

THE TUESDAY NEWSLETTER

Issue 21 January 25, 2011

One Week from Today! All School Meeting/Forum

Understand your school better!

Take a look at the past and give input toward the future Tuesday, February 1, upstairs, \$2 childcare provided

Learn the demographic history, the facility's history, the financial history.

Learn the current data, know where State tax dollars, donations and tax credits go.

Then hear and participate in looking toward the future.

Parent body participation at a high ratio is vital in the success of charter schools.

Please come, please care.

If not you, then who?

- Every Tuesday morning the Stewardship Group meets for coffee/tea and conversation at a local coffee house. We meet by the white board next to the front entrance right after drop off. If you can't make it in the morning we also go contra dancing the first Friday of the month (see details below). We had a lot of fun last month. Everyone is welcome, so please join us! If you have any questions please see Gena Hahn, a first grade parent, or Beth Rossi, a second grade parent.
- The Stewardship Group is going Contra Dancing again! Join us, Friday, February 4th. The dance is held at the Grace Sparks Activity Center (in the old armory building, now a gym). Beginning dance instruction starts at 7:30 the cost is \$7.00 at the door. Contra dancing is traditional folk dancing with live music, good friends and lots of laughter! It is a lot of fun! There are a few 8th graders and some alumni who are willing to baby sit also! So talk to Gena if you want more information.
- Congratulations and Thanks to Sunshine and Billy Reilly for all their hard work, numerous tax credits brought in and all the volunteer support you give to our school. To acknowledge and thank them they have their very own special parking spot, the last one on the end by the front entrance. Please be considerate and leave their parking spot available for them. Again, thank you Sunshine and Billy for all the wonderful care you give our school community especially for all that snow shoveling you did!!!

M O U: Mountain Oak University

All classes, Lazy Gecko Café and Campus Store, Discontinued until further notice. We regret to announce that due to various circumstances, including lack of time on the part of the student instructors and Mrs. Morgan, the 6th grade teacher, we are unable to continue at the present time. Be on the look out for upcoming 6th grade fundraisers, to help support our class in attending the Medieval Games in Phoenix in March. Thank you for your support

PLANTING SEEDS FOR OUR SCHOOL'S FU-TURE - The Garden Project Come join us this Thursday, January 27th at 5:30 in the all purpose room for an introductory meeting about creating a school garden. Child care will be available so everyone can attend. For more information, please read the attached flyer or speak with Sunshine if you have any questions. Thanks!

MARDI GRAS SILENT AUCTION & COSTUME GALA Saturday, February 19th, 6pm to 9pm, Tis' Art Center & Gallery 105 S. Cortez St, Tickets available in the office \$15 Contact Anna Carnegie Marx to submit

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your donations. *This is the last week!* Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. It's not too early to start thinking about who you would like to invite...and what you are going to wear. **To Donate Contact:** Anna Carnegie Marx 928-499-9379 Marx7329@gmail.com

Also included in this Newsletter:

- School Calendar of Events
- ♦ MOS Garden Project Information
- Meet the Teacher: Interview w/ 1st grade's, Ms. Ferguson



January 2011

5un	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5 12:30 PM Dismissal 1st-8th gr Early Dismissal Begins for 7/8th gr.	6	7	8
	Board Mtg 3:30pm			Parent Assoc. Mtg 5:30pm	Bake Sale After school	
g	10	January Lunch Order Form Ready Today 3rd Grade Parent Meeting 3pm	After school: MOU Registration MOU Campus Store	After school: MOU Registration MOU Campus Store	After school: -Bake Sale -Organic Cucumber Sale	15 Campus Clean- Up!
16	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day No School	January Lunch Orders Due Today 4th Grade Parent Meeting 4 pm	19 12:30 PM Dismissal 1st-8th gr	Walk thru the Grades RSVP School Spelling Bee 10:45am	Bake Sale After school	22
23	24	25 TODAY 2nd Grade Parent Mtg 5pm	26 12:30 PM Dismissal 1st-8th gr	Garden Project Introduction Meeting 5:30P	Bake Sale After school	29
30	31 3rd grade. Shelter Presentations 1:50pm ///d-Winter Fe.	February 1 All School Mtg 6pm stival (in school)	2 12:30 PM Dismissal 1st-8th gr	Parent Assoc. Mtg 5:30pm	Bake Sale After school	5



Kid's Story Time Every 2nd Saturday of the month 10am-11am \$20 all inclusive. Listen to a wonderful story that captures the imagination followed by a painting project about the story.

928-717-2182 www.jarzofclay.com

In the Safeway shopping center in Prescott Valley

February Events:

1:All School Mtg 6pm
3: Parent Assoc. Mtg 5:30p
4: Bake Sale After school
4:Contra Dancing @Armory 7:30p
7: Board Mtg 3:30p
8: YC Performance 3rd-6th gr.
11:Bake Sale After school
12: Kindergarten Open House
14: Valentine Grams Day
17: Walk thru the Grades (RSVP)
18:Bake Sale After school
19: MOS Annual Silent Auction! 6pm
21: President's Day- No School
25: Bake Sale After school

February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1*	2	3*	4**	5
6	7*	8*	9	10	11*	12*
13	14	15	16	17*	18*	19*
20	21	22	23	24	25*	26
27	28					

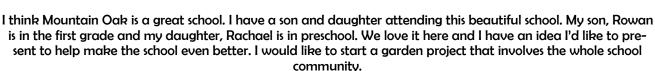


MOS Garden Project!





