

June 9, 2008
V32 N11

The Bulletin

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION of the VANCOUVER WALDORF SCHOOL



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BULLETIN SCHEDULE

The next Bulletin is published
Friday, September 26

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Tuesday, September 23

The Vancouver
**Waldorf
School**
EDUCATION TOWARDS FREEDOM

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The Little darling Spring has run away

The sunshine grew too hot for her to stay

She kissed her sister, Summer, and she said

“When I am gone, you must be queen instead”

Now reigns the Lady Summer, round whose feet

A thousand fairies flock with blossoms sweet.

Looking Back, Looking Forward ...

I have always found that the month of June has a unique quality of timelessness to it – for faculty, students and families it is a time of completion, of celebration and for some a time to say good-bye. For the administration and the Board of Trustees, our focus is directed already on the next school year: enrolling new students, finalizing the hiring of new faculty, organizing summer maintenance work, strategic planning and planning for changes and improvements in all realms. We are in the midst of a change of rhythm, on the cusp of summer vacation, the grand ‘out breath’ of the year. In the development office our ‘out breath’ will be brief, as there is much to do before September!

Reflecting back over the course of the year, my heart is full of gratitude to the many people that make the VWS such a unique and amazing school, community and place of employment—not that we don’t have our share of challenges! But it is the love, striving and commitment of so many, that helps us continue to move forward; it is out of chaos that creativity and growth are born.

To all the parents who have chosen this education for your children, who gift the school with financial resources, who donate many hours of precious time and energy to the betterment of the school and community, we thank-you wholeheartedly. There would be no Vancouver Waldorf School without parents!

To our outstanding faculty and staff, who give above and beyond any parameters of a ‘normal’ job, our deep thanks for all that you do with our children, for furthering Waldorf education in the world, and for your steadfast commitment to making our school the best place for all.

Looking back, looking forward, I see success!

Mary Paradis,
Director of Development

The Bulletin

is published monthly during the school year for the parents and friends of The Vancouver Waldorf School.

The next Bulletin publication will be

Fri Sep 26, 2008

Submissions are due

Tue Sep 23, 2008 at 3:00p

Submit to:

bulletin@vws.ca

In order to be published, submissions must be received electronically before the deadline and include the full name of the contributor. Hand written submissions will not be accepted.

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Letter from the Board

KEITH SCHAEFER, CHAIRMAN

VANCOUVER WALDORF SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear Community,

As our school year ends, I want to give you a brief update on one aspect of the financial health of the school. In the February community meetings and survey, the community indicated that more classroom resources were needed. Next year we have budgeted to increase spending on pedagogical resources and support by roughly \$300,000. We can afford this because of increased tuition, increased enrolment and retention, and the fact that, primarily because of increased enrolment, we now receive G1 funding from the province. We had not received this additional funding for 4 years prior, and because of unstable retention we could not ever depend on or budget for receiving it before this year.

Where is the money going and what impact do we hope it will have on students, on teachers? We have increased the payroll budget next year from \$1,642,000 to \$1,927,000, which includes an approximate increase of \$120,000 in salaries for existing teachers and an additional 1.5 FTE (full-time equivalency) in new positions. The increase in salaries is the result of a new increment system that sees Waldorf training and VWS service more adequately rewarded. The salary range utilizing the new increment system at a 60% implementation rate, which has already begun this year, is \$35,000 to \$50,000 compared to the \$34,000 to \$39,000 range of the old system. Rather than reaching the top salary after ten years, once we can fully implement the new increment system at some point in the future, the service increment continues to apply for as long as the employee is with the VWS; the top salary possible will be over \$60,000.

An additional 0.5 FTE has been added to provide more support at the High School for teachers. This means there will be an increase in the administrative support provided for all teachers and in mentoring support for new and/or non-Waldorf trained teachers. All of the administrative work at the High School will be overseen by a new Pedagogical Administrator (PA), Arnold Grimm (Arnold as well as all of our new teachers/staff will be introduced in the Bulletin in September).

