaky skies.

The fuse had been lit in my village, and finally, mercifully, the sky opened up and the town exploded. The heavens seemed intent on carrying away the entire village in a river of mud, and we were happy to go with it. All work was put on hold, and all the tension that was building was washed away in the deluge. My friends and I, the youth of the village, sloshed and played until we could no longer stand, at which point we would haul ourselves through the streets and collapse on the floor in our houses. Sometimes, I felt that the streets were flowing not with water, but with pure joy.

– *Ari*

It was monsoon season, once again. I could tell; the cattle, so near my bedroom, were mooing more than usual, and my parents and grandparents smiled at me more. This was the time of waiting for the rain, the time of holding your breath when you looked at the sky, the time of praying that you would be drenched soon with the water that kept all of us alive.

Then one Wednesday in June it happened. It was sunny in the morning, sticky and humid. I longed for a drink as I tended the cows. As I helped my mother prepare lunch, chopping vegetables and mixing dough, I heard a shout from outside. It was my father, his shirt transparent from the water that fell from the sky in torrents. My mother flung aside her knife and rushed out the door, almost bowling over my grandmother, who had been woken from her nap by the commotion. Mother flung her arms around my father, and my grandparents pulled each other around in a gleeful circle.

I joined my brothers in chanting, laughing as we caught drops in our mouths. It was the best gift we could have, this rain. I spun, intoxicated by the wet on my face. My eldest brother came to lift me on his back. I returned the favor, nearly dropping him in the process. Together, we fell into a heap, looking up at the pouring sky as water clouded our vision blissfully.

– Emma M.

PARENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL (PCC) CORNER

NEXT PCC MEETING

Wednesday, April 14th, 6-8 p.m.

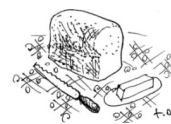
All are welcome to attend the next PCC meeting on Wednesday evening, April 14th. Second Grade teacher Jayashree Kalmath will offer a short presentation on Three-Fold Social Order in Waldorf education during the first half-hour of our meeting. As humans, we share the plant, animal, and mineral kingdoms and these lead to feeling, thinking, and willing in us all. Jayashree will answer 'How is Waldorf education enriching the thinking, feeling and willing qualities in children?' Join us at 6 p.m. in the Conference Room to learn more!

THE PCC NEEDS YOUR EGGS

Do you have chickens or ducks? Do you bake bread? This year at May Faire the PCC will offer take-home eggs and bread for sale. If you or someone you know would like to donate eggs and/or a loaf or two of bread to the PCC, please contact Kristen Eckmann at 299-4015 or by e-mail at eckyobject3@mac.com.

IF YOU LOVE CAKE, THIS IS THE JOB FOR YOU!

The PCC is holding the first-ever Mother's Day Cake Walk at May Faire. We are looking for cakes of all shapes, sizes, and flavors (one stipulation: **no nuts, please**). The sky is the limit. Be creative! Make them fantastic! Call Kristen Eckmann at 299-4015 or e-mail eckyobject3@mac.com. We are hoping for at least ten cakes. Can you top a cake that looks like a teapot?



CALLING ALL ARTISTS AND CRAFTERS

The PCC is pleased to announce the expansion of the vendors' section at May Faire! If you are a maker of Waldorf-inspired items, or are a visual artist, or just create some really cool handmade stuff and you would like to peddle your wares at May Faire, you may have your own booth or add a few items to the group tent. Please contact Kate Chandler for more information at orangeironfabrications@gmail.com or call 273-3267.

Please contact Jen DeJoy, PCC Steering Committee member, at dejoys@gwi.net for additional PCC information.

ENROLLMENT & OUTREACH NEWS

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, April 10th, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Ashwood Waldorf School, along with the other schools from the Independent School Association (ISA), will take part in a campus open house on Saturday, April 10th. Ashwood's faculty will answer questions about Waldorf education and the programs offered at the school. This year we will be able to showcase our beautiful new grade school building. Parents may view student work, speak to grade school faculty, and tour the grade school building. In the Early Childhood center, sample program activities like coloring with beeswax crayons, grinding grain, molding beeswax, or a simple circle or story will take place. Children can make a simple craft to take home with them. Parents are invited to bring their children to experience the school and these activities. All are welcome to attend!

WALK THROUGH THE GRADES

Wednesday, April 14th, 8:15 – 10:30 a.m.

This is a wonderful opportunity for adults to experience Waldorf education first-hand by seeing Ashwood's grade school students and faculty in action. Both current parents and new folks are invited to this tour, which includes an overview of the curriculum and a question and answer session. Space is limited; please call the office at 236-8021 or e-mail enrollment@ashwoodwaldorf.org to register.

OPEN HOUSE SNACKS NEEDED!

