

JOURNEY SCHOOL NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 8

January 12, 2007

*Journey School * 23431 Knollwood * Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 * (949) 448-7232 *
www.journeyschool.net*

Dear Parents,

Twenty eight years next Saturday, I was fortunate and smart enough to wed Patricia Peterson. We were 20 and 19 years of age when we married and I can say that I never questioned myself about taking this step. Patti was intelligent, adventurous, loved to laugh, beautiful and easy to speak with. Over the years, all of her best qualities have only improved. She had wanted to become a teacher since she was 12 and me, lots of will but a bit aimless on what I wanted my life's work to be.

As college graduation approached, we dreamed that we could travel abroad, work and understand the culture of the earth more. We felt that serving in the Peace Corps would be that vehicle for us. The organization would allow us to see a part of the earth we may never see, and serve others while we did so. As that year began, our daughter decided that it was time for her to enter our life. It was an incredible day indeed when she was born, and our dreams of travel and service were put away.

Three years ago as our youngest entered his second year of college, we felt it was the time to once again pursue this dream. We left our respective positions, Patti as a class teacher with her second class and me as a high school administrator. We both enjoyed our work, loved the students we worked with but still felt strong about this dream. Pablo Coelho in his book The Alchemist, suggests that matters of this nature may be called our "personal dream". He would say that this dream lives in your heart and we let go to sleep because of all the reasons of adulthood. For us, it has not become dormant.

Well, as matters would have it, the timing was not quite right and we moved to Colorado for one year to help find new structure and instill pedagogical aims in a private Waldorf school. It was hard work, yet we were surrounded by the majesty of the Rocky Mountains and an incredible group of people. We had committed for one year, and family matters arose during the middle of that year leading us to choose to move back to our childhood roots in Southern California. As we made that choice, we were fortunate to be hired by Journey School, just minutes away from Patti's parent's home.

Now as our youngest graduates from college this May, we have decided to pursue this "personal dream" again. In November of last year, we completed our applications for Peace Corps and now await interviews and placement. Accordingly, we have kept both the Council and Faculty aware of our intentions. Thus as the calendar turns to 2007, it is time for us to formally announce that we will not return to Journey for the 2007-08 school year. We will complete our contracts for the year and aim to realize these goals.

Our time at Journey has been incredible. The community here is vital and full of good wishes for the children. We have been welcomed, embraced and loved. The school and the community have so much to offer and with relocation to a new site, there is much to be excited about. We look forward to working these next six months to continue to help Journey become the school that we have all imagined for our children.

My best to you....Tim Connolly, Administrator

Re-enrollment Letters to Arrive this Week

By the time you read this newsletter, you should have received a letter from the school's new Business Manager and Enrollment Coordinator, Julie Giffin on the topic of registration for the 2007-08 school year. The form asks that you list your students currently at Journey who intend to return next year, as well any siblings who wish to be enrolled for next year as well. The sibling registration will be followed up with interviews, application forms, etc..., but for now, we simply wish to insure a spot, as allowed for in the chartering document.

It is important that these forms be returned by January 31, 2007 at the absolute latest to insure holding places for your children. It would please the office staff to no end to receive these documents by mid January. Open enrollment begins on February 1, 2007 and we wish to be clear about openings in any class.

Thank you all for working so hard to make the school a better place for the children.

Council Update

The Council did meet in December but lacked a quorum to conduct official business. Agenda items from last month have been moved to the January meeting. The meeting was held this past Thursday, too late for the newsletter's tight deadline. The Council will review and receive reports from the Council Treasurer with updates on the school's finances through November 30. In addition reports will be provided on behalf of the faculty, parent cabinet and the annual giving campaign. The Council will ponder a recommendation to amend protocol for acceptance of kindergarten children and the distribution of their birthdates for better balanced classes. The Council will be asked to initiate a re-location team for the school's move to a new campus, as well as initiate an administrative search committee to hire a new school administrator for next school year. In addition the Council will initiate work on the 07-08 budget with a conversation about priorities for the year, providing guidance to the budget team as well as taking an active role in researching information to support changes. The Council will also meet on January 29 in open session to specifically discuss the budget and ideas for next school year that will require funding, new positions and adjust for the growth that the school is undergoing. It is also expected that the Council will agree to meet with the Faculty at its February 8 meeting as well as with the Faculty and Parent Cabinet on March 8.

Martin Luther King Day - January 15, 2007

It has been 43 years now since Dr. King gave a speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial that began with the immortal words, "I have a dream..." Those words still hold the attention of many even as they are mentioned so many years since Dr. King was assassinated in 1968. Of course Dr. King was inspired by those who came before him who dedicated themselves to the obliteration of oppression, namely Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver.

Both of these men were responsible for the advancement of African Americans in the aftermath of the Civil War. Blacks at that time were cast to the wind to pick up the pieces of their lives. Mr. Washington became their spokesperson and began to carve out a niche for his people to find new purpose in their lives. One of his bold moves was to found Tuskegee University in Alabama to allow for blacks to become educated. He invited Dr. Carver to teach and live at the university and to assist the former slaves in redefining the work that they would need to do. Once the Civil War ended in 1865, it took over 100 years for the outcome of the war to finally be delivered, but even as the words echoed over the spacious lawns that stretch to the Washington Monument, Dr. King knew that defeating oppression was a task that each generation would need to address. May all of us consider how we too can defeat oppression in any small way as we celebrate Dr. King's Holiday.

Waldorf School of Orange County Parent Lecture Series

WSOC proudly presents lectures focusing on adolescence as they begin founding their new high school.