Arnold Grimm will take over much of the pedagogical administrative work that is presently carried by three class teachers, Mary Anne Taylor, Chris McLaughlin and Gerard MacIntosh, who are currently given time away from their classes to carry this important work. Although the bulk of the pedagogical administration will now be carried by Mr. Grimm, some of the Human Resources administrative work will continue to be carried by Mary-Anne Taylor. It is important to have a skilled AND experienced administrator, with knowledge of the VWS carrying human resources work – and she is all of this! Arnold Grimm will be providing support for her, as will the Administrator, Rea Gill. Consolidating the pedagogical administrative work into two positions, with most of it carried by one person will allow these class teachers to return to their normal teaching-related workload. Chris will still chair the Programs & Curriculum Development Committee, and Gerard will still chair the Practical Needs Committee but they will no longer do all of the tasks that they have been doing in the realm of pedagogical administration. These workload adjustments have been made in order to increase efficacy and

T I M E L I N E

Wed	Jun 11	10:45a 12:20p	Gr8 Moving up ceremony Early Dismissal, End of Term
Tue	Sep 2	8:20a	School begins

to enable the teachers to turn their focus back to their other school duties. This is important for these teachers because the demands of their growing classes increase as they move up in the grades. Arnold Grimm will also do some classroom teaching, which will provide additional classroom support for the faculty and students.

We hope that parents will feel the effects of the increase in budget and the more simple protocol in relating to the management group of the school, the Executive Group (EG), because there will only be three members instead of five. Next year the EG will consist of Rea Gill, School Administrator, Mary Paradis, Director of Development, and Arnold Grimm, Pedagogical Administrator. It also means that the Pedagogical Administration office will be staffed most of the time.

We have also increased the Professional Development budget, which means that teachers will be pursuing more courses and professional development. As well, there will more funds available for mentoring new and untrained teachers.


In other matters, we have hired a part-time custodian who will oversee the cleaning, maintenance and upgrading of the facility, which will mean an improvement in the appearance and cleanliness of the school as well as an improvement in the support provided to teachers in the realm of space and room equipment needs.

The Development budget has been increased by \$12,000. The Utilities budget has gone up by \$15,000 to meet the increasing costs of maintaining our very old building. The increase in the cost of gas means that the transportation budget (bus) has been increased by \$6000.

To sum up, we were able to make tangible progress on one of our key goals this year and have increased teacher salaries as well as increased the support for the teachers in the classroom. We believe the benefits will be direct and immediate for faculty, parents and students.

Have a joyous, restful and safe summer and we will see you all in September.

Sincerely,



Keith Schaefer, Chairman
Vancouver Waldorf School Board of Trustees



Strategic Planning News

BRAD DOUVILLE
ON BEHALF OF THE VWS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Thanks to the participation and contribution from over 100 parents and alumni who participated in the community meetings conducted in February and the 145 parents who participated in the survey, significant progress has been made in the development of our VWS Strategic Plan. The input received from parents, alumni, faculty, students, and the Board of Trustees is helping shape the future of our school. Our consultant, ISPG Managing Director, Reed Sumida, who conducted the community meetings and survey, collated the data, extracted the themes that emerged, then reported the information to the Board. Over the last couple of months, the Board has taken this input, combined it with the results from the all-community envisioning process undertaken five years ago, and, on behalf of the school community, has articulated the following vision of a "desired future" that is achievable by September 2011:

Our students are learning in our new, beautiful and healthy facility with full enrolment and a waiting list. VWS is widely known, respected for our leadership in education, and highly sought after in the broader community. Our teachers are well trained, well paid, and delivering a comprehensive Waldorf education. Our parent body is informed, active and engaged. We conduct ourselves in a manner that is effective, respectful and transparent.

To attain any desired future, articulating it is one thing, but constructing the roadmap to get there is quite another. The above vision statement clearly expresses a future with enhanced classroom resources. The way to reasonably obtain these without losing our inclusive culture valued so highly and without increasing tuition is to increase enrolment. Increased enrolment requires additional capacity in a larger grade school and high school. With this logic as the basis, the Board has identified the following five objectives as the critical enablers for reaching our desired future:

1. Build and occupy by September, 2011 a beautiful, healthy facility that supports the excellence of Waldorf education and completes the housing of our programs from Early Childhood to Grade 12.
2. Implement a marketing strategy that results in full enrolment (minimum 27 students per class in GS & HS), ensures retention above 85% with a wait list in

every program and grade, and generates at least a 2% budget surplus while retaining a meaningful Accessible Tuition Program.

