

### FROM THE DIRECTOR

Last week I had the good fortune to lead a group of eight staff members from the Kieve Wavus Leadership School, located in Nobleboro, Maine, through a Walk Through the Grades tour, with a special emphasis on grades five through eight. As some of you may remember, our middle school spent a week at Kieve last fall and will return next fall for the annual middle school trip. Susan Gendron, Maine Commissioner of Education, made the following comments about Kieve:

“Can one non-profit affect the culture of education in Maine? I believe the Leadership School at Kieve is doing just that. Over a quarter of Maine’s public school graduates have built relationships, experienced challenges, and developed the confidence to be responsible leaders. The curriculum is ahead of the curve, responsible to the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century students and public institutions of Maine, drawing meaningful connections between research and the real world of educating the whole child, and outfitting students for the myriad transitions ahead. The Leadership School is an essential resource for teachers, administrators, and students alike, leading by example along the path toward rigor and relevance in our schools. The Leadership School’s commitment to Maine makes an enormous difference and we depend on it.”

The Kieve staff was highly inspired by our students, our school building, and our teachers. They were struck by the students’ enthusiasm, the academic rigor, and depth of the learning that is taking place at Ashwood. One leader commented to me that Ashwood kids were her all-time favorite of the students who had attended their program. At the question and answer session at the end of the tour a prospective parent asked me, “What differentiates Waldorf middle schoolers from others?” Lucky for me, I was thinking on my feet and invited our Kieve guests to respond since they are in a better position to make this contrast than I am. Every one of the leaders spoke up. They spoke of independence and motivation. They related that our students are filled with self-confidence and the willingness to take risks. They commented on how sensitive our students are to the needs of others and how they really took care of each other. They related how they approached problems collaboratively and creatively, coming up with solutions that the staff had never seen or conceived of but that really worked. One woman related that one of our students had taught her how to knit a hat. Another related that one of our students had suggested singing as a warm up exercise, and how the others took to it keenly. At the end, two of the staff stayed to ask me about becoming Waldorf teachers and one individual wanted to know more about the spiritual basis of Waldorf education, Anthroposophy.

At the end of the session I was flying high, just beaming with pride for our students: your children. While we each notice these wonderful qualities on a daily basis, as we are also working on all of the challenges one encounters with growing and evolving young people, hearing such unbridled praise for our school and these middle-schoolers was a welcome treat, and not too shabby for a prospective parent to witness either!

– Jody Spanglet



## BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!

Calling all cool, groovy knitters to bring in your knitted squares as soon as they are ready so that we may display them in the school entranceway. If you haven't started knitting them yet, get a move on, it's kind of addicting to watch them pile up. The more squares we get the better! Bring them into the office and put them into the basket labeled "Knit-a-Thon Squares." If you have any questions let us know and we will do our best to advise you. Thanks!

– Annie Mahle and Carlie Cloyd for the Knit-a-Thon Committee

## FIRST GRADE RABBITS

Liz Ferrero brought the first grade two brown rabbit brothers at the beginning of March. At first we only knew they were with us at quiet rest time, when they would come out of their hiding places to nibble on our hair. But last week, when their hiding places were made less secret, they began to eat out of our hands, and we hope that they will be brave enough by Easter to let us hold them.

Favorite rabbit activities are when they twitch their noses, and when they hide behind the rocking boards, then suddenly stand up and peer over at us, their eyes shining and their ears alert.

We have had two scares. Once we thought Peter was dead, but he was just napping in a very odd position, and once we thought Benjamin had bitten off one of Peter's ears, but it was just lying on his back. Their ears are so soft and beautiful.

The bunnies are darling, mysterious, somewhat wild, and we are so lucky they are living in our classroom. We hope to find a way to make them an outdoor garden to hop about in now that the flowers are pushing up out of the earth. Happy Spring!

–Lesley Finlayson, First Grade Teacher

## VIVA LA MUSICA

Do you have a cello that you would be willing to loan to the music department for occasional use by the teacher (upkeep and possibly minor restoration at our expense)?

Are you a symphony buff? I'm looking for help in organizing field trips to symphony concerts for students, maybe dress rehearsals and such.

