

Malamalama Waldorf School

Celebrating 30 Years 1978-2008

NewsNotes

October 2008

WALDORF

101

Discover

Waldorf Education



How do Waldorf schools teach reading?

There is evidence that normal, healthy children who learn to read relatively late are not disadvantaged by this, but rather are able quickly to catch up with, and may overtake, children who have learned to read early.

Additionally, they are much less likely to develop the "tiredness toward reading" that many children taught to read at a very early age experience later on. Instead there is lively interest in reading and learning that continues into adulthood. Some children will, out of themselves, want to learn to read at an early age. This interest (continued on next page)

All in the Same Boat

This past Monday the faculty, administration and board of directors of our school met together for the school's semi-annual School Retreat to discuss the status of our school and to prioritize the school's work for the upcoming year as well as revisit the school's three and five year goals.

Early Hawaiians had many proverbs around canoe sailing, and the importance of working together; paddles in together, paddles out together. It was gratifying to know that the board, faculty and administration, are all in the same boat, with paddles pointed in the same direction navigating the same course. Together we validated our work for the upcoming year, have a vision for the years ahead, and where we see the school in five years.

This year we are committed to ***updating our alumni database, evaluating board of directors operations, evaluating the school's tuition assistance program*** as well as ***engaging in an in-depth self study*** of all aspects of our school in order to gain AWSNA accreditation. The beginnings of an ***active parent organization*** are underway with faculty and key parent organizers.

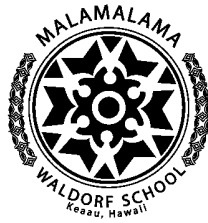
Focusing on these key systems, programs and aspects of our school are steps towards the school's five year vision:

Malamalama Waldorf School will be a full member school of both the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America and Hawaii Association of Independent Schools by the 2013/2014 school year. The school will increase its enrollment capacity as well as student diversity. The school will diversify its business operations by utilizing its full campus (acreage) and will have FESTIVAL HALL!

Thank you, parents, for support Malamalama Waldorf School's mission and goals!

E lauhoe mai na wa'a; i ke ka, i ka hoe; i ka hoe, i ke ka; pae aku i ka 'aina.
"Everybody paddle the canoes together; bail and paddle, paddle and bail, and the shore will be reached"

If everybody pitches in, the work is quickly done.



MWS News Notes

Calendar of Events

October 2008

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| | | | 1 Grade 5/6 Parent Evening | 2 3/4 Imiloa Field Trip WECAN Visit | 3 AWSNA Visit | 4 Trail Clearing 9am ZOO Performance 1pm |
| 5 | 6 | 7 Medieval Faire Meeting 2:30pm | 8 | 9 Medieval Faire Meeting 1:30 - 2:30pm | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 SCHOOL PICTURE TAKING | 16 Medieval Faire Meeting 1:30 - 2:30pm | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 Field Trip to UHH Theatre | 22 | 23 Medieval Faire Meeting 1:30 - 2:30pm | 24 Medieval Faire Set Up | 25 Medieval Faire 4 -10 |
| 26 Medieval Faire Clean Up | 27 NO SCHOOL | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Halloween Fun & Games Parade | |

Activities and Events are subject to change.
Please call the school office if you have questions.

**Medieval Faire
All School Meeting**
Tuesday, October 7 at 2:30pm
at the Backyard Picnic Tables
Please attend this all school meeting to see how
you can help another successful event!

Scary Trail

**Work Party this
Saturday, October 4
9 am to 1 pm**

**Bring your yard tools, weedeaters,
clippers, loppers, chainsaws
Bring water and remember safety first!
Maxine & Harold Crawford scary trail
chairpersons.**

NAMASTE'S Birthday Celebration

Join our 5th – 8th graders as they help to celebrate Namaste's (the tiger) Birthday at the Panewa Zoo this Saturday, October 4 at 1:00pm. Performing students must arrive by 12:40, bring their recorders and violins and wear their Malamalama School shirts (available in Elf's Corner). For more information, please call the school office.

WECAN / AWSNA Site Visits

Visiting delegates from both Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America and the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America will be on campus Thursday and Friday, October 2nd and 3rd for site visits. Please welcome them!

Waldorf 101 (continued) can and should be met, as long as it comes in fact from the child. Early imposed formal instruction in reading can be a handicap in later years, when enthusiasm toward reading and learning may begin to falter.