Mountain Oak School Garden Project at Burnin' Daylight Farm January 2011



Having a large garden at the school's current location is not really a possibility. I would like to propose creating a large garden at my family's farm in Chino Valley until the time comes that Mountain Oak has a permanent location with the space and freedom to have a large garden. Our own organic garden would be a wonderful asset to the school. This whole project may start out small but the potential for what it could become is really exciting.

Burnin' Daylight Farm is a small 10acre farm located in northwest Chino Valley. It is a 30 minute drive from Mtn. Oak. We've been growing vegetables, herbs and flowers organically since 2003 to sell at the Prescott Farmers Market. The area at the farm I'd like to use for the school garden is already an established gardening area that I've used for cut flowers in the past. It's about a 50' x 50' space and the soil is thriving. I was thinking twenty 25' raised bed rows would fit nicely and could grow a good amount of produce! There's plenty of room for composting, a beautiful shade tree for picnics, ample parking, gorgeous scenery and a house trailer with its own restroom, kitchen and refrigerator we can use.

My hope is that each grade could find a way to be involved in the garden whether it's through fieldtrips, helping to plan what will be planted or just eating the veggies! I also hope that families will be willing to come out to the farm on their own time. The learning opportunities from planning, building, planting, maintaining and harvesting a full-scale garden are enormous. There is also an incredible amount of pride that comes from eating vegetables you've had a hand in growing. Food just tastes better when you put your love, sweat and heart into it.

Some of the goals of the garden could be to grow enough veggies for the Preschool and Kindergarten snack time while school is in session and vegetable trays one day a week for each classroom. Other additions could be fresh flowers for the office and teacher's desks. The Prescott Farmers Market has offered us a free booth at the market once a month from May through October. This will be a great marketing opportunity for the school but if we had something to sell from our own garden it would be even better. The money we earn from the selling of our vegetables can go back into the garden project and fundraising for the school.

I really believe in this project and there is more to it than I could ever express in a one page proposal- Farm to School sums it up best. I'm offering an opportunity to create a beautiful space that belongs to the Mountain Oak school community even if it is in a location far from the school, in hopes that someday this project will be at the school in its new home.

I'm offering a gardening space where the water is free and the soil is already alive (in Arizona that is half the battle of farming and/or gardening!). I will take care of all the watering and I already have some seeds to get us started. The Prescott Farmers Market has also awarded us a scholarship to help us buy tools and other supplies we may need. So we have the location, the soil, the seed and the money for supplies! Now all we need is the support of the school community! My hope is that there will be enough families interested in coming out to help maintain the garden even through the summer vacation. I would like to order seeds and create a garden layout in February; till the garden in March (weather permitting) and begin planting in April. The first farmers market is May 14th, it would be nice to have a beautiful display of the fruits of our labors! There are many things to do and I will be creating a calendar to help us stay organized. Your input and help is most appreciated and desired but one thing is for sure, there will be weeding a plenty!



MOS Garden Project!



(continued)

The only limitation to this project is that because Burnin' Daylight is a working farm the scheduling of Mtn. Oak Garden works days has to be limited to certain days of the week. As of now those days are going to be Wednesdays and Sundays. (But this is flexible too) One Friday a month I will be looking for a couple of people willing to harvest veggies to be sold at the Mtn. Oak booth during the Saturday Prescott Farmers Market. Also I will need to find one or two people willing to go to the Saturday market once a month. I would like to keep everyone up to date on how the garden is doing, possibly through Mtn. Oaks Facebook page or e-mail.

So if you're interested in the Mountain Oak Garden Project I would like to invite you to a meeting of the minds happening January 27th, 5:30pm, in the upstairs multi-purpose room. I would like to know from the school community how we can make the most of this garden, and fit the needs of our children. I will have a more detailed calendar of the garden plans and also more literature about other school gardens and Farm to School programs. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas on this project at the meeting.

Thanks for your support!
Sunshine Reilly
Farmer and Mother to Rowan and Rachael Reilly
reillyshine@msn.com

Mtn. Oak School Garden Project Calendar

January

schedule garden meeting

February:

Work on the layout of the garden- What to grow where? Order Seeds

March:

Start seedlings for tomatoes, peppers, herbs, broccoli, etc. Till-garden weather permitting. Create a compost area.

April:

Prepare garden for planting, lay down waterlines. Plant seeds of carrots, radishes, potatoes, spinach, kale, lettuce, turnips, peas, chard etc. Transplant sets of onions and garlic.