3. Allocate financial and human resources to deliver a full Waldorf curriculum with ongoing training and professional development for teachers, recruitment of excellent experienced new teachers, appropriate and necessary equipment and supplies for classroom needs, and clear pedagogical leadership.
4. Establish a Community Development Program that inspires dynamic and enduring participation from the majority of our Waldorf community members, resulting in informed and inspired parents, willing and committed volunteers, and an active network of alumni supporters by January, 2010.
5. Ensure effective governance of VWS by clearly defining the authority, responsibility and accountability of its three management bodies (Pedagogical, Financial/Legal and Development) and the working committees of each by September, 2009.

The above vision statement and five objectives provide the underpinnings for the creation of the VWS Strategic Plan. There is still much to do, but important and significant progress has been made. The Board of Trustees recognizes that the building of a new school is a high priority for the entire community and some foundational work will be done on this objective over the summer. In September we will strike sub-committees comprised of members from the Board of Trustees, faculty, parent body, and alumni to establish strategic initiatives in support of each Objective with clear measures defined for each to gauge progress. We will continue to consult with ISPG where needed. The results of this work will form the final Strategic Plan, and once approved by the Board of Trustees and the Pedagogical Carrying Group it will be presented to the entire community. Target for completion is this fall.

This exciting new future for the VWS will only become a reality through the passion, energy and contribution of the school community members. Over the summer, think about which of the five objectives means the most to you and consider joining us on one of the sub-committees. Have a great summer and see you in September.

Notes From The Parent Council ...

Here we stand at the close of another year already with the bright new horizons of another upon us. Parent Council has gone through a wave of change this past year and we are gardening so to speak, planting seeds for new beginnings, watching what has grown from previous plantings, and giving thanks to the abundant hard work of all. The end of the year is such a busy time, a time of reflecting, a time of celebrating, and for some, crunch time, wrapping everything up and preparing for a big out breath.

Within this out breath, the Parent Council would like to thank four of our members who have moved on from the group this year: Darla Chibi, Tina Thorndycraft, and long time members Susan Drury and Meg Cameron. We have a habit of thanking in flowers within our Waldorf community, so in this tradition we shower these fine women with many special roses, tiger lilies, lilacs, gardenias ...

A very warm thanks to **Susan Drury**, who has humbly led the Parent Council since its inception in 2005. For the past four years she has served as both Chair and Secretary, keeping excellent minutes and organizing weekly meetings, as well as authoring Parent Council news in the Forge newsletter, the Bulletin, and the 2007 Annual Report. Susan has also served on the Christmas Fair Committee for 6 years, helping to ensure a well-organized and successful event with a particular focus on the marketplace. Prior to serving on the Parent Council (PC), Susan was Co-Chair of the Class Parents Group for several years, and was a Class Parent prior to that. Susan, your gentle smile and ever giving heart will be missed in PC!

Dear **Meg Cameron**, for your energy, uplifting giving spirit, and so much WILL we thank you in hosts of butterflies! Meg has also served on the Parent Council from its beginning while also serving as a Class Rep for many years. She has graciously written many detailed documents of all that goes into planning many events at the school, with a passionate desire to avoid re-inventing the wheel every year! Meg has worked tirelessly in many areas as a member of the Parent Council, including the Christmas Fair Committee and as the producer of Stone Soup. There are not many who could with such ease and cheer organize an entire event including washing and ironing table cloths and loads of dishes until late in the night. You can still see Meg stepping up to the plate at the last minute to assist with various events around the school ... thank-you for all that you do Meg!

We also honour **Tina Thorndycraft** for her gifted nimble fingers, her wonderful artistic sense and great organizational skills. Tina has done a fabulous job organizing all of the Christmas Fair resources and continues on as the keeper of the "Christmas Fair Cupboard". She has led the crafting for the VWS Fair marketplace for several years and helped bring it to a whole new level of quality. Tina also contributed much time and expertise in a recent doll making workshop this year – keep your eyes open for more workshops coming this autumn! Thank-you so much Tina for all that you have brought to the PC and continue to bring to the community.

Happy 'surfing' the WAVES to **Darla Chibi**, who leaves the PC to devote more time and energy to her new family business. Thanks Darla for your warm heart in the Parent Council and your contributions of all the yummy treats, teas and coffees to the school receptions!