If reading is not pushed, a healthy child will pick it up quite quickly and easily. Some Waldorf parents become anxious if their child is slow to learn to read. Eventually these same parents are overjoyed at seeing their child pick up a book and not put it down and become from that moment a voracious reader. Each child has his or her own optimal time for "taking off." Feelings of anxiety and inferiority may develop in a child who is not reading as well as her peers. Often this anxiety is picked up from parents concerned about the child's progress. It is important that parents should deal with their own and their child's apprehensions.

Human growth and development do not occur in a linear fashion, nor can they be measured. What lives, grows, and has its being in human life can only be grasped with that same human faculty that can grasp the invisible metamorphic laws of living nature.

—From *"Five Frequently Asked Questions"* by Colin Price; originally printed in *Renewal Magazine*, Spring/Summer 2003

At Malamalama, literacy skills are taught in Kinderhale with formal reading instruction beginning in First Grade.

School Picture Taking

School pictures will be taken on Wednesday, October 15 by Aloha Photo Art. Order forms will be distributed within the next two weeks and will be due on picture taking day. Aloha Photo Art will let us know about make-up pictures for children who may be absent on that day.



Halloween Festivities

Fun & Games, Friday October 31

10:30am - 12:15pm

Halloween festivities are celebrated at Malamalama Waldorf School. Children are encouraged to come in appropriate costumes (nothing scary, gore-y or overly graphic). Costumes that match the curriculum are appropriate. There will be a costume parade at 10:30am with games beginning at 10:45am. Parents are welcome to bring a pumpkin and carving instruments to demonstrate pumpkin carving with their child however, one-on-one supervision needed for children to participate in pumpkin carving.

October 2008 Class News

Kinderhale Hu'i Liliko'i

Become a little sun, and shine your light and share your warmth with all you meet.

On September 22nd the Autumn Equinox occurred bringing day and night into balance. As we move away from this day, each day becomes shorter and the nights grow longer. The Sun is farther away, and so too, is it's warmth and light farther away. In this time of growing darkness we will celebrate a series of festivals, Michaelmas, a lantern walk, and Advent, that will help us to see and feel an inner warmth and light in ourselves and each other. As we cultivate our inner life, our inner lights will grow holding the space of light, until the Sun returns in all its glory.

The Medieval Faire is coming soon. We will hold an all school meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 7 from 2:30 to 4:00pm to discuss details and answer questions you might have. I hope to see a representative for each family there. In general, the Kinderhale is responsible for sign painting, lighting and general set-up. We also need someone from our school community to chair the Enchanted Trail. The Enchanted Trail is an event where children go on an imaginative journey with a fairy tale like storyline. If you are interested in chairing this special feature of our Medieval Faire or would like to participate in making the Enchanted Trail a special event,

come and talk to me or to someone in the office. The Medieval Faire is a fun happening for our children and greater community. We need each of you to participate, so find something that you would really enjoy doing. If you are not sure how to help, or just want to be helpful wherever help is needed, check with Kehau in the office or attend the organizational meetings held in the school office on Thursdays from 1:30pm-2:30pm. Thank you for your help, and thank you for your children.

Aloha,
Uncle Aubrey



Kinderhale Hui Kukui

Michael, Heaven's Knight, sends down iron courage on a shooting star.

Dear Kinderhale Kukui Parents,

Our room and play yard is richly filled with the sights, sounds, touch and creativity of your bright children. From catching caterpillars to caring for the bunnies, from constructing houses to performing puppet shows, they make their play their work everyday. Resolving conflicts has become an essential and more natural process alongside the play. All those "important things we learn in kindergarten" such as sharing, taking turns and using good manners are unfolding.

The image of Saint Michael coming to earth in golden light to tame the terrible dragon, has infused our group with a sense of hope. The good shall overcome, and even if we make a mistake, we can act with kindness again. Many knights have been seen riding their imaginary horses through the yard. And a meteor shower of plant dyed stars has graced our space too. Our Michaelmas Celebration was a wonderful collaboration, showing how well the two classes intermingle.

Thank you to those parents who could attend our parent evening. I enjoyed getting to know you better and I hope our talks can be useful. Please sign up to help in the Medieval Faire. We now head into a magical time of year, with a lantern walk in early November and an Advent Spiral in December. Thanks for your support.

