

# Malamalama Waldorf School

*Celebrating 30 Years 1978-2008*

## NewsNotes

November 2008

**WALDORF**

**101**

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### **Thanksgiving at MWS**

Gratitude, along with reverence and wonder, are the three most important attitudes we can help our children to cultivate. The best elements of the Thanksgiving festival, with the help of its motif of giving of thanks, can elevate it to something which nourishes on many levels.

As a harvest festival we can call to mind all the forces of heaven and earth which have provided us with food, clothing, and sustenance. We can remember and thank all who have supported us.

Thanksgiving is celebrated with class performances, followed by a Thanksgiving lunch feast of vegetable soup.

For each new morning with its light,  
For rest and shelter of the night,  
For health and food, for love and friends,  
For everything Thy goodness sends.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

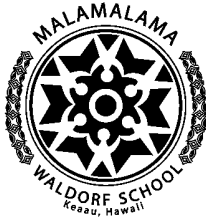
### ***These Are Thankful Times***

Recently, I was sent an online photo album from a family member who used an internet photo sharing site. While navigating through the site I came across a photo slide show entitled "30 Days of Gratitude". The photographer captured beautiful images, mostly blooming flowers that inspire peace and serenity. After thinking about these images, and the theme around which they were taken (gratitude), I began to form in my mind my own personal slide show. Certainly, loving images of my children and husband were first to come to mind followed by extended family, friends, my home. I also captured an image of my children's school and teachers; the people who dedicate much of their time (and energy) helping to form their mind and spirit and are responsible for their welfare most of the day.

What an insightful project it would be to give our children a camera with one basic guideline: each day take one and only one picture of something you are truly grateful for. I could imagine what images my children might capture; a favorite toy, a well ridden skateboard, the family dog. Indeed, these are thankful times.

If only we could consciously reflect upon these basic, simplistic images as we look towards an uncertain (but hopeful future). The antithesis of "30 Days of Gratitude" is out there to be sure. Constant reflections of the troubled economy, increasing unemployment rates and the world's human rights atrocities are captured by photographers around the world and posted minute by minute on any news outpost you tune into. But these are not the images that will inspire our spirits and encourage our collective creativity.

During this upcoming holiday season, I would like to take some time with my children to collect images of gratitude that are meaningful to our family. We may begin with a few familiar things (the toy, the skateboard, the dog) but I also hope to capture images of peace and hope and joy that encourage us as we live each day and inspire us as we create an optimistic outlook for the future.





# Malamalama Waldorf School

## News Notes

### Calendar of Events

November 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 BOD Meeting 5PM Farming Meeting 6PM	11 VETERANS' DAY HOLIDAY  NO SCHOOL	12 The Heart of Early Childhood Education Parent Evening 5:30pm	13 Grade 3/4 Field Trip to Milk and Honey, Aina Nui Farms	14 	15
16	17 KH, Grades 1 and 2 Lantern Walk 5:45pm	18	19 	20	21 Thanksgiving Festival 10:00am POTLUCK	22
23	24 Parent Teacher Conferences NO SCHOOL	25 Parent Teacher Conferences NO SCHOOL	26 Parent Teacher Conferences NO SCHOOL	27 Thanksgiving Holiday NO SCHOOL	28 Thanksgiving Holiday NO SCHOOL	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6 Pahoa Holiday Parade

**Activities and Events are subject to change.**

**Please call the school office if you have questions.**

### Hi5 Recycling at Malamalama

Malamalama is now participating in the ARC of Hilo's curbside recycling program. You may bring your Hi5 recyclables to the school and deposit them in one of three recycling bins located next to the maintenance storage room in the main parking lot. These black trash bins are for mixed recycling; you do not need to separate glass, cans and plastics. ARC employees will collect our recyclables weekly and all donations collected will benefit our school. What a great way to recycle and support our school!

### School Directory

The school office is compiling a school-wide phone and email list for distribution early next week. The purpose of a school directory is for parent communication of school related news/events, carpool routes, and play-date arrangements. The school requests that the directory not be used for solicitation or non-school related business.

The following information will be included in the directory: child's name and grade, parent's first name(s), residence area (i.e. HPP, Hilo, Kapoho...), primary phone number (home or cell) and email address.

**If you do not want your phone number or email address released you must contact the school office directly to remove your information from the school directory.**

**You must contact the office by Friday, November 21 or we will assume that it's okay include your information in the school directory.**

### The Heart of Early Childhood Education

Cindy Sydow of Honolulu Waldorf School

*Wednesday, November 12th @ 5:30pm*

Cindy Sydow, an Early Childhood Waldorf Teacher for over 15 years, will explore and share how the Waldorf kindergarten nurtures the young child's capacities, and prepares him for his journey through the grades, and how we, as parents can support their success.