VWS

Parent Council

Britt Arnet
Cathy Burke
Stacy Campbell
Walter Daroshin
Sally McDermott
Mary Paradis
*Director
of Development*



The job of a Class Representative ... besides “the phone tree thing” that is!

CHANTEY ALDRIDGE, RED ROSE KINDERGARTEN CLASS REP 2007-2008.

I was recently asked by another parent what Class Representatives (Reps) do besides “the phone tree thing”. A good question ... A representative is defined as “being or acting as, the agent for another”, “a person or thing that represents, or stands for, a number or class of persons or things”. At the VWS, the definition of Class Rep is not nearly so dry!

I can still remember the feeling that I had during my first visit to the VWS only two short years ago. It was a feeling of knowing that I had come home. The intention of an education that was represented by the head, the hands and the heart was so wonderful, and I knew from that day that this would be from where our family would grow. I looked forward to participating at the school in any way that I could so that I too would benefit from such a philosophy of learning. During my daughter’s first year of kindergarten, I saw the role of Class Rep as the perfect opportunity to do just so.

As Class Reps, our main role is to create good lines of communication between the families and teachers, as well as between the families themselves. After all, a Waldorf education is from the inside out. We too must understand how the school functions from the inside, and through the Class Reps each family is then able to meet the school and teachers from where they are coming. Many Class Reps also try to remain reflective of those same concepts of head, hands and heart.

With our heads, we come to know all the names of students, parents and other family members within our class. Class Reps arrange for phone trees, and try to be one step ahead of teachers in planning for special events, field trips, school festivals and rituals.

With our hands, we roll up our sleeves as volunteers, and try to encourage others to donate their precious resource of time. We create posters for outside the classrooms and email important information to families. We meet bimonthly with all of the Class Reps from each grade level to remain open to the entire goings on of the school. Of course, with our hands we also do “the phone tree thingy”!

Most importantly, from our hearts we organize parents around school traditions like advent lunches, the advent spiral, and class gifts for teachers. We make welcome phone calls to new parents and make ourselves available to any questions or ideas that parents might like to share. From our hearts, we build and represent the community that is our school.

It is a fun role, and I must say an honour and a privilege to represent not only your child’s given class, but to carry the Waldorf philosophy into our daily lives ... what a gift.

Grade Two Handwork Project

Proud crafters ...



... and those who stand behind it ...



Brother Francis and Sister Claire Grade Two Play

ABEGAEL FISHER-LANG, CLASS TWO TEACHER

In Grade Two, stories of the saints and fables are a theme of the year, often with a strong focus on Francis of Assisi. The deep reverence and sweet nature of my class inspired me to dust off a play, Brother Francis and Sister Claire, which I had written for my first Grade Two class in 1995. We performed the play once for members of the Cascadia community. Two of my previous Grade 2 students, Emily Spence and Elena Mathias, both now 21, were in the audience on 'opening night'. Grade Two also travelled to the beautiful little chapel of Saint Francis in the Wood in West Vancouver, where our school had its humble beginnings with a Kindergarten program almost four decades ago. We presented our play for 'the spirit of Francis and Claire' (as one child expressed it), for Reverend Angus Stewart and the children of the Montessori Kindergarten which shares the same building. My dear friend Monica Gold, one of the first VWS teachers from that time, was also at our play with her husband Andrew Gold.

Class plays are a full flowering of social learning, and to my delight, our play this year also nourished many community connections.



Grade Three Building Project

In Grade Three, children begin to experience themselves as individuals and wrestle with the question "Who am I?" They start to challenge the limits of authority and attempt to take more responsibility for themselves. To meet this growing awareness of self-sufficiency with strength and ability, children are challenged to build practical skills through activities such as gardening, building and cooking, in addition to their academic pursuits. The "Building Block" also teaches them



about the far-reaching cooperation that is necessary for the achievement of civilization. The building of planters by our Grade 3 class is a great example of this. Under the supervision of several adults, the children measured, sawed and drilled in groups. After completing the planters it was easy to see pride reflected

in their beaming faces.



The beautiful planters are now in the school garden, waiting ...



Congratulations ...