Please contact me at [mbraun@ashwoodwaldorf.org](mailto:mbraun@ashwoodwaldorf.org)

– Michael Braun, Music Teacher

## ORGANIC CHOCOLATE FOR EASTER!!

The sixth grade has delicious organic chocolate for sale that folks far and wide have been enjoying! Easter is April 4<sup>th</sup> and we have the goods! We have milk chocolate with peanuts, 72% dark chocolate, dark chocolate with mint crispies, and milk chocolate bars, all for \$4 each. Haiti Relief milk chocolate bars (\$2 goes to Haiti) are \$5. Please contact Jana Halwick at 542-9895 to purchase, or stop by Carver Hill Gallery to see them in person! Weather permitting, we will set up a table outside of school before Easter.

– Sixth Grade Class



## NEW SCULPTURE ON CAMPUS

Some of you may have noticed the beautiful sculpture that is hanging outside the Grade School entrance. This object of art was created by local Rockport artist Antje Roitzsch, and is currently on loan to Ashwood. Following her Waldorf education, Antje studied graphic arts and completed a goldsmith apprenticeship in Germany. In 1988 she was awarded a grant to study a goldsmith technique in Maine. Through her shows at banks, healing centers, and other local venues she is bringing her work to an audience that might not otherwise visit a gallery. Locally her outdoor sculptures can be seen at Merryspring Nature Center. For more information Antje can be contacted at 542-4285 or [www.visualartsmaine.com](http://www.visualartsmaine.com). Please stop by and see this unique artwork the next time you are on campus.

– Mark Ferrero, Facilities Manager



## **ENROLLMENT & OUTREACH NEWS**

### **TEA AND PUPPETS PLAYGROUP**

Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 9 –10 a.m.

This is a free playgroup for children 18 months to 3 years old along with a parent. Children are invited to bring a stuffed animal or doll to the tea party. After tea, Miss Toki will present a puppet show! This tea party playgroup takes place at Rosewood, the Early Childhood center, and is open to current Ashwood families as well as new folks – so invite your neighbors! Space is limited, so please call 236-8021 or e-mail [enrollment@ashwoodwaldorf.org](mailto:enrollment@ashwoodwaldorf.org) to save a place at the table.

### **INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OPEN HOUSE**

Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m.–12 noon

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 10<sup>th</sup>. Ashwood's faculty will answer questions about Waldorf education and the programs offered at the school. 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 may view student work and speak to grade school faculty in the new grade school building. Parents are invited to bring their children to experience the school and these activities. All are welcome to attend!

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

### **BAKERS, WE LOVE YOU!**

Our thanks go to Maureen Ostensen for providing delicious Irish soda bread for our most recent Walk Through the Grades!

A baker is needed to provide a snack of muffins or a quick bread for our next tour on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Jana Herbener in the Enrollment Office if you can help!

### **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 1<sup>st</sup>– 8<sup>th</sup>. This is a fabulous opportunity to show others the kind of creativity and skills Ashwood students have developed! Help will be needed to hang our students' artwork during the week of April 25<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Jana Herbener in the Enrollment Office if you can help.

### **WALK THROUGH THE GRADES**

Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 – 10:30 a.m.

This is a wonderful opportunity for adults to experience Waldorf education first-hand by seeing Ashwood Waldorf School'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 with School Director Jody Spanglet. Space is limited; please e-mail [enrollment@ashwoodwaldorf.org](mailto:enrollment@ashwoodwaldorf.org) or call the office at 236-8021 to register.

## ANNUAL APPEAL

By now you should have received the school's Annual Appeal letter and you should be aware that volunteers are very busy organizing a fundraising event, the Knit-a-Thon. To the uninitiated this may seem confusing to have all this happening at once. Which one to support? You should consider supporting both, of course.

It is a very straight line that connects fundraising activities (like the Knit-a-Thon and the Annual Appeal) to the cost of tuition, the programming that we are able to offer, and the staff that we are able to attract and retain. That is why I suggest that you say, "Yes!" and "Yes!" to each way of supporting the school. Your support makes a big difference. And speaking of big, please join me in a big thank you to Knit-a-Thon coordinators, Annie Mahle and Carlie Cloyd, our lead volunteer team who have picked up this important work.

All contributions, whether big or small, really matter in so many ways, so please don't be shy. If what you can contribute is the value of your coffee purchases this week that is significant for you and means a great deal to us. And if you can contribute a larger amount of funding, we sure are appreciative of that as well. As a wise Ashwood parent has told me often, "It's not what you give, it's how much it hurts that matters."

*–Jody Spanglet for the Board of Trustees*

## PARENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL (PCC) CORNER

### NEXT PCC MEETING

The next meeting of the Parent Community Council will be held Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m. in the Conference Room. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend!

