

JOURNEY SCHOOL NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 13

April 4, 2007

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

Dear Parents,

The breezes are still cool, yet the sun is warming us more and more each day. It is hard to believe that we are three weeks into spring and the school's spring break is upon us. The last weeks of the year will be filled with class plays, the May Festival (Friday, May 4) STAR and CORE testing, class trips and this year, preparation for moving. Yet before we get there, the enjoyment and relaxation of a spring break will have the opportunity to embrace us. With Passover being celebrated this week and the Christian services of Easter following, it also serves as a time of reflection and rebirth. One of my favorite stories from the 6th grade curriculum serves as a foundation for my reflections of spring.

The story relates back to 1000 AD and takes place during the Crusades. Raneiro de Raneiro was of Italian descent and was a soldier held in the highest esteem. As a person, he was loud, impolite and a bully. He married a young woman who was deeply in love with him, so in love in fact, that her love saw his potential, but not his more obvious blemishes. Her father was distraught over the marriage but in the end had to accept the proposal. The daughter was happy of course for the first months, but predictably his shadow side was becoming more obvious to her. The fabric of their love was already beginning to show signs of wear. After several unfortunate incidents, the young maiden left her husband with deep grief in her heart. Raneiro never believed that she would do this and found himself disbelieving this and he belittled her in any time he could.

The uprising in the Middle East was growing and Raneiro was needed to fight the Christian war. As he did in previous battles, he led his men on the charge and handily defeated the Saracens. As the celebration began and the spoils of war were split, his colleagues allowed him to be the first to draw a flame from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. He did so with great honor. During the celebration into the evening, he was challenged to take the flame back to his native Rome to his own church to light the Easter candle. He ordered his man servant to do so and he refused. While the men laughed at this dishonor, Raneiro said that he would do it. The journey was more arduous than what he expected. He was robbed and beaten. He slept under briars and froze in the elements, yet he kept the flame going at all costs.

He arrived on Easter morning, physically depleted and humbled. As he rode his broken steed through the city, the people jeered at him, returning to him all the unkindness that he showed to them. During the last steps to the church, his wife recognized him, seeing in his eyes a kindness she had known could live in him but wondered if she would ever see. As he stumbled into the church, people attempted to extinguish the flame and knock him down. In the end, his flame did indeed light the first candle of Easter, and for the first time in his life, Raneiro's heart was filled with a joy unknown to him.

May this spring fill us with new growth. My best to you...Tim Connolly, Administrator

Alliance for Public Waldorf Education

I attended a meeting this weekend past in Sebastopol for the steering committee for the Alliance. It served as another excellent gathering of forces to continue the work that this committee is attempting to form a non-profit leadership group. Articles of incorporation are being drawn up and steps to membership are being finalized. We also spoke about the founding of the Board of Directors for the group as well as an advisory committee, so matters are truly moving along to bring solid formation to this initiative.

The larger issue still in front of us remains the relationship with AWSNA and the use of the term "Waldorf" to describe what we attempt to do. The Alliance has received a positive legal opinion in support of using the term, so at the moment, the Alliance is feeling strong about its position. Now the next step is to gauge AWSNA's response which I will hear on April 30 at a meeting in San Francisco where the two parties will meet and hopefully begin to move forward focusing on commonalities rather than differences.

Faculty and Administrator Search Committees

Just a simple note to keep you informed that these groups continue their work to identify a first grade teacher, kindergarten teacher and administrator. The work is ongoing and active and ideally we will be able to pass on decisions soon!

CORE and STAR Testing

CORE testing is the district's own form of assessment testing for the students and was an assessment tool for the District prior to the initiation of STAR tests. This testing allows for what the faculty feels is a more coherent result that addresses student learning issues more directly. The 2nd through 7th grades testing will take place the week of May 21. The STAR testing which is the State of California's test and required under the terms of No Child Left Behind legislation, will be administered beginning May 14th. The 2nd grade through the 7th grade will be taking these exams as well. We strive for 100% participation in taking these tests and ask that you not plan to have the students out of school at this time unless illness or emergencies arise.

Attendance Reminders

*Did you know that each day your child is absent from school we lose funding? Please keep that in mind and remember that absences due to illness or emergencies should be the **only** days a child misses school.*

Please call the school office if your child is not going to be there before 8:30 a.m.
at 949-448-7232.

Passover

By Pamela Zuker

Just as in the Waldorf tradition, much of the Jewish tradition revolves around storytelling. Every year, Jewish families all over the world retell the story of Passover at what is known as a "Seder." (derived from the Hebrew word for "order", referring to the very specific order of the ritual). During this meal, the Biblical story of the Exodus (escape) from Egypt is retold using a special text called the "Haggadah." Typically, everyone present participates in the storytelling, and even the youngest child has a special role in the Seder.

The story of Passover is the story of Moses leading the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. God sent plagues into Egypt as warnings to the Pharaoh to "let my people go." Pharaoh ignored Moses' warnings until the 10th and most dramatic plague was brought about. Moses instructed the Jews that the angel of death would "pass over" their homes and leave them untouched by the plague if they sacrificed a lamb and used its blood to mark the doorposts of their homes. It is this reason that the holiday known as "Passover."