LEXI PERRY (GRADE SEVEN)

This past February, over 1400 athletes took part in the 2008 BC Winter Games in Kimberley and Cranbrook. These athletes are amongst the best in the province in their respective age categories and sports. Lexi Perry, Grade 7, is a second year K-1 member of the Whistler Mountain Ski Club's alpine ski racing program. Lexi's excellent results in several zone races this winter meant she was one of a select group of youth who qualified to compete at the BC Winter Games. Although her ski results suffered due to a small injury during her first day of racing, it is a great honour to have been chosen as a representative for these Games. Congratulations Lexi!

JAMES JEFFERY (GRADE EIGHT)

Congratulations to James Jeffery, Grade 8, for his recent acceptance onto the U16 Metro soccer team, where he will play with and against boys a full year older than him. James has enjoyed a great soccer season this year playing on the U14 Metro United NSPPP team; Metro United is the highest level of soccer for amateur youth in the Lower Mainland. James has been playing on the VWS High School team since Gr 7, where his much older team mates have great respect for him and opponents have been heard to say "watch out for the little guy!" as he scored yet another goal on them!



To all community members: If you know of a VWS student who has shown outstanding achievement in athletics or the arts, please let us know by writing to bulletin@vws.ca

Grade 3,4 & 5 Eurythmy Fairy Tale Troupe

The Fairy Tale Troupe, an extra-curricular group of students in Grades 3, 4 and 5, presented the story of *The Ball of Crystal and the Saucer of Silver*. The students performed for classes at the Vancouver Waldorf School, and at Sun Haven Waldorf School on the Sunshine Coast.



Grade Five Greek Games

The Grade 5 year is considered the year of harmony, where the children are seen to be in a state of balance between childhood and the threshold of adolescence. Part of the fifth grade curriculum explores the life of the ancient Greeks, focusing on Grecian art, culture, language, and movement. The students learn about many ancient Greek contributions to the present day, including ideas about beauty, truth, courage, and the social order.

Waldorf students in fifth grade around the world participate in a Waldorf Olympiad event as part of their study of ancient Greece. Several Waldorf schools meet in one location and the students from different schools form different City States. The Greek Games bring an opportunity for children to experience firsthand, the wonderful harmony of body and soul that led the Greeks to feel themselves at home in the physical world. Students train in the same original pentathlon events: javelin, discus, Greek wrestling, running and long jump, complementing their main lesson work in Greek history and culture. The children are expected to live up to the ideal of this ancient Greek epoch in their entire approach to the games; learning to honour every individual's effort and to see that the ultimate goal is to improve one's own performance. The witnessing or judging of the events also exemplifies these ideals, assessing form, dynamics and measure. To this end, this year's events were adjudicated by judges that have been trained at the Spatial Dynamics Institute. For more information on Spatial Dynamics see www.spacialdynamics.com.

After several weeks of training with Mr. Jeremias, our Grade Five class travelled on May 12th to Camp Qwanoes on Vancouver Island, where the Sunrise Waldorf School hosted the Greek Games. They were joined by over eighty 5th Grade Waldorf School students from Whistler, Qualicum Beach, Nelson, Kelowna and Calgary. Our students performed well in all events and showed excellent sportsmanship and leadership. Congratulations to Grade Five!



Special thanks to the Grade Five parents: Sally McDermott, Ceyda Gultan, Jacqueline Sinclair, Andrea Siradze and Sylvie Vachon for sharing their pictures with us.





I loved the long jump. I flew through the air and landed with a soft thud. I felt proud of that jump. Mr. Jeremias had picked me out of every one to do the demonstration. I had butterflies in my stomach but once I started, the butterflies disappeared and all I thought about was doing my best jump ever.

Jessica



It was wonderful meeting new friends like me. We didn't have marshmallows, so we got apples and roasted them, and I snagged some cinnamon. At first I thought the Games would be awful but they were so much more than sports.

Greta

My favourite events were the wrestling, sprinting and relay. My City State was a good group and I LOVED my King and Queen, our Queen read us a story every night!

Levi



I really like my Queen and King because when I ran or when somebody's turn came, the Queen and King cheered so loudly. I started to run; then I heard their voices and I got more energy, so I think I ran faster than I ever did in Korea or here. I had a great time.

Ji Hyun



Our Queen snuck in 'smart' food into our cabin while we told ghost stories and jokes. One night they spilled smart food all over my bed so when I was sleeping I could really feel it and heard the crunch crunch sound ...