### SEEKING PCC REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2010-2011

Soon, the PCC will be in touch with classes regarding representatives for next year. If you have ever wanted to give of your time and connect with others in the Ashwood community while helping with festivals such as May Faire, this is a great opportunity to get involved. Stay tuned.

### WANTED: APPLE GROWERS, BEE KEEPERS, CELLO TEACHERS, AND DOG WALKERS!

It's not too late to list your business in the Parent Services Directory! The deadline for the Parent Services Directory has been extended until this Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Pick up a form in the office at school, fill it out and return it to the school office; or, send your information via e-mail to [dejoyjen@yahoo.com](mailto:dejoyjen@yahoo.com).

Each business or service listing costs \$5 to cover costs. Please drop \$5 into the envelope in the office (if you pay by check, please make the check out to 'Ashwood PCC'). 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):

*Please contact Jen DeJoy, PCC Steering Committee member, at [dejoys@gwi.net](mailto:dejoys@gwi.net) for additional PCC information.*

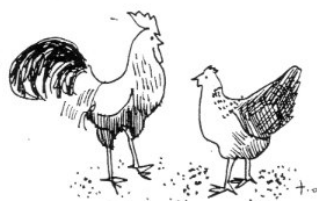
## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**The Terra Diddle Collective** has mounted an exhibit of felted masks and large puppets by Kathryn Oliver at Zoot Coffee, 31 Elm St. (Route 1), Camden. Performance photos of Terra Diddle Collective also are on display through the month of March. There will be live music on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at noon by musicians Kristi Williamson, Tree Sampson, and Noah Gabriel who will perform music from the Terra Diddle Collective's song repertoire. This musical gathering, inspiring for all ages, will be a fundraiser to support a summer workshop and performance. The performance is free but donations are welcome and there is also a donation jar next to the display. For more info visit [www.terraddiddlecollective.com](http://www.terraddiddlecollective.com) , call Kathryn at 763-4038 or e-mail [kathryn@kathrynoiver.com](mailto:kathryn@kathrynoiver.com).

**Spindlewood and Ashwood to host LifeWays Early Childhood Training for adults beginning this July.** LifeWays Northeast will be offering Early Childhood and Human Development training for adults on the campuses of Spindlewood Waldorf Kindergarten in Lincolnville and Ashwood Waldorf School in Rockport. LifeWays brings the insights of Rudolf Steiner and the principles and practices of Waldorf education into the daily life and care of young children in homes and early childhood centers. The four on-campus sessions scheduled as part of this training cycle will be July 12-22, October 8-11, a weekend in March, and 12 days in July 2011 culminating in a graduation ceremony. Each student will be matched with a mentor who is available for a monthly consultation and a two-day visit. A LifeWays certificate is available to students who do independent study, as well as child and program observations. Susan Silverio, as director of LifeWays Northeast, is now enrolling parents, caregivers, home-based and center-based preschool educators and grandparents who wish to develop their life and work with young children. For more information contact Susan: 763-4652, [www.lifewaysnorthamerica.org](http://www.lifewaysnorthamerica.org).

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**Nice Rooster Seeks Flock:** One very handsome buff cochin rooster would like a flock of his own hens. He has always been friendly to people and has never scared anyone. However, he is not the top rooster around our place and is being bullied by his fellows. We were thinking of doing a social inclusion intervention in the coop, but Kim John Payne is not available on such short notice. Do your hens need a gentleman friend? If so, talk to one of the Eichenlaubs at 845-2325.



## 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](mailto:boardoftrustees@ashwoodwaldorf.org);  
**Alumni Committee:** [alumni@ashwoodwaldorf.org](mailto:alumni@ashwoodwaldorf.org);  
**Parent Community Council:** [pcc@ashwoodwaldorf.org](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@ashwoodwaldorf.org). Deadline for submissions to *The Ashwood Leaflet* is Monday at 9 a.m. the week of publication.

# Knit-a-Thon News

## **Knit. Fun. School. You!**

Do you know who from our school is knitting for Ashwood's Knit-a-Thon fund raiser (which is also a fun raiser)? Maybe it's a child in your class, a mom you love or one of our fearless classroom leaders. Some of you have already signed up to sponsor someone. Thank you so very much. It would be so great if we could ALL participate in some way -- knitting or sponsoring.