The Ninth Grader with Douglas Gerwin on Tuesday, January 16 at 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
in the Waldorf School of Orange County Eurythmy Hall

Douglas Gerwin Ph.D., both a scholar and author, currently runs the high school teacher training program at the Center of Anthroposophy located in Wilton, New Hampshire. He has worked with many schools as they have successfully moved into having an upper grade scenario. Join Douglas and parents from the Southern California region

In addition, WSOC is now accepting applications into its first class. Enrollment materials are available in the school and can also be obtained at www.waldorfhighschool.com. The main contact at the school is the High School Coordinator, Ms. Bianca Lara.

Bianca D. Lara-Zachary
Waldorf School of Orange County
High School Coordinator
949-574-7731 office
760-525-8569 cell

2007 Journey School Community Forum Series

The Community Forum Committee is excited to share with you our upcoming events. We have a number of opportunities for you to learn more about your child's development, about parenting and about how to enrich your family life. You recently received a flyer about our Community Forum Series for January and February but we would like to give you even more information so that you just can't pass up these incredible community get-togethers.

On January 24, Tuesday, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, Chuck Meece, D.C., father of Ms. Zela of the Morning Glory Kindergarten, will be speaking on "Optimal Health for Children: Learning with Ease". Please join him in understanding the relationship of physical health and intellectual learning. This Forum will help us understand nutrition's role in optimal learning.

We are also very excited to share with you a unique opportunity on February 2nd and 3rd when Shea Darian, author of *Seven Times the Sun*, presents "Creating Family as a Sanctuary For Our Children and Youth". On Friday evening, 7:00-8:30 pm, Shea will speak on "The Sanctuary of Family Life". Then on Saturday, February 3, 9:00 am-12:30 pm, Shea will share story, poetry, song and simple rituals with the participants in the workshop entitled "The Sanctuaries of Daily Life: Creating Home as a Haven for the Soul". Pre-registration is essential for this special parenting conference. Fees are as follows: Keynote Talk & Workshop: \$35, Keynote & Workshop for 2nd parenting partner: \$20, Keynote Talk only: \$10, Workshop only: \$30. Please call the office to pre-register.

On Wednesday, February 28, Richard Martin, our 5th grade main lesson teacher will present our last winter Community Forum, "How Math Is Taught at Journey School". Richard will be sharing the movement based, advanced Waldorf math curriculum along with an outline of the California math curriculum through the grades, comparing and contrasting the two in light of current research-based thinking about mathematics teaching. He will then describe the ways in which our school's program integrates the best of both worlds and will add a sprinkling of hands-on exercises for the participants to experience this unique program.

Patti Connolly, our Morning Glory Kindergarten teacher, will share her special secrets to parenting so that you can live a less stressful and much happier life as a parent. This fun and lively forum is entitled "Creative Discipline: Five Secrets to Happy Parenting" the date has yet to be determined.

All of the above forums will be held in the Alternative Learning Center on the Wood Canyon campus. The February 2-3 Parenting Conference is the only forum that has fees. All the other Community Forums are free and donations are gratefully accepted. Please invite friends and family to join us for these wonderful community events!

Childcare will be available for children over 3 years old for all evening events only for a \$5 per child fee. Pre-registration for childcare is required by calling the office at 949-448-7232.

Journey Treasures

Sale on Evi Dolls and select wooden toys 50% off!

- Check out our inventory list online at www.journeyschool.net with convenient links to major catalogs. Just be sure to e-mail *Journey Treasures* with your order.

Store hours:

Tuesday and Friday
Wednesday

11:00a.m. - 3:00p.m.
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Class Plays....2007

The curriculum of the school calls for each class from 2nd through 7th grade to put on a play that enlivens what has been taught in the classroom. Each child has a role in the play and the class teacher attempts to choose a play that has value for their class. Roles are chosen for each student based on what the teacher feels would be most appropriate for them. Costumes are created, as well as props along and with the children. It is a moment for the children to show their growth, maturity and their abilities in yet another way. These plays are not to be missed and accordingly, the schedule for plays this year is as follows:

February 15.....4th grade
April 5.....6th grade
May 24.....3rd grade
May 31.....5th grade
June 7.....2nd grade
June 14.....7th grade

Ms. Clark assures me that the 1st grade will perform a play this year, yet as with last year's class, it will be a play of lesser demand to meet the needs of the 1st grade child.

The date will be announced in the spring.

Recycling Wednesdays

Recycling is good for the environment. Bring in your recyclable plastic and aluminum cans and help keep California clean. It's a good thing. The Parent Fundraising Committee will oversee the transport of bottles and cans to the recycling center and collect the deposits for the school's general fund.

Who: The Journey School kids and parents.
What: Bring recyclable plastic and aluminum bottles and cans to school.
When: Every Wednesday morning
Where: The drop off area

Call Betsy Abrams to help with volunteering and with any questions at 949-215-0383

Ralph's Shoppers: You may now register your Ralph's Club Card online at www.ralphs.com/ccprogram. Simply click on the "Participant" box and fill in the required information. Our NPO # is 80222.

A contribution is made to Journey each time you shop!

Could it be any easier to support our children's school?!



Important Dates

January 15

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
NO SCHOOL

January 17

5th Grade "Girl Power"
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

January 18

Science Fair

January 24

5th Grade "Girl Power"
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

January 29

Council Meeting
7:00 p.m.

January 31

Re-enrollment forms due

February 1

Open enrollment begins

February 2

Family Matter Parenting Conference
7:00 p.m.

February 3

Family Matters Conference
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

February 7

5th Grade "Girl Power"
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

February 8

Council Meeting
7:00 p.m.

February 14

Journey School Founders Day

February 15

4th Grade Play

February 19 - 23

President's Day Week School Holiday
No School