

# Waldorf Weekly



Celebrating 40 Years of Education From a Deeper Perspective™

April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009

(Same great content, temporary format change!)



## Rehearsals are underway for next Friday's 40th Anniversary celebrations!

Students in grades 5 through 12 are rehearsing for a very special presentation. Stan Cyprys, our Orchestra Director, told the students today that it is often a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play in an orchestra of 90+ musicians. Our students are having just such an opportunity. We hope you will join us at 2pm next Friday in the big gym to see the performance as part of the formal anniversary ceremony. See below for the full program. More details on our [website](#).

## May 1<sup>st</sup> – Open Day Anniversary Celebration – Please Join Us!

TIME	EVENTS	LOCATION
9:30 – 10:30	TWS History Overview Lively, anecdotal overviews with music from each of the last four decades will help to weave the story together of the history of our school.	Big Gym
10:30 – 11:00	Break / Refreshments Students will have recess as usual.	Front Lobby
11:00 – 11:30	Maypole Dancing	Forest
11:30 – 12:30	Class Tree Planting	Around the property
<b>WORKSHOPS – REGISTRATION <a href="#">ONLINE</a> OR AT THE DOOR</b>		
11:00 – 12:30	Handwork with Susan Digby	Handwork Room
11:30 – 12:30	Crafts with Anna Gruda	Community Room
11:30 – 12:30	Metal work with Leed Jackson	Metal work Room
11:30 – 12:30	Eurhythmy with Maria Helms	Eurhythmy Room
11:30 – 12:30	Singing with Patricia MacMaster	Forum
12:30 – 2:00	Lunch - Classes will eat inside or outside depending on the weather. Students will have recess as usual. Café will have a special lunch available to purchase for our guests. A 'Quiet Room' will be available for parents with young children.	
2:00 – 3:35	Community Anniversary Celebration Join us for presentations from the Grades 5 – 12 Orchestra, our High School Choir, our Faculty and Staff, and of course Birthday cake!	Big Gym

## Important Dates

### [Lower School Media Fast Discussion](#)

7:30 – 9:00pm (NOTE TIME CORRECTION)

### [Board Meeting](#)

Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at 6:00 PM

### [40th Anniversary Open Day](#)

Friday, May 1, 2009 9:30 – 3:30

### [Talk & Tour](#)

Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 9:00 AM

### [Aspen KG Parent Eve](#)

Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 7:00 PM

### [Performance Evening \(HS\)](#) – “The Spring Revue”

Friday, May 8, 2009 at 7:30 PM

### [Victoria Day – NO SCHOOL](#)

Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>

### [Cedar KG Parent Eve](#)

Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm

### [Nursery Parent Eve](#)

Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 8:00pm

[See our calendar for more dates!](#)

**Volunteers are still needed to help out on May 1<sup>st</sup>, and as well at our Gala Fundraiser on May 30th. If you have an hour or two, we would very much welcome your contribution. Please contact [Catherine Daugherty](#) for more information.**

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## A Gala Note from our Development Committee Chair

Dear Fellow Parents,

As the excitement builds around the TWS 40th Anniversary Gala planned on May 30th, I am writing to encourage you to participate by seeking out donations for our Silent Auction. A Silent Auction is wonderful community-building event that we are hoping will play a key role in our fundraising efforts this year. As a business owner, I have been gratified by the response from a number of my suppliers whom I have called to make donations, and I have been pleased to make two donations from my own company as well. I have also approached a number of my favorite stores to make a donation of a gift certificate or a product. While I realize that it costs businesses to make a small donation, I always remind them that there will be potential clients at the TWS gala who will have the opportunity to view their product and promotional material during the auction. I'm looking forward to the Gala and I hope to see many of you there too.

David West

**Note:** We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all parents who have already donated to the auction. Recent donations include Premium Seats for the Toronto Raptors, tickets to the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, golf at St. Andrew's Golf Club in Stouffville and gift certificates for Reiki treatments, energy therapy and nutritional counselling. **We still need lots more items to help make the evening a success** - items of all sizes and values are welcome, and may be packaged to create exciting offerings. For example, theatre tickets could be paired with babysitting services to make the perfect, worry-free night out! No donation is too small, so please donate today by contacting Auction Co-ordinator Juniper Locilento at [jlocilento@torontowaldorfschool.com](mailto:jlocilento@torontowaldorfschool.com).

## Media Fast Update

As we are approaching our May 4th commencement of our community media fast there may be questions and concerns that you have. Please feel free to come to our lower school parent meeting on **Monday April 27th at 7:30pm (note this is the correct time, last weeks time of 7:00 was INCORRECT)** where we will have a conversation for clarification.

I would like to include an excerpt from an interview with Nicholas Carr, one of the original IT experts from Harvard. The article called 'Computing the Cost' is in the front office if you would like to read it for yourself in its entirety.

*Carr: That's right. Anything we do on a regular basis rewires the brain. There's a saying among neuroscientists that "neurons that fire together, wire together." When you practice a certain skill, the circuits get stronger, and the area of your brain dedicated to performing the skills gets larger.*

*What that means is that, as the Internet becomes our universal medium for gathering information, we're training our brains to take in information in the way the Internet supplies it-that is, with an emphasis on speed and with continual distractions. We've seen this with previous intellectual technologies like the alphabet, the clock, and the printing press; new modes of intelligence come into being that stress different aspects of our brain's functioning. So people would argue that, with the current change, we're gaining a great deal, because we have access to all this information. And for most of us the obvious benefits of being online overwhelm any fears and concerns. This has been particularly true with young people who've grown up with this new technology. Because it's become so natural, they don't pay attention to what they might be losing. They might not even be aware of it. You don't worry about losing something you never knew you had in the first place.*

Also in the office is a delightful list called 101 Media-Free activities for children, families and people of all ages. A few examples: go swimming; walk the dog (or a neighbour's dog!); join a choir; learn sign language; cook dinner with friends or family; play charades; have a tea party; climb a tree.

See you on Monday night. Watch for our summary of that conversation in next week's newsletter!

Elyse Pomeranz, Grade 7 Class Teacher, for the Lower School

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## Parents at Play!

We are all basking in the glow of another very successful Gateways conference. Our speaker, Joan Almon, was engaging and insightful, and the workshops were a delight.

Here is one happy workshop participant, Paul Pudjo, parent of two children in Aspen Kindergarten, showing off his newly carved toys. Armin Kluge, one of our favourite TWS grandfathers, led this workshop to make handcrafted rattles and block stilts. Bravo Paul!

## Nuts & Bolts – Rain Gear Needed!

A reminder for Lower School parents – with the spring flowers come the requisite showers...and our before school, short and long recess times happen outside in the rain! But this means we need children to have appropriate rain gear and a change of clothes. Please ensure your children are equipped for the weather. Many thanks, from the Lower School Faculty

## Neighbours On Campus

### Rudolf Steiner Centre

RSCT Spring Intensives approaching fast. Healing the Senses with Mary Jo Oresti April 27 – May 4 & Raising the Soul with Warren Cohen May 4 – 8. [Register today.](#)

### Diana's Dance

Join the whole community on Saturday, May 2 as we celebrate Diana Hughes & raise money for RSC Teacher Education program with great music, food and company. [Contact us](#) for more details.

### Waldorf Bookstore

Toys and games - 50% off. We're looking for volunteers for Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Drop in if you're interested. Visit our [online bookstore.](#)