Anna



Camp Qwanoes was a really nice place with a huge field and a ropes course. There was a beautiful forest surrounding the camp and one day we even saw a deer in the trees. I liked the discus and most of the events and I had lots of fun!

Nashira

Grade Eight Moving Up & Moving On

This year's Grade Eight Class rose to many a challenge, beginning with their trip last fall to Strathcona Park Lodge and culminating with their marvelous play, "Arsenic & Old Lace." Along the way they eagerly took up some challenging work in the classroom, including their Gr 8 Projects. They now set their sights on high school and we wish them all the best in their next endeavours.



Jeja



Aby



Hunter



Linda



Fraser



Maria



Celeste



Magda



Dorian



Andy



James



Kendra



Sierra

Grade Nine Geology Main Lesson Block

The Grade 9 Geology Main Lesson brings a study of the earth and the natural forces that act upon the land. The class explored the formative forces of the earth as they are made visible in the mineral kingdom, including the rock cycle, volcanism, tectonic plates, mountain building, weathering and erosion. They also practiced how to read the history of our area in the structures they observed, including BC's major glacial periods.

Presented here is a sampling of some students' Main Lesson conclusions:

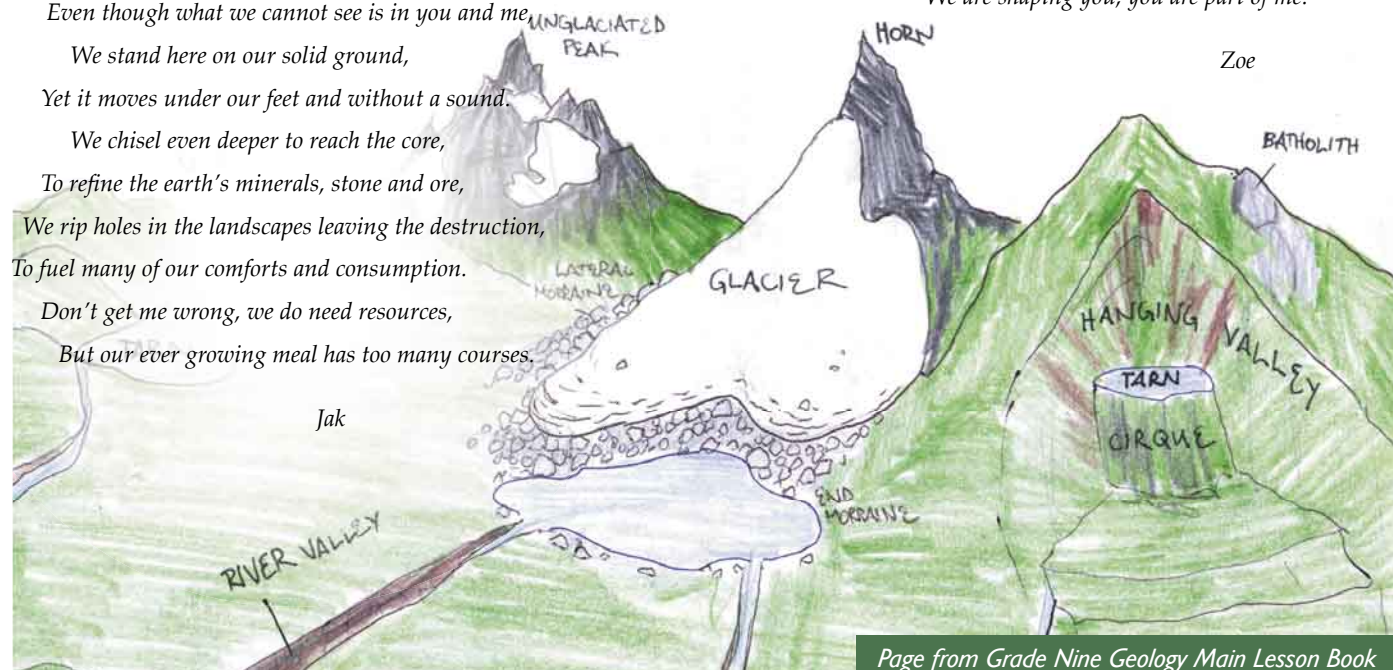
Rocks are our world. They are us. The native tribes of BC used to say that the rocks are the spirits of our ancestors, and, scientifically, this is true. Rocks came before everything. All life on earth is 100% rock-born and dependent. Without rocks there would be no life at all. If there was no solid ground covering the molten earth, how would there be water? Water, the so-called root of all life cannot exist without rocks. Rocks have been around since the universe was born, and they will be around until the universe ends. Our earth's rocks are always changing and evolving like a huge skin on a huge living organism. This course has shown me how much we depend on rocks and how deeply they affect us.