We are looking for bakers who can provide cookies, quick breads, or muffins for our Open House guests this Saturday, April 10th. Donations of cider, juice or sparkling water would also be gratefully accepted! Donations can be dropped off in the office on Friday. Please contact Jana Herbener in the enrollment office (236-8021 ext. 105) if you can help. Thanks!

ENROLLMENT CONTRACTS DUE

If we have not yet received your enrollment contract for the 2010-2011 school year, please return it with the deposit to the office soon as possible. Much of our planning and support for the next school year is based on projected enrollments for each class.

CENTER FOR MAINE CONTEMPORARY ART STUDENT EXHIBIT

Each spring, the Center for Maine Contemporary Art (CMCA) presents work from seven local public and private schools, including works from kindergarten through high school. Once again Ashwood will participate in this show that will run from May 1st– 8th. This is a fabulous opportunity to show the entire community the creativity and skills Ashwood students have developed! Help will be needed to hang our students' artwork during the week of April 25th. Please contact Jana Herbener in the Enrollment Office if you can help.

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Rockport Public Library's Artist Trading Card (ATC) Club will meet on April 17th from 2–4 p.m. ATCs are small works of art the size of a playing card, made and traded amongst artists of all ages and skill levels. Paper arts techniques learned at Club meetings are readily used in journaling, scrapbooking and gift card making. In April, local artist Robinsunne (assisted by librarian and Ashwood mom, Iris Eichenlaub) will teach zentangle doodling ("Zen" as in the meditation practice, and "tangle" as in the tangled web our pens do weave). Club membership is open to all, and basic art materials and instruction will be provided at no cost. Participants may bring their favorite scissors, glue, and personal ATC collection for voluntary trading at the end of the meeting. For further information call the Rockport Public Library at 236-3642.

COMMUNITY EVENTS - CONTINUED

A three week transformational theater summer camp for children ages 8 - 12 years old, taught by Kathryn Oliver and Kristi Williamson with musical guest, Noah Gabriel. The camp will interweave expressive movement, dance, art, theater, and music and the last week will culminate with three performances, including one in the beautiful Camden Amphitheatre. Camp dates: July 26th-August 11th (Monday thru Friday) from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Performance dates: August 11th, 12th, & 13th from 6-7 p.m. Amphitheatre rain date: Sunday, August 15th at 4 p.m.. Price: Sliding scale, \$425 - \$495. Location: The Williamsons' Barn, 46 John Street, Camden. The Play: "Prince Magian and The Golden Feather," written by Kathryn Oliver and inspired by a Russian folk tale with original musical compositions by Kristi Williamson and Noah Gabriel. To reserve a space for your child call Kathryn at 763-4038 or e-mail: kathryn@kathrynoliver.com. Limited to 17. For more info: www.terraddiddlecollective.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Assistance needed with woodworking project: I'd like to build a tree platform, stairway, and bridge in my backyard. I know what I want but need a grownup to help me. Helper would need to be able to work well with me (and not take over all the ideas). I'll need help choosing the right materials, constructing and installing all parts, making sure everything is safe, and ensuring structural integrity for what we build. I'd like to do this project after spring break and before summer vacation. If you can be my adult assistant, please contact Japheth via my Mom's e-mail: beverlyscott@myfairpoint.net. Thank you.

We're cleaning out our barn and have the following items for sale: **Bunkbed**, simple dark-stained pine, two single beds. FREE if you can come get it from our house in Belfast; **Toddler bed**, the sweetest thing ever. Simple blue painted-wood bed frame fits a crib mattress and sits very low to the ground. Easy in and out, no big falls, built by a good friend and used for all three of our boys. **Bike seat** to ride your little one around on behind you, made by Rhode Gear. **Stroller** with moderately big wheels, very comfy lining, big basket, made by Century. **Two high-backed booster seats** to be used with a regular car seat belt; one made by Century, one by Cosco. Make us an offer on any of these items. We want to move them, so no offer is too low! Contact Liz Snider, 322-5032, liz_snider@msn.com for more info.



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.

April 2010

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 4  | 5 | 6 | 7 6 p.m. 1 st Grade Parent Evening | 8 | 9 8:45 a.m. Friday Assembly - 4 th Grade 3:15 p.m. 4 th Grade Block Party | 10 9 a.m.-1 p.m. ISA Open House at Ashwood |
| 11 | 12 | 13 6 p.m. 6 th Grade Parent Evening | 14 8:15-10:30 a.m. Walk Through the Grades 6-8 p.m. PCC Meeting | 15 | 16 8:45 a.m. Friday Assembly - 2 nd Grade Play | 17 |
| 18  | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| <p style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">Spring Vacation</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em;">Ashwood Closed</p> | | | | | | |
| 25 | 26 9 a.m. <i>Ashwood Leaflet</i> Submissions Deadline | 27 | 28 <i>Ashwood Leaflet</i> Published | 29 Campus Beautification Day | 30 8:45 a.m. Friday Assembly - 6 th Grade | |

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