Childcare, by donation, provided upon request.

### Farmers Alliance at Malamalama

The Farmers Alliance at Malamalama met Monday evening (November 10) for an open discussion on developing a plan to start a larger

scale farm at the school. Parent Joe Houlahan is spearheading this effort and can be reached by phone at 938-4783 or email [ainanuiloa@gmail.com](mailto:ainanuiloa@gmail.com). The next open meeting will be on December 9 at 3pm. Child care is available in the Extended Day Program for \$10.

### Lantern Walk

Wednesday, November 17th @ 5:45pm

Kinderhale, Grade 1-2, and all others wanting to join in will gather for a Lantern Walk. Grade 1-2 students please bring a batch of pumpkin bread or other seasonal treat to share. Kinderhale needs volunteers to help bake pumpkin bread, bring cider and help with set-up and clean-up. Please speak to your class teachers for more information.

### No School for Parent/Teacher Conferences and Thanksgiving Holiday

November 24 -26 is Parent/Teacher Conference Week followed by the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Teachers will be arranging individual conferences with parents for time slots on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Please see you respective class teachers for sign-up.

Office Hours will be Reduced during Parent/Teacher Conferences (Nov. 24 -26) and closed for Thanksgiving Holiday Thursday and Friday (Nov. 27 & 28)

### Festival of Lights

Mark your calendars for an evening of holiday performances and caroling on December 17<sup>th</sup>. More information to follow.

### Tree Lighting

Our school will be decorating a Christmas tree at Wailoa Center this holiday season. Grades 5/6 and 7/8 will be performing at the lighting of the Christmas trees December 5th @ 5:00-7:00pm. All class will be making decorations to help fill the tree. We hope that each student will be represented. Please contact your class teacher if you are able to help the children make their decorations during class.

Also, if you have hand-made ornaments that you would like to donate/display on our tree, please drop them off in the office by Friday, November 21st.

## Hu'i Kukui

Dear Kinderhale Kukui parents,

The subtle nuances of a Hawaii autumn bring forth cooler mornings and gentle rain. The children who are so in tune with nature, enjoy coming inside earlier. Our circle celebrates the season - we rake leaves and look for seeds to rest in the earth. We are also making lanterns to guide us through the dark night for our Lantern Walk. Please mark your calendars (November 17th at 5:45p.m.) and join us for a magical evening.

I am pleased to announce a special talk to be given by a seasoned Waldorf Kindergarten teacher from the Honolulu Waldorf School. Cindy Sydow will be speaking about "The Heart of Early Childhood Education" on Wednesday November 12th at 5:30 p.m... We are fortunate to have her as a mentor and a resource for parents.

Two other festivals that enlighten this time of year are the Thanksgiving Festival and the Advent Spiral. Our class will again be watching the grades perform their poems and songs on November 21st, and then share in the soup in our classroom. The Advent Spiral will be on December 10th at 6:30. Please note that we do not have school the week of Thanksgiving, but we will hold parent- teacher conferences. Look for a signup sheet soon by the door.

Each day brings new joys, opportunities for growth, and laughter. The class as a whole seems to flow with the rhythm, now that we have been in school for a while. I appreciate what each child brings and there is never a dull moment. I am happy to see friendships grow and compassion shown with each other.

Thank you for your loving children,  
Aunty Laurie



## Hu'i Liliko'i

"This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine."

Aloha Hu'i Liliko'i,

I would like to thank each of you for your thoughts and prayers while I was ill. Your concern for my health is warming to my heart and I greatly appreciate your support.

Thank you, again, for your effort in producing our Medieval Faire. It cannot happen without you and I hear it was a fun time. Mahalo!

On Wednesday, November 17th @ 5:45pm we will gather on the grounds of our beautiful school to light up the darkened night, with a Lantern Walk. We will need volunteers to help bake pumpkin bread, bring cider and help with set-up and clean-up. Remember many hands make light work and you can log your volunteer hours in the office. Together we will sing, eat, and be merry. This is a wonderful experience so mark your calendar.

In December we will have the opportunity to walk an Advent Spiral. This special event will be held on December 10th @ 5:00pm. I will share more about this as the date approaches. Again mark your calendar!

On October 31st we journeyed to a town in Libya and had a great time. Thanks to all who helped to create this experience for our children.

Aloha and Mahalo,  
Uncle Aubrey

P.S. Next Wednesday, November 12th a visiting teacher from the Honolulu Waldorf School will offer a talk with Kinderhale parents entitled, "The Heart of Early Childhood Education." Please join us for this special opportunity. The talk will be fabulous!