Sylvain

A Body of Stone

*We usually cannot believe what we cannot see,
Even though what we cannot see is in you and me,
We stand here on our solid ground,
Yet it moves under our feet and without a sound.
We chisel even deeper to reach the core,
To refine the earth's minerals, stone and ore,
We rip holes in the landscapes leaving the destruction,
To fuel many of our comforts and consumption.
Don't get me wrong, we do need resources,
But our ever growing meal has too many courses.*

Jak



We have ended our Geology block, with a hefty chunk up on our "maybe shelf" and now four months smarter than we were before. I learned (thanks to Elaine) our Earth is completely unstable and any time in geological-tomorrow a mountain could spring up beneath my feet and a glacier will wash my house away, to name only few occurrences that are happening. Just when I was feeling secure too!!

A rock is no longer just a rock; it is either igneous or sedimentary, or metamorphic. I have been invited into the land of stone, where I know them by name, I can speak their secrets. But the best part of all? Their stories and secrets are mine to hear.

Pippin

*A silence in this tomb,
The skeleton of the earth shivers, settles and waits.
For another million years, it waits
Changing slowly, growing now,
Shaping all I am.*

*This thin sheet binds us tight together, we are caught
Yet free to live
Balanced on the brink, the edge of all we are
Floating on oblivion
Each day I change, reforming all you know.*

*Sunrise, sunset, a continuous rhythm
Mountain peaks that dazzle you, their magnificent
tiers and warning
Before they come crashing down around you,
Over eons, eras, years, we dance never stopping though
you do not see
We are shaping you, you are part of me.*

Zoe

Page from Grade Nine Geology Main Lesson Book

Grade Eleven Medieval Feast

For the grade eleven main lesson block on Rome and Medieval History this year, the students had two weeks to research authentic recipes and period costumes in preparation for a Medieval Feast. We gathered in our finery on Thursday, May 22, and had a midday feast fit for kings and queens, clergy and peasant folk. Here are some samplings of recipes from the feast and pictures of the event. We all agreed that we should gather to eat together more often. There are so many themes we could explore ...



Tart of Ryce

To make a Tart of Ryce, Boyle your Ryce,
and put your yolkes of two or three Egges into
the Ryce, and when it is boyled, put it into a
dish, and season it with Suger, Sinamon and
Ginger, and butter, and the juyce of two
or three oranges, and set it on fire ageine.

- The Good Housewife's Jewel

Thomas Dawson.



Grade 12 Projects and After

Walter Daroshin, father of graduate Misha Daroshin and long time VWS parent, past Director of Development and school Treasurer, has grown with the school community and with this class since Misha was in the Parent and Tot program. Walter was captivated by the Grade 12 project presentations and was moved by the richness, beauty and profundity of each and every project. He was so moved that he took notes after each presentation and offered a gift of words to the students at their graduation dinner.

Here is what he spoke to each graduate:



Ani

There's a photo on display here tonight of you taken while in a Parent & Tot class many years ago. I always thought you looked like an angel, and while listening to you sing, I couldn't help thinking that you now sounded like one.



Azul

What a clown.... a beautiful, sensitive and thoughtful young lady who can laugh at herself while making the world around her a happier place. Under the surface lies a depth of character and worldly intelligence. We are all the better for having you in our midst.



Stuart

The picture of you as a young boy standing in a stream with your gum boots on, staring out at nature, was moving and told me as much about you as anything I could have read in your thesis. It was fitting that you closed the presentations on a note of humility, delivered in your own unique and humble fashion.



Sasha

Listening to you describe how your instrument aims to resonate and join with the audience was brilliant – matched only by your grace and ability. You represent a pure and unbridled artistry, which will not only serve you in the future, but all of us who are fortunate enough to witness it.