Warmly,
Aunty Laurie

Grade 1 & 2

It's hard to believe that we've completed the first month of school already! As I watched the beautiful faces of the children during their Michaelmas performance, I was moved by how quickly they have become a lovely and cohesive family, moving forward, for the most part, in harmony.

Thank you, to all the parents who were able to attend our first Parents Evening in September. It was a pleasure to share with you the class' accomplishments to date and my plans for the months ahead. Reading groups

are successfully underway. Thank you to those who are able to help out. If anyone else is interested, Reading Groups will meet every Monday (11:15-12:00) throughout the year. Take an early lunch break, and join us for reading. You are also welcome to bring a brown bag lunch and join us at noon for lunch. Thank you to all the families who were able to donate to our "water fund". Many thanks also to the families who are donating time and energy hauling water to our classroom. The children and I greatly appreciate it!

With the new month, we begin our first Math block of the year. Common story material will be used to bring the quality of numbers to the first graders and the four processes (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) in review to the second graders. Lively circle activities will allow us to begin practicing counting by 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, and 10s during this block.

October is filled with exciting events in and out of the classroom! On **Wednesday, October 1st** there is an all-school Open House for families who are interested in finding out more about our wonderful school. Please invite your friends who might want to see us in action. On **Tuesday, October 21st**, Grades 1-2 and 3-4 will take a field trip to see an African Dance performance at UHH. Drivers/chaperones are still needed for this event so please let me know if you are interested. Plans for the Medieval Faire are underway! **Medieval Faire is Saturday, October 25th**. As in previous years, each grade is assigned specific duties to help make the faire a great success. Grade 1-2 families are responsible for helping with "Set-up" prior to the faire and for covering shifts at the "Eatery" (sale of baked goods and beverages) during the event. More information and a sign-up sheet for shifts will be posted on the back door of the classroom. This is such a fun event, so mark your calendars, invite your friends, and begin working on your costumes!

Peace,
Ms. Pena

Grade 3/4

Dear Class 3/4,

I was pleased that so many parents were able to attend our first parent evening. If you were unable to attend, please check the agenda.

Michaelmas was, as always, delightful.

The children's beautiful voices warmly herald in the fall season.

We are beginning a new block, a math/money block. As math continues to be a challenging area for some, frequent communication will be especially important. We are looking forward to setting up a model store and buying and selling boxes of food! To help support your understanding of how I introduce math concepts to the students I will be offering a little math workshop on Tuesday, October 16th at 3:05pm in our class. We have two field trips planned for this month. Please let me know if you are able to chaperone on October 21st.

Also, the Medieval Faire and Halloween are coming up! For Halloween, we are planning a class potluck from 10:00-10:30am, and then a costume parade and games. Costumes that match up with our curriculum are strongly encouraged. Old Testament characters, shepherds, farmers or carpenters are a few ideas.

Happy Fall to One and All,
Ms. Jenkins

Grade 5/6

Dear 5th /6th Grade Class Parents,

I am really enjoying my time and work with all of our wonderful children. They are coming together beautifully to form a vibrant new class.

We are currently wrapping up our block on Ancient Greece and soon we will be in a math block. We have started working on our class play "The Odyssey." The students are very excited about their roles in this wonderful play.

There will be a parent meeting on Wednesday, October 1st at 6:00pm. I hope everyone will be able to join us. The class will be going on a fieldtrip to UH Hilo to see a dance performance on October 21st. We need parents

to drive and chaperone and you would be able to see the performance for free. Please let me know if you are available. Our class is in charge of running the games for Medieval Faire this year and a shift sign-up sheet is on the door. The class is also assigned to Faire clean-up the day after the Faire.

Thank you for all of your continued support.

Aloha,
Mr. Germain

Grade 7/8

Dear Parents,

We have completed a geometry block in which we reviewed, honed and used our compass, straightedge and Pythagorean Theorem skills to create three dimensional geometric (Platonic) solids. Students thoroughly enjoyed their work and discovered much about the laws of geometry in the process.

We now move into middle and high Medieval history learning about the feudal system, its organization, castles, cathedrals and biographies of those who lived and influenced these time.

Thank you parents for a productive parent evening on the 23rd. It is always a pleasure to be with you and your children. Thank you for your support and love for our class and school.

See you soon,
Ms. Gold