## Grade 1/2

Wow, is it November already?! It seems we were all just planning Medieval Faire and now it's time to think about Thanksgiving. Never a dull moment at Malamalama!

Thank you so much, to all the families who helped make Medieval Faire a great success! Seeing the excitement on the faces of the children that night made it all worthwhile. I will reread this line next October!

Currently in Grade 1-2 we are in a Language Arts block, completing the letters for the first graders and introducing new letter combinations and lengthier reading selections for the second graders. Reading group activities are going great, thanks to our parent volunteers, and I am very pleased with the progress all of the students are making.

There are several important dates to remember in November. Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day and therefore, no school. On Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, families with children in Kinderhale and Grade 1-2 will meet at 5:45 p.m. for our annual Lantern Walk. The children are busy practicing songs and making special lanterns for this fun event. Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> is the all-school Thanksgiving feast. This is a lovely way to come together and give thanks for our beautiful school community. Please remember that there is no school the week of Thanksgiving (Nov. 24-28). However, there is school for the teachers and parents that week. Please sign-up for a parent/teacher conference time on one of the following dates: Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, or 26<sup>th</sup>. The sign-up sheet is posted on the back door of the classroom. It is important that during parent-teacher conferences we are able to share thoughts on an adult level, so I ask that you please make childcare arrangements prior to our meeting. I look forward to the opportunity to meet with each of you and share your child's beautiful work with you.

As Thanksgiving quickly approaches, I give thanks for the beautiful children in Grade 1-2 with whom I am honored to share each day, and for you...their parents, and all that you do to support our class!

Peace,  
Ms. Pena



## Grade 3/4

Planting taro, corn and wheat, feeling the rich, strong earth beneath our feet; blessed by raindrops and happy smiles, our mornings in the garden have been especially sweet. We're all enjoying our farming block. The students are enthusiastically learning about farming, gardening, team work and language arts! The student's beautiful main lesson books reflect their new skills with farming, gardening and cursive writing. A special mahalo to all of the parents that have helped clear the garden area and share their farms. We are looking forward to our field trip on November 13 to Milk and Honey Farm and Aina Nui Farm.

Our Thanksgiving festival is coming up on Friday, November 21. We will celebrate with songs and a feast. Details to follow about what we will prepare. Our class will be building a simple sukkah hut of palm fronds in celebration of the fall festival of Sukkot. We will also gather food donations for the needy.

The week following our Thanksgiving festival (November 24-26) is parent-teacher conference week. Please sign up on the classroom door for a conference time. I look forward to meeting with all of you then!

I am pleased to welcome a new student to our class, welcome Kailani Leyva-Edgecomb! Kailani was a part of this class several years ago when the class was in Kinderhale and her return is warmly familiar.

As this fall semester progresses, our class grows ever more cohesive. They frequently break out in joyous song, one of their favorites being:

What a goodly thing,  
If the children of the world  
Could dwell together  
In peace.

There is much to be thankful for during this season of Thanksgiving. I am so thankful for being able to guide your children.

Aloha,  
Ms. Jenkins

## Grade 5/6

Dear 5th/6th Grade Class Parents,

Thanks for all of your help with the rummage sale. It was a success and we made over \$400 for our end of the year trip to Maui for the Pentathlon.

The class is currently studying the biomes and geography of North America. The students are doing great works of creative writing and they are drawing many beautiful maps. We are also working very hard on our play "The Odyssey" which we will perform on December 12th and 13th.

I hope everyone will be able to join us for our Thanksgiving festival and feast on November 21st. Also, please remember to sign up for a time to meet with me for Parent/Teacher Conferences on November 24th, 25th or 26th. Look for the sign-up sheet on the classroom door.

Aloha,  
Mr. Germain



## Grade 7/8

Dear Parents,

We are near completion of our Human Adolescence block which has also encompassed the physiology of fertility. Students have learned much about themselves and have enjoyed much positive confirmation regarding their experiences as a pre-teen.

Next block will be the Physics of mechanics, one of several science blocks this year.

Students continue vocabulary and composition studies; I proudly mention that students have also completed reading an unabridged rendition of the Arthurian legends (based on Le Morte d'Arthur by Sir Thomas

Malory) by Sir James Knowles called King Arthur and His Knights.

The holidays are upon us; our Thanksgiving Potluck and Festival will be held at 10:00am November 21<sup>st</sup>. Look for upcoming flyers regarding our contributions.

Parent teacher conferences will be held on Monday and Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, (a signup sheet is on my door.) I look forward to sharing with you your child's accomplishments.

Aloha,  
Ms. Gold



Mark Your Calendars...  
Pahoa Holiday Parade  
Saturday Dec. 6  
Please plan on joining  
us and showing your  
school spirit!