

Richmond Waldorf School Parents Association Meeting Agenda and Minutes January 7, 2014

Attendees: Kim Washburn, Terry Wyllie, Katie Adams Parrish, Tracy Werner, Tim Thurbur, Megan Chase, Cary White, Elisabeth Corey

Facilitator: Kim Washburn

Secretary: Elisabeth Corey

Date, Time, Location: 1/7/14, 6:00 to 7:30 PM, Richmond Waldorf School

Agenda Item	Purpose (Inform, Discuss, Decide)	Time Allotted	Summary
PA Class Representative Reports	Discuss	15 min	<p>Acorn K – Children enjoyed making beeswax candles and holders as gifts for their parents; getting ready to make snowflakes, King Winter is the focus</p> <p>Willow – Children were active with Festivals; Winter theme is now the focus – slowing down, hibernation, Jack Frost</p> <p>Dogwood K – The children enjoyed coming back together after the holiday break. They are singing about Jack Frost and building snowmen "all the way up to the sky" in circle. Their story is "Mother Holle," a Grimm's classic which the children find very satisfying.</p> <p>Oak K – Children made felted soaps for parent gifts, Winter themes – King Winter; Started show and tell</p> <p>1st Grade – Beginning their 2nd arithmetic block – they learn the 4 processes of arithmetic through stories of Farmer Peter Plus, Mary Minus, Tommy Times, Debbie Divide; They received the pentatonic flutes and had their first lesson.</p> <p>2nd Grade – Working in a Math Block - Place value and vertical addition subtraction division and multiplication; They are also making paper mâché piggy banks</p> <p>3rd Grade – Started strings; working on their class play; arithmetic block has started; they will be starting fiber arts - spinning and weaving and dying</p>

			<p>fiber; they also just got their Russian name and persona</p> <p>4th Grade – Math block starting; just finished Charlotte's Web; beginning James and the Giant Peach; starting work on their play</p> <p>5th Grade – Pentathlon training continues; they have begun their studies of Ancient Babylonia and Egypt – they will look at the building and design of the Ziggurats and the Pyramids and try to decipher hieroglyphs and Egyptian numbers; They are also working on paragraph construction and decimals (place value less than one)</p> <p>6th Grade – Started block on South America - history and geography; working on something for the MLK Jan 17th Friday; Gigi Amateau – local author visiting Friday, Jan 10th.</p> <p>MS3 – Juggling, Plate Spinning, Ball Walking; started Anatomy block – studying skeletons; Gigi Amateau, local author, will be visiting Friday, Jan 10th.</p>
<p>Heads Committee Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Communication – Set Survey Deadline? ❖ Future Parent Education Evenings 	Discuss	10 min	<p>Survey Deadline – We've had 29 families fill out the Parent Skills and Interest Survey. The data is already being used and is very helpful. The deadline has been extended to end of January 2014. Discussion about how to get families to participate without feeling like they will be somehow committing to something in particular. Class reps will reach out to individual families to participate as a final push.</p> <p>Parent Education evenings – Katie and Cary will meet with Faculty this week to get feedback on possible Parent Ed topics for Spring. Will communicate results at next meeting. Possible topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why Waldorf Works/How to talk about Waldorf? What do we do here? • Child Development Series – 3, 6, 9 year changes • Media Series – April • Mysteries of Waldorf Education – May • Book Clubs? – Katie will put together a list of options • Also discussed possibility of having a meeting next fall at beginning of the school year to discuss school festivals. • Waldorf 101 – existing education series that meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Faculty and parents explore the foundations of Waldorf education. It is a year of study and discussion of Human Values in Education, a cycle of lectures by Rudolf Steiner
Hearts Committee Update	Inform	10 min	Teacher Appreciation – Participation was lower than previous years.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Teacher Appreciation Results ❖ Social Events 			<p>Communication was possibly an issue with so many new families. We will work on this for next year.</p> <p>Family Contra Dance – March 8, 2014 – Social Event at Lewis Ginter Recreation Center - \$10 per family. Contra dancing consists of a caller working with live musicians guiding new and experienced dancers through a variety of dances.</p>
<p>Hands Committee Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Fundraising – Scrip, Kroger ❖ PA Book Sale ❖ Playground Improvement ❖ Festivals and Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feedback on Michaelmas, Lantern Walk, Special Relatives Day ▪ Spiral Walk ▪ Festivals of Light 	Inform	15 min	<p>Scrip/Kroger fundraising – We've had a successful first 2 months of the Scrip and Kroger gift card fundraisers earning the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrip - \$745 • Kroger - \$250 <p>We will continue to encourage community participation to raise money to support the Playground Improvement project and all other aspects of the school.</p> <p>PA Book Sale—Books from the old school library will be available for purchase from January 21 – 24. Remaining books will be donated. We plan to set up and organize the books on January 20th (MLK day) and need volunteers to help. We will use the room to the right of the Eurythmy room (the one used for Wed Parent Gatherings).</p> <p>Playground Improvement – Received \$10,000 grant toward playground improvement. Next steps will be to work on the design. We will continue to raise money through Scrip and Kroger to help with this project. Faculty will be prioritizing smaller wish list projects for the PA to begin work at the Spring weather approaches.</p> <p>Feedback on Events – Discussed feedback received from the community about Festival of Lights, Spiral Walk and Special Relative's Day. There were a few issues raised around timeliness and clarity of communication about these events as well as the number of evening events so close together around that time of year, but overall response was positive. Parents appreciate the volunteer/optional aspect of the events. We will present this feedback to the Festivals Committee for consideration.</p>
<p>Questions/Open Discussion/Upcoming Events</p>	Discuss	10 min	<p>Questions: Received feedback from at least one parent about the issue of whether or not we should continue to follow the Richmond Public School system for inclement weather by default. Several parents feel that school delays due to cold weather do not make sense for a school such as ours where children do not ride the bus or walk to school. The PA will bring this up to administration.</p>

			<p>Upcoming events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of the School Town Hall Meeting – January 16th – 6:30 – 8:00 pm • Windows on Waldorf Open House – January 18th – 10:00 – 12:00 pm • Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Day – January 20th – No classes • Next PA Meeting – February 4th – 6:00 – 7:30 pm • Kindergarten Work Day – February 7th – No classes • Barnes & Noble Book Fair – February 8th – 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Topics for Next Meeting			<p>PA Mid-Year Check In – Where we've been and where we are going. Discussion of May Faire for next year – whether to move the event back to Saturday. Holiday Bazaar for next year – Should we bring this event back to our school?</p>