Zoë

You introduced the artistic component of your project by describing how the tree of life stood in the middle of the 6 senses. Your depiction of the sense of sound as women dancing and the sense of touch with an image of the wind was poetic.



James

Your comparing the discovery of artistic process to learning a new language was wonderful and helped to articulate the challenge that many artists face – finding their own voice.

You already have a distinct visual style that I encourage you to continue to develop and share with the world.



Nakya



The story you shared with us describing your brother's trauma and your reaction to it was heartfelt and emotional. You have a strong centre that will serve you well as you embark on your life's mission.



Forett

I was not surprised with the depth of research and thoroughness of your presentation. You did however surprise me with the emotion with which you delivered it. Your search for the truth was inspiring. Thank you for putting a human face on a difficult subject.



Misha



Your poise and delivery confirmed a long-standing hope that many of us have for our graduates... that you become comfortable in your own skin. I'm very proud of you son and congratulate you on the end of your Waldorf journey and the beginning of a rich and rewarding life.



Jett

*Ohm Mani Padme Hum –
Hail the jewel in the lotus.*

*I loved when you described your
childhood sensation of flying. I
loved even more however when
you answered the question – will
you fly for us tonight – with the
words... I just did.*



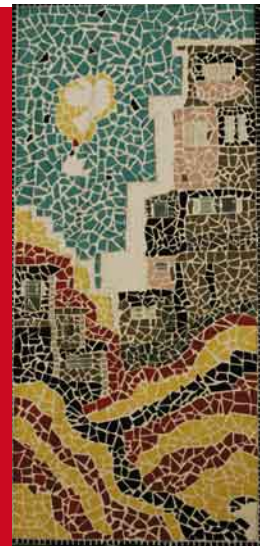
Camie Javi

*You attempted something new and exciting when
you chose to present together. You reminded us
of the common threads that have bound two
of the world's great religions into the collective
consciousness of our humanity. You did it all with
grace and humour – qualities which you both
share in abundance.*



Karda

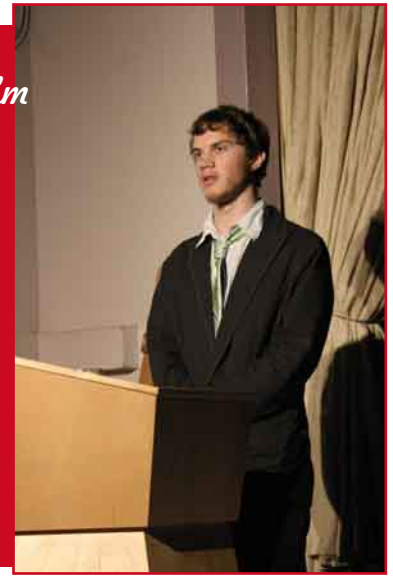
*Your generosity of spirit and deep
conviction in working alongside
those less fortunate is inspiring.
I was deeply moved when you
shared the experience as having
gained as much as you gave. This
approach to social responsibility is
lost on many of us adults – thank
you for the reminder.*





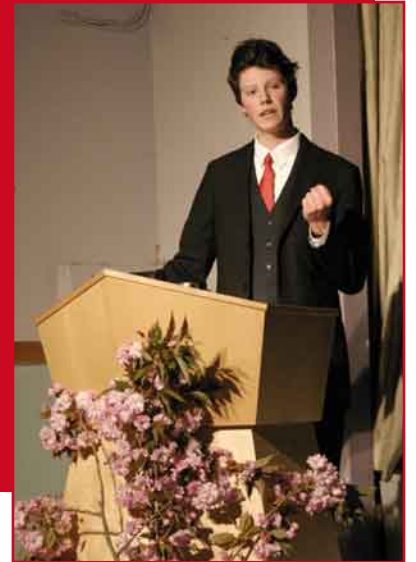
Malcolm

Your presentation was more than heartfelt – it was as though you were opening up yourself to the realm of possibility. When you opened the cage of the artistic component of your project, you confirmed your arrival.



Colyn

Your poetry was moving and displayed a sensitivity and maturity beyond your years. The depth to which you took us, set the stage for all the presentations to come and reminded us of the power of words.



*In the free resolve of your heart,
take your own life in hand and
you will find the world ...*

Rudolf Steiner

*Best wishes to the
Vancouver Waldorf School*

Year of **2008**
Graduates

The Lights Will