**Knitting for the Knit-a-Thon?** Please let us know so that we can encourage folks to sponsor you.

**Not knitting for the Knit-a-Thon?** Would you please spread the word to family and friends, near and far? This can be in-person, via word-of-mouth, phone visits, by email, Facebook or other networking site, or by any other happy bandwagon you like. Even a casual reference to the Knit-a-Thon may stir up interest and action. It's a great way to support our creative, industrious children and teachers (and moms and dads!).

**Cast Off Party!** Come one, come all. This is the finale. **There's less than a week left to get your sponsors in and finish your squares!** From 2-5pm on March 27<sup>th</sup> (that's THIS Saturday!) we'll sew, snack, knit, sip tea and celebrate our community of creative, smart and sponsored folks while we assemble blankets made from our squares. The blankets we create will end up wrapping around a woman or child connected to New Hope for Women and hopefully give them a measure of comfort and care. Bring your sewing needles and your good spirit and if you are two thumbs in the knitting department then come and cheer us on. Please RSVP to Annie or Carlie.

**100% Participation** Our **faculty** has banded together – they are ALL, 100% of them, knitting or sponsoring. When you see them on campus, thank them. Our **board** is also, 100% of them, knitting or sponsoring. Wouldn't it be great if all of the classes could do the same? Who are you sponsoring?

No gift is too small! We can't underestimate the strength of all of us working together. 100% participation from our entire school would be a mighty fine thing, indeed.

One last note about the raffle for a 3 or 6 day trip for two on a Schooner J. & E. Riggin Knitting Cruise: The winner will be announced after April 2<sup>nd</sup> when all of the pledges and sponsor forms have been collected.

Happy Spring!

Thank you all so much,  
The Knit-a-Thon Committee

## **Save the dates:**

**Cast Off Party!** - March 27, 2-5pm, Hosted by Carver Hill Gallery RSVP Annie or Carlie

**Pledges and Sponsor Sheets due** – April 2<sup>nd</sup>, to Annie, Carlie or the Knit-a-Thon mailbox in the office

## **Want to help? Have questions?**

Annie Mahle 594-4823, annieandjon@riggin.com and Carlie Cloyd 236-4105, cmcloyd@roadrunner.com.

**Knitters you can sponsor:**

(if you are knitting and your name isn't here, let Annie or Carlie know!)

Iris Eichenlaub

Carlie and Emma Cloyd (7th grade)

Jenny Simon

Lisa and Zaela Newcomb (3rd grade)

Annie Mahle, Ella and Chloe Finger (3rd and 6th grade)

Jana and Andrew Herbener (2nd grade)

Rachel Sizeler-Fletcher (2nd grade)

Maureen and Frances Ostensen (2nd grade)

Susan Curry – business manager

Ms. Toki Oshima – early childhood teacher

Ms. Wenckus – handwork teacher

Mr. Kaczor – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher

Lisa and Aspen Laurita-Spanglet

Ms. Leonore – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher

Barb and Lila Ohland (8<sup>th</sup> grade)

**Suggested Sponsor Letter:**

Just one way you could reach out to your personal community and encourage them to support our school.

Dear Loved Ones (or personal name),

I am writing about a cause near and dear to my heart, Ashwood Waldorf School. Our family is involved in a Knit-a-Thon which will raise critical funds for our creative, imaginative children and their school. I have sponsored a knitting family (insert your pledge - here not to exceed \$\$\$ if desired) for each square they knit.

Would you please join me in sponsoring them as well?

Thank you so very much,

(your name here)



# March/April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21	22	23	24 6:30-8 p.m. 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Evening	25 6-7:30 p.m. Incoming First Grade Parent Meeting	26 New Friday Session of Parent/Child begins  8:45 a.m. Friday Assembly - Music	27 10 a.m. -4 p.m. PCC Art Workshop  2-5 p.m. Knit-a-Thon Cast Off Party Carver Hill Gallery
28	29	30	31	1	2 8:45 a.m. Friday Assembly - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	3
4	5 9 a.m. Ashwood Leaflet Submissions Deadline	6 3:30-4:30 p.m. Sunflower Room Parent Afternoon  6 p.m. 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Evening  7-9 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting	7 Ashwood Leaflet Published  9-10 a.m. Tea & Puppets Playgroup  6 p.m. 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Parent Evening	8	9 8:45 a.m. Friday Assembly - 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade  3:15 p.m. 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Block Party	10 9 a.m.-12 p.m. ISA Open House at Ashwood
11	12	13	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 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Play	17

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