

# MLWS News from the Parent Council

December 17, 2016

## Hello MLWS Families...

Thank you to all of you for helping to create an amazing Winter Faire last Sunday - what a wonderful day of crafts, cookies and cake, and community! And congratulations to our amazing children and their music teachers for an outstanding Music Share last night! Parent Council is pleased to share this newsletter, which includes a Parent Council update, highlights activities of some classes and provides information about upcoming events.

## PARENT COUNCIL UPDATE

Parent Council continues to work on the projects that the College and the parents identified as most important: a Welcome Committee for new families, Parent Council presence at public events, Faculty Nourishment, Food Drives at Music Shares and this newsletter. In 2017, Parent Council meetings will take place on Wednesdays, 5:30pm-6:30pm. Our first meeting of 2017 will be on **Wednesday, January 11, 5:30-6:30pm**. Please plan to attend or offer your time to support one of our projects!

## A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM

**From Mr. Neel:** The Third Grade just finished a building block. The children studied what types of shelters the first humans built in the rain forests, in the Arctic, and in the North American Midwest, which largely have a circular base. Then the class learned about the influence Spanish explorers had on Native Americans with the building of square-based European-type structures with the mud bricks they call adobe. They built model pueblos and leaf huts. The children also built a killer debris shelter in the play yard and, of course, the picnic tables in the yard, which served as the Ark in their play, Genesis to Noah.

**From Mr. Aram:** The Sixth Grade finished the semester with a three-week block of astronomy. With feet firmly on the ground (we studied geology in October), the sixth graders are turning their attention to the stars. The children observed the movement of the sun in the winter sky. They developed a new understanding for seasons in our area and marveled at the variety of climates that the sun's path creates, between the poles and the equator. We observed the Moon and the changes it went through over the past three weeks. And, lastly, we studied the movement of the fixed stars around Polaris, and the movement of the "Wanderers" (the Planets) against the stars of the Zodiac.

## AWSNA NEWSLETTER

The Association of Waldorf Schools of North America publishes a monthly newsletter sharing information about activities, events, news and stories related to Waldorf Education called **Inform**. There is a link to the December issue on the AWSNA website:

<https://waldorfeducation.org/default.aspx?RelID=624379&issearch=newsletter>

AWSNA also publishes **E-NEWS**, an online newsletter that highlights relevant news and events of interest to the Waldorf community. You can have **E-NEWS** delivered to your email inbox by using the above link to sign up at the AWSNA website.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Eli Duncan-Gilmour - MLWS Class of 2012. Eli is currently a Junior at New Paltz High School. He is Vice-President of his class, a member of the National Honor Society, on the mock trial team, and is a political correspondent for his school newspaper, The Maroon. He recently contributed as a guest columnist for The New Paltz Times as well.

*In his own words:* Though common sentiment seems to be that Waldorf Kids won't be prepared, I didn't find that to be the case. Learning to read . . . [later than in public school] was not in fact the nail in my coffin people would have had me believe it to be. . . . I think all the time spent composing and writing my own workbook [at Mountain Laurel] played a part in instilling in me a love of writing, while also giving me some good practice.

*We are seeking news of other MLWS grads' successes, so if you have any info, please share it so we can print it!*

## COMING IN 2017. . .

At the request of parents, we are going to experiment with including a "Classifieds" section in the upcoming newsletters. Listings may pertain to items for sale, items sought, services offered, exhibits and/or performances featuring oneself or family members, etc.

If you have something that you would like to be included, please send a brief ad to [dana\\_rudikoff@yahoo.com](mailto:dana_rudikoff@yahoo.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Tuesday, January 10: School Photo Day

An order form will be sent out to parents via email. Make up day will be the following day, Wednesday, January 11.