Adults drink four cups of wine representing the four expressions of redemption in Exodus. But the best known symbol of Passover is the matzah; flat, "unleavened bread" which symbolizes the Israelites' hasty departure from Egypt – so hasty the story goes, that there was no time to let the dough rise, so all the bread the Israelites brought out of Egypt was unleavened. Matzah is also known as "poor man's bread" and serves as a symbol to remind us to appreciate what we have and avoid arrogance and "inflated" egos as symbolized by leavened bread.

Passover is a time to be humble and reflect upon what it is like to be a poor slave, as the Israelites were in Egypt. On Passover, Jews retell the story by saying, "We were slaves in Egypt" (not "they"). As the Haggadah says, "In every generation, every individual must feel as if he or she personally had come out of Egypt... For it was not our forefathers alone whom the Holy One redeemed; He redeemed us, too, with them."

Jewish history from Biblical to modern times is a history of slavery, persecution, and discrimination. Passover is a time to reflect on how fortunate we are to have our freedom and be able to openly worship as we choose. Personalizing the story helps Jews understand that the holiday of Passover not only commemorates the Exodus of the Israelites from ancient Egypt, it also marks the birth of the Children of Israel (descendants of Jacob) as Jewish nation freed from slavery and allowed to become followers of God.

Passover is celebrated at around the same time as Easter each year. The Hebrew Bible is the same as the Christian Old Testament, and Jesus was Jewish. The "last supper" is widely regarded as having been a Passover Seder, a celebration of the Jewish people being saved by the blood of a lamb. This symbolism is echoed in Christ as "the lamb of God" and "Savior." The connection between Passover and Easter is, perhaps especially evident in the Catholic Eucharist (communion), when wine and unleavened bread are ritually transformed into the blood and body of Christ, the lamb and savior.

Easter and Passover are not only stories of the sacrificing of a "lamb" that saved a people – they are also both stories of redemption and rebirth, and they are both evocative of the renewal brought about in the Spring

As Spring arrives, we are blessed with our own renewals and rebirths, and we can all be humbled by how fortunate we are to live in a time and place where we are allowed to choose our own paths and be free.

And we can look with hope toward the day when all the world's people will live in freedom and peace.

JOURNEY SCHOOL NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

OUR ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN GOAL
IS
\$50,000
AND
WE HAVE RAISED
\$27,010 SO FAR!

WE HAVE ONLY ONE WEEK TO GO AND NEED YOUR SUPPORT.
WITHOUT YOUR HELP WE WILL NOT BALANCE OUR BUDGET THIS YEAR.
YOU MAY THINK, "OH, THEY DON'T REALLY NEED MY DONATION."
BUT WE DO!
YOUR SUPPORT IS CRUCIAL!

We heartily thank this week's donors:

Imelda Ayala
John and Frances Bennett
David and Jennifer Burlison
Liz Clark
Liana Emery
Robert Goldstein and Amy Schick
Matthew and Mary Holley
David and Azita Lines
Gunther and Dawn Meixner
Anthony Penna and Franci Sassin

Did you know that any class that achieves 100% participation in the Annual Giving Campaign will receive a special gift of extra supply funds? Please help raise these percentages with whatever donation you can give!

CLASS PARTICIPATION LEVEL

Morning Glory Kindergarten	35%
Sunflower Kindergarten	15%
First Grade	35%
Second Grade	50%
Third Grade	30%
Fourth Grade	20%
Fifth Grade	36%
Sixth Grade	37%
Seventh Grade	47%

Please remember that it's the giving that counts, not the amount!

We wish to again publicly thank these donors:

Marc and Betsy Abrams
Tiessa Bandy
Chris and Maica Belknap
Michele Bennett
Richard and LuAnne Biggs
Michael and Amy Burk
Laura Childers
Salvatore and Stephanie Ciulla
Patti and Tim Connolly
Cosibella Cristenas and Louix Dor Dempriey
James and Julia Elliott
Kimi and Jay Jay Encarnacion
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Bas Mulder and Liesbeth Sotebeer
Sarah and Tim Northrip
Kevin Quinn and Maxine Garcia
Diana Richards (Smithson)
Matt Shaw and Lisa O'Neill
Jochen and Bettina Spretke
Lisa Thornburg
Kanji Tsuchida and Ritsuko Imuta
Glenn and Miki Watanabe
Lisa and Damon Wells

We have already raised \$27,010.00 (over halfway to our goal) with only 35% of our families and 10 teachers donating so far!
Send in your tax-deductible donation today!

Ever grateful for your support,
The Annual Giving Campaign Committee

JOURNEY SCHOOL INVITES YOU TO

WHY SHOULD I SAY NO TO MEDIA?

APRIL 25
WEDNESDAY
7:00-8:30 pm

In our Eurythmy room
on the Wood Canyon campus

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.

