

JOURNEY SCHOOL NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 10

February 9, 2007

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

Dear Parents,

My experience in schools is that as soon as the calendar turns to January, an amazing set of circumstances come into play. Issues that were put on hold through the holiday months of November and December become matters that must be dealt with in January. At the exact mid point of the school year, parents are asked to re-enroll their students for the next year. The calendar page barely turns and now it is time to look at next year's budget. It typically becomes apparent what employment needs are necessary for the following school year. Policies and procedures that have served the school well enough back in the days of 100 students now need amending. In what seems like a blink of an eye, it is February and the days are moving by at light speed and as you bed down for the nights the question "Wasn't I just here?" pops up in your mind.

The School Council has met three times this month ready and willing to jump into the work, dealing with policy issues and discussing what adjustments the school needs for September. Clearly, we have the need for a first grade teacher and no thanks to Patti and me, a kindergarten teacher and an administrator. We are moving to a new site which will be a delight and will allow for the school to grow and the students to stretch their wings, yet the task of moving the belongings of nine classrooms, an office, a storage container and then returning this campus to its original form will be a task that may invoke the help of Hercules and his fellow gods. Decisions about salary schedules increases need to be made. We must analyze whether we can or cannot afford a foreign language teacher for next year. Yet, fortunately we know that we will increase again by, at minimum, another 25 students, and we will look to the future to see what our future revenue will come from.

It is both challenging and exhilarating depending on one's moods, expectation and temperament, to powder all of these tasks. I am excited for the future and for the challenge to plan it all well, I enjoy seeing a plan through to fruition.

Our School Council is amazing! They too are excited to decide on these issues. We met last week at Maysoun Assaf's house where she and her husband, Abdullah, joyfully served us dinner prior to the meeting. The feast was delicious, and led to a meeting of substance and direction. I am impressed with how the Council is taking each of their decisions concerning the school's future with seriousness and dedication while working toward a balanced budget and a bright future for the community. I thank each one of them for their dedication and service in this role to the community.

My best to you all.....Tim Connolly

Ask the Administrator

What is Journey's relationship to the District?

Journey was chartered by Capistrano Unified School district in 2000. We are an independent charter of the district which allows for the school to operate as a non-profit and purchase our own property and develop our own site. The term "independent" in this case means that we are licensed to do business through the district but they do not control our day to day operations. Because we rent space from them, our relationship to them seems stronger than it is. The CUSD staff services our school for maintenance and some janitorial needs because we are tenants of theirs and our agreement with the district requires that we use their staff to service their buildings. If we moved to our own site, we would then have to contract with the independent repair services. We also have agreed to use the district's special education services and we pay a fee per child per year for this. The district then takes on the responsibility for providing the services and accepts the fiscal responsibility for what is to be provided.

We receive roughly \$6,000 per student per year from the state to fund ourselves. The only other monies we currently receive are from a grant or from you wonderful Journey parents through supply donation fees, Parent Cabinet donations and JASP fees.

In my opinion, the school's relationship with the district has been terrific. They have been fully supportive of the school and its goals as well as offered very helpful tips several times that have been sage advice for the school. They have made it very clear that they are not financially or legally responsible for us as allowed under California State law.

Tim Connolly

Administrator Search Committee

The Council has initiated plans for a School Administrator search committee for the 2007-07 school year. The committee will be made up of two Council members, two Faculty members and two members of the Parent Cabinet as well as me. The candidate for the position will ideally be: a skilled communicator, an individual who loves school environments, has great respect for the educational environment and curriculum that Journey desires to offer and has the patience to work through problems. While one can point out the difficult nature of the task, it is far easier to point out the joys. (Please see the prior newsletter for my personal assessment.) I believe that there are candidates within the school community who could lead Journey into the future through this position. I encourage you all to think about this task as well think of others who clearly could be a candidate for the position. "Ideal" candidates would have Waldorf training and be California State certified, have at least five years of administrative positions in a school or non profit, as well as have exhibited leadership with equanimity. Other intangibles can replace the qualifications of the ideal. The school offers a cafeteria benefit package and a competitive salary for the position. Please contact Tim Connolly with questions or a resume and a letter of intent @ connollytime@msn.com.

A Note from the Parent Cabinet

This past Tuesday evening, I attended one of the information evenings for prospective parents. There was quite a crowd and Tim did a great job presenting the whats and hows of Journey School and answering a plethora of questions. Many people were very interested and enthusiastic about the school. Two parents even turned in applications to enroll before leaving! I spoke with the parents at the end of the meeting who wanted to know how they could "get in" and voiced "how lucky" we are to be at such a school. I left the meeting feeling uplifted. I do feel fortunate to be a part of Journey School and have this opportunity for my children's education.