May First Week:

plant seed of beets, carrots, sunflowers, spinach and radishes Gather all materials needed for first farmers market

May 13th

Harvest for farmers market-radishes, turnips and greens

May 14th.

Prescott Farmers Market opens 7:30am to Noon

End of May:

transplant peppers, tomatoes, etc. plant seed of green beans, cucumbers, summer squash, herbs, flowers, corn, beets, melons, etc.



weeding, replanting and harvesting!







Meet the Teacher! Kerry Ferguson, 1st Grade

This is a new feature of the Mountain Oak Parent Association. Once a month we will share an interview

with one of our teachers, staff, or parents. We hope this will foster a renewed sense of community and connection at our wonderful school.

Interviewed by Sarah Edmonds, parent of Jasmine Ackerman, 1st grade

SE: How did you get interested in Waldorf Education and Teaching?

KF: I really got interested in Waldorf education when I was pregnant (6 years ago). One of my spiritual teachers recommended Steiner's books, and I found myself really staying connected to his writings. They weaved in so beautifully with all the holistic education work I had done before.

Also, both of my parents were teachers. My dad taught special education and my mom, early elementary.

SE: What holistic education work had you done before?

At the University of Alabama I received my undergraduate degree in nutrition. I completed a two year training and certification in holistic counseling and health in San Diego where I got licensed as a massage therapist. I studied and taught naturopathy in New Zealand. I also founded the Center for Integrative Medicine in Tennessee with a physician. There I worked very specifically with children whom had been diagnosed with a variety of behavioral, physical, and nutritional imbalances. Through owning my yoga studio for 15 years, I got opportunities to teach as an adjunct faculty at the University and to teach children in elementary school. When I found Waldorf, I realized within it were encompassed all the different things I had already been doing in my life, and that was so beautiful to me.

SE: Where did you do your Waldorf teacher training?

My Waldorf teacher certification is through Kentahten in Louisville, KY http://foxhollowwaldorf.com/Description.aspx

I was living in Northeastern Tennessee at the time, and drove 5 hours once a week for a two-hour class for 3 years. There were 30 people in my cohort group, some of whom had been teaching already for 20 years.

Originally, I didn't do the training to become a teacher. I believed in the philosophy, the education for all children, but especially my child. Then one night one of my mentors called me. She said," I have this sense that you are ready to teach." I wrote a resume in fairy tale form and sent it to the school at 1 a.m. The next day I got a call from one of the members of the hiring committee at Mountain Oak who said, "We have to meet you!"

SE: Can you tell me more about your teaching philosophy?

KF: How we do things is important. There is a really rich, deeper meaning underneath (Waldorf) education. I see myself as a vehicle to share that which comes through me with the kids.

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Meet the Teacher! Kerry Ferguson, 1st Grade

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You can take information in, just like eating food. Just like learning any material, it is received well if the teacher helps to allow that flow, then it can be absorbed and digested, and the children can really utilize it. If it is not absorbed and processed, it could be unhealthy. Even if some of the material might be hard, if it is shared with them in a loving way, and the teacher has positive intention, then they receive it and they do with it what they need.

SE: Do you think that's part of the problem with media, that all this information is just coming at them, and they have no way to digest it and process it?

KF: They don't, and then they just regurgitate it and it comes back out. It is like it gets stuffed into them and it just pushes down their own creativity.

SE: How has having a child of your own changed the way you work with kids?

KF: I think it is so beautiful for me, because I am learning from him and implementing it into my class and learning from the class and implementing it into my parenting. It's a cycle. I just think it is such a special gift as a teacher to be a parent, to have a child in my home that I am able to observe and interact with. I often think of how I would want my child to be treated in a classroom. I'm also aware of what goes on in the child's home life from what I see in the classroom. Because I am a parent, I can see those things make a difference.

I know from how much time I spend with my first graders that I am a huge part of their life

and I take that on as a beautiful responsibility. What an amazing gift that the parents have said, "I trust you with my child's life and education." I take that as a great honor.

SE: What additional training in teaching are you planning?

Observing the first grade classroom at the Waldorf school in Flagstaff for two days supplements my education. That teacher attended Waldorf school in Germany as a child, and has 35 students in his class!

In February I will go to the Rudolf Steiner College Western Waldorf Educator's Conference http://www.steinercollege.edu/?q=node/1450, a 3 day conference. That's going to be a really neat opportunity. Part of the focus is therapeutic issues with challenging children.

This summer I will go to Kentahten for another part of my Waldorf teacher training on science in the early grades. I will also do a summer intensive in teaching second grade at Steiner College. Last summer I did the first grade intensive and I'm still pulling out resources I got then and using them in the classroom, so it is really beneficial. I could be a student forever! But you learn so much teaching! You are growing so much if you are really following the Waldorf teacher principles, and I try my very best to adhere to them. I meditate every night on my kids before I go to bed. I try to make the classroom beautiful in the morning. A lot of Waldorf education... its an inward journey. It's a lot of work, but it is soul work.

SE: Thank you so much, Kerry!