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE
\$5 per child ~ pre-registration required ~ call the office at 448-7232

JOURNEY SCHOOL COMMUNITY FORUMS APRIL -MAY

Come one, come all to the last 3 Forums of the year! This is an incredibly easy way to make your life as a Journey parent more gratifying, interesting and easy. We had a great turnout for the Creative Parenting Forum in March...thanks to all who attended! Remember as well that CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE for only \$5 per child. Pre-registration is required by calling the office at 448-7232. Please note that our last Forum is in the morning and that all of the Forums are held in the Eurythmy Room.

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 16

7:00-8:30 pm

PARENTING MADE EASIER WITH
UNDERSTANDING THE TEMPERAMENTS

Patti Connolly will speak about how parents can use their knowledge of the four temperaments to make their parenting easier. The four temperaments, basic personality styles in their essence, were first identified in the Middle Ages but still are a huge help to adults in understanding and working with children and each other.

MAY 17

9:00 - 10:00 am

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

23431 Knollwood, Aliso Viejo, California 949.448.7232

A Day in the Life of a Journey School Teacher

As the clock ticks past midnight and my sleepy head touches the pillow, I reflect on my past day and the new day to come. In the morning, I will open the classroom and excited children will greet me with wonderful tales from "Life Beyond School". Most recently this has been about such things as pet kitties and tainted pet food; family celebrations and the Persian New Year. A short morning walk brings us together. We look for new mole holes and fresh mounds of earth. We'll take a rest stop in the amphitheater to view the day; is it sunny or cloudy? Is it windy or not? Will it rain and can we see the distant mountains? Then we'll sprint to the classroom, line-up quietly and the morning handshake will officially start the day.

The next two hours will ebb and flow with the rhythm of the main lesson, carefully prepared the night before. After snack the children will have knitting, games or Eurythmy and for me a brief forty minutes to catch my breath, visit the office, or make an occasional run to Starbucks. After the specialty lesson is over I will bring to the children flute playing, writing, painting, singing, math practice, free-play, cooking or a nature walk. Our day comes to a close with classroom clean-up and the going home verse.

The children have left, the room is quiet, I collect my things and my thoughts, and head home. After a quiet hour, my work begins again; with a review of the day, answering of emails, and preparing of lessons. Journey School practices Waldorf education where there are no set text books in the traditional sense and lessons are prepared fresh every day. We know how good this is for children, just as freshly prepared food is so much better for the body than boxed dinners. We also know, as any good cook knows, that the fresh approach is quite labor intensive. I search for just the right stories, and adjust my educational ingredients to match the needs of the children. Do I need to apply a little more seasoning or a little less seasoning, and what will the overall effect be? This is teaching as a living, lively art. I take a break of two hours or so to be with my family, eat dinner and enjoy their company, and then it's back to my educational kitchen. What story will I tell tomorrow, and how will I build the morning work around it, what new work will I bring and what work will I have the children review? I have excellent ingredients, but no recipes. That is the difference between Waldorf teaching and more traditional teaching. Teaching at Journey school is not a job it is a way of life. I reflect on this as I write these last few words. I close on one day and look forward to another, as the clock hand sneaks imperceptibly towards the midnight hour.

Liz Clark

EVERYONE WELCOME!

**Come join the fun April 19, in the Morning Glory Kindergarten room at 1 pm
for the next:**

PARENT CABINET MEETING

Midsummer's Eve

Midnight wrapped its arms around the old oak tree
The stars twinkled, the wind cried a plea
It sat waiting endlessly through the night
So still, as if to give anyone a fright
But no one came and no one had gone
'Till the sun peaked over nature's lawn
Then on the hill a vision could be seen
That of stirring in the dark forests green
A woman walked, decked with flowers
To the great oak's belittling powers
The thing sat straight, its bright eyes narrow
Looking skeptically at the woman's sparrow
You were to be alone it said and frowned
Well one needs company while treading slow ground

Said the woman with a determined look on her face
And sat beneath the tree gently with grace
She reached above her to the first limb
And by comparison her arms were greatly slim
She draped herself about the ancient tree
And looked about with abounding glee
At the magnificent sights surrounding her
From newly budded leaves to nests lined with fur
And her little sparrow hopped off to its nest
Twittering through the treetops it went home to rest
She was burdened with many a lovely flower
And as she slipped down the tree, she felt endowed with power
From deep within the great old tree
When she got down she knelt on her knee
And bestowed her best wishes all through the land
As magic flowed from her elegant hand
To give life to all of the ancient trees
But after that she was gone with the dawn breeze
Disappeared as quickly as she had descended
Midsummer's eve had now ended

Elisabeth Yancey & Emma Townley-Smith (7th Grade)

A quote for the week from Emerson -

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."



Important Dates

April 5

6th grade play
1:45 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

April 6

Early dismissal
NO JASP

April 9 - April 13

Spring Break
NO SCHOOL

April 16

School Resumes

April 18

Open enrollment ends
Long Range Planning Meeting
6 p.m.

April 19

Parent Cabinet Meeting
1:00 p.m.
Council Meeting
5:00 p.m.

April 25

Community Forum
"How to Say No to Media"
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

April 28

5th Grade Pentathlon @ Highland Hall
All Day

April 30 - May 2

5th Grade to Catalina

May 4

May Festival
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.