Journey is a growing and evolving school and there are things to be improved. However, last night I felt gratitude and relief - that the school exists, that my children are already in the school and that it does not come with a monthly tuition fee. The volunteerism among the parent body is one of the elements that help make Journey School a great place to be. The Parent Cabinet extends a warm thanks to everyone who has contributed to the school over the years. As I look at the weeks ahead, we have much still to accomplish. The planning of May Day is upon us. Anyone interested in chairing this event or being on the committee please call Stephanie Ciulla at (949) 498-5476.

With great pride about Journey, Lisa O'Neill, Parent Cabinet Chair

Dear Parents,

For at least the first nine or so years as a mother, I thought parenting my children was relatively easy—it all seemed natural, organic, and common sense. They followed our rules (for the most part), enjoyed family activities, did chores (without too much mediation), remembered their manners (with minor prompting), dressed without drama, and went to bed before me ... until they approached puberty! One day, they were happily tying their shoelaces, and the next, they were struck with total amnesia. I had to teach the older ones the shoelace-tying, "bunny ears song" that my kindergartener was singing. My teen's pants were mysteriously overly-affected by gravity, and he did not seem to notice, so I had to remind him to pull them up—several times a day. Suddenly, I was lost in a sea of lip gloss, razors, deodorants, and highly-perfumed lotions, gagging for a breath of fresh air, and grasping for some survival tips. My inner resources and strengths were/are being tested in ways previously unimagined. I was woefully unprepared for the transition from a parent of young children to parent of an adolescent or two and their new, often not-so-nice attitudes. "Help," I screamed over the top of Led Zeppelin—coming from my daughter's room.

I was relieved and excited to learn that Patti Connolly is facilitating an Adolescent Study Group to examine and discuss issues and challenges commonly faced by parents of adolescents. Participation in this group allows me to create a map for this leg of my journey as a parent—one that can help me better understand and navigate these adolescent years in healthy and loving ways. I know that this circle of open-hearted parents and teachers (thank you, Patti and Michelle) will give me the knowledge, tools, and sustenance I need to recreate myself as a parent of adolescents. I urge parents of children of all ages to take advantage of Patti's wisdom and experience while she is here with us. Please take this opportunity to prepare yourself for the adolescent years, which come upon us more quickly than a teenager answers his/her phone.

Thank you, Cosibella Cristina

Meeting Time: 7 – 8 p.m. Tuesdays

Meeting Place: Journey School (Tuesday 13th Feb. at Orange County Waldorf School for a talk on adolescence)

Contacts: Ann McKee at annmckee5@yahoo.com or 551 4815; Patti Connolly at connollypatti@cox.net or 970-401-0189

Reading: *Between Form and Freedom* by Betty Staley (available from Journey School Treasures)

PARENTS LEARN AT JOURNEY TOO!

We had a wonderful turnout for Shea Darian's workshop last weekend. Thanks to all who attended and a special thanks to Tammra Tanner, Erika Allen, Jaime Geisendorfer and Angelina Hart for their extra support!

In just a few days you will have another opportunity to learn more about Journey's philosophy on nurturing family life through creative discipline. We invite you to come on February 12, Monday, as Patti Connolly, our Morning Glory Kindergarten teacher, shares 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" and will be from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Don't miss our last winter Community Forum about our school's unique curriculum on Wednesday, February 28. Richard Martin, our 5th grade main lesson teacher will present, "How Math Is Taught at Journey School". He 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.

Then on March 10 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm there will be a hands-on workshop for interested parents, "The Seasonal Table: Honoring Nature at Home", with Laura Childers, our Sunflower Kindergarten teacher. Learn about why nature tables are so very special to children and ultimately their parents, and then use all natural plant dyes to create a little chick of wool. Pre-registration in the office is essential since there is limited space for this workshop. The fee is \$25. per person.

There will be a few more forums in April and May that I will tell you about later but if you are curious, check out the new flyer attached.

And remember, almost all our forums are held in the Alternative Learning Center on the Wood Canyon campus. Most of these 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.

For the Community Forum Committee,
Patti Connolly

PARENT CABINET NEWS:

The Parent Cabinet met this past Thursday and, as Tim wrote, we too have many tasks to do! First of all we spoke about our fundraising efforts. We are excited to surpass our fundraising goal of \$50,000 through our Annual Giving Campaign and our Silent Auction and are pleased to note that the Fairy Market held in December garnered \$4000 towards the goal. As a side note, we wanted to thank each of you for supporting our Fundraising Program. You know that this program directly funds our children's specialty program. Without each family's financial support through giving, our children would not be learning how to play the violin with talented Ms. Lynch, how to move gracefully and consciously with the help of our incredible eurythmy teacher Amy Schick, how to play cooperatively and love to be physically moving with our amazing Mr. J, and how to crochet, sew, and knit their own creations with ever joyous Ms. Johnson. They are learning how to be well-rounded individuals through these studies with dynamic, wise teachers! Let's all support their work through full participation!

Well now, back to our Parent Cabinet meeting, we also discussed the May Festival and will be informing you of the day's goings-on once we speak to the faculty. We also designated PC members for the Administrator Search Committee (Lisa Wells) and the Relocation Committee (Tammra Tanner and Myra Gonzalez). We shared our thoughts for next year's Fundraising Program and decided to have a Consensus Workshop with Patti Connolly on March 8th, our next Parent Cabinet meeting.

Please feel free to join us every 2nd Thursday of each month in the Morning Glory Kindergarten classroom at 1 pm to be a part of the Parent Cabinet. We appreciate any task, large or small, towards the work of the parents of Journey School.

Waldorf School of Orange County (WSOC)

Tuesday, February 13, 2007, 7:00 PM

Walking the Labyrinth: The Journey of Education

Presented by David Westlake

Students often appear to move in spiraling directions, making it hard to tell if they will ever actually reach their higher goals. Nevertheless, this meandering movement has purpose; the switchback journey, although seemingly getting nowhere, is part of the voyage that all learners must take to find their center.

David Westlake currently works as the High School Faculty Coordinator, helping to lay the groundwork for next year's new initiative. David studied History, Religion, and Mythology at the University of Maine from where he holds both undergraduate and graduate degrees. For the last ten years, he has worked as an educator, storyteller and lecturer.

THE FIFTH GRADE HAS BEEN WRITING RIDDLE POEMS
AND CHALLENGES YOU TO FIGURE OUT A FEW

1.

It is in lake but not lagoon,
It is in knife but not in spoon,
It is in kind but not in fat,
It is in kitten but not in cat,
It is in take but not in give,
It is in talk but not in live.

--Kalina Quinn

2.

Cleanliness I keep in mind,
I drink, I spit you will find,
I live in the ocean sometimes.

--Conor Shaw

3.

I have one eye,
One light,
And I can remember everything.

--Royce Fernandez

4.

I fly through the air,
Without any wings,
I am very large,
But can't hold any things,
I can only hold water.

--Elizabeth Graber

ANSWERS ON PAGE 12

JOURNEY SCHOOL INVITES YOU TO

CREATIVE DISCIPLINE:
FIVE SECRETS
TO HAPPY PARENTING

A lively and helpful conversation
with Patti Connolly, Kindergarten teacher

FEBRUARY 12
MONDAY

7:00-8:30 pm

In our Eurythmy room on the
Wood Canyon campus

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE
\$5 per child ~ preregistration required

JOURNEY SCHOOL COMMUNITY FORUMS

FEBRUARY-MAY 2007

FEBRUARY 17-
MARCH 27

7:00-8:30 pm

Tuesday evenings

PARENT STUDY GROUP ON ADOLESCENCE

The group is reading *Beyond Form and Freedom*, a book written by mother and Waldorf high school teacher, Betty Staley, and discussing issues of parenting with Patti Connolly, Kindergarten teacher

FEBRUARY 28

7:00-8:30 pm

HOW MATH IS TAUGHT AT JOURNEY SCHOOL

with Richard Martin, 5th grade teacher

MARCH 10

10:00-1:00 pm

THE SEASONAL TABLE: HONORING NATURE AT HOME

Learn about the gifts of a nature table in your home and create a plant-dyed felted Spring chick to add to your table with Laura Childers, Kindergarten teacher.
\$25. PER PERSON ~ PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED ~ LIMITED SPACE

APRIL 25

7:00-8:30 pm

WHY SHOULD I SAY NO TO MEDIA?

Did you know that there is scientific evidence demonstrating irreversible detrimental effects on the brain from electronic media use? Come find out! with Liz Clark, First Grade Teacher.

MAY 17

7:00-8:30 pm

PARENTS' EURYTHMY

Come experience eurythmy for yourself. You will be led through a progression of the grades, sharing both tone and speech eurythmy with Amy Schick, Eurythmy teacher.

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED UNLESS FEE IS NOTED

ALL FORUMS WILL BE HELD AT JOURNEY SCHOOL

23431 Knollwood, Aliso Viejo, California 949.448.7232

*The students and faculty of Journey School
invite you and your friends and family
to our*

*First Annual
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL*

*on the evening of March 30th
at our school*

The Festival will be the culmination of each grade class' study of a country and will begin with artistic presentations by grades 1-7 in the Wood Canyon performance hall. The students will then open the outdoor "Global Restaurant" sharing nine unique dishes from their countries.

*ADMISSION INCLUDES~
Viewing our Artistic Presentations
and
Entrance to our Global Restaurant*

*ADMISSION FEES~
FULL PASSPORT (sampling of all 9 dishes and a beverage)
\$8 pre-purchased (beginning Feb. 28)
\$10 at the door
MINI PASSPORT (sampling of 4 dishes and a beverage)
\$3 pre-purchased (beginning Feb. 28)
\$5 at the door*

Your child's main lesson teacher will be sharing more information with you about how you can help with the food preparation. If you would like to be a part of the overall coordination of the event or have any other questions, please contact Coco Cuddyer at 713-6003 or cuddyer@cox.net.

Save the environment.
Save on taxes.
Help our school.
Donate your used
cell phone & ink jet cartridges!

Dear Parents:

Journey School is conducting a cell phone & ink jet recycling fundraiser. There's nothing to buy. We are simply asking you to protect the environment by donating your used digital cell phone(s) and ink jet cartridge(s). Your used cell phone(s) may be tax deductible and will be recycled in accordance with EPA regulations or refurbished and sold. 100% of the proceeds will help fund Journey School.

We greatly appreciate your support!

Best regards,

Journey School Parent Cabinet
Susan Hahn (949) 443-1134

P.S. For those of you who have already donated or plan to, please use the form below for your tax purposes. And, Thank You for your help!

.....
(Tear along dotted line and retain for your records)

Tax Deductible Donation Acknowledgement

Thank you for donating your cellular phone(s). We cannot make any determination as to the value of the specific phone(s) you have donated to us. Generally speaking, older analog phones will not warrant a tax deduction (but still can be recycled). You should consult your tax advisor regarding value determination for tax purposes. The IRS requires the following information for tax deductions of \$250 or less. Please fill in the information indicated below and retain this record for your tax records.

Journey School _____ Donation Organization	_____ Donation Date	_____ Description of phone(s)	
_____ # of Phones	_____ Value of Donation	_____ Donor's Name	_____ Donor's Address

FUNDRAISING ALERT!!!!

WHAT: Silent Auction Planning Meeting

WHO: You!!!

WHY: To support our school community

WHEN: February 15th, Thursday, 6:30 pm

WHERE: at the school

Dear Parents,

We are very excited to invite you to be a part of the Silent Auction planning! Our auction will be a beautiful adult evening, an evening of gratitude for our wonderful Journey School, for all of us parents and teachers to enjoy with any special friends we wish to invite yet we need more parents to help us with the preparation. Come join us in the fun planning! These are the ways we need your help:

- Secure donations
- Event planning support
- Give your donation to auction off (your special service, a painting of yours, your special chocolate cake, your unique gift!)

We will be having a meeting on February 15th at 6:30 pm at the school. Please contact Bettina Spretke at 495-1017 or MATASHIS@cox.net or Monica Anderson at 240-4070 or monicaplus4@aol.com if you can't make the meeting. We would love for you to join us in any way possible.

The First Southern California Regional Circus Get-Together

Will be hosted by the Great Y Circus in Redlands California on
February 25, 2007, from 2 – 5 pm

Circus Journey, The Canyon Family Circus, Fern Street Circus, Jumbo Shrimp Circus, The Scarlet Sisters Circus Theatre, The Sophia Isadora Circus Academy and interested area Waldorf schools are invited!

Please contact John Whitfield (Mr. J) at 1-800-300-5845 or
john@aycostore.com for more information.

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

Journey Treasures

. 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.

Answers to 5th grade Riddle Poems

1. the letter k
2. a sponge
3. a camera
4. a raincloud



Important Dates

February 12

Morning Glory Parent Evening

6 - 7p.m.

"Creative Discipline" Community Forum

7 - 8:30 p.m.

February 13

2nd Grade Parent Evening

6 p.m.

Information Meeting for Perspective Parents

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

February 14

Journey School Founder's Day

5th grade field trip to Bowers Museum

8:40 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.

February 15

1st grade field trip Meixner Bakery

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

7th Grade Parent Afternoon

3:30 p.m.

Silent Auction Planning Meeting

6:30 p.m.

February 16

Full day of school

February 19 - 23

President's Day Week School Holiday

No School

February 27

Classroom Walk Through for interested parents

8:15 - 10:40 a.m.

Parent Study Group on Adolescence

7 p.m.

Council Meeting

7 p.m.

February 28

Parent Evenings for Grades (TBA)

6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Community Forum "How Math is Taught at Journey"

7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

March 1

Informal Grades Assembly

1:45 p.m.

March 6

Parent Study Group on Adolescence

7 p.m.

Information Meeting for Perspective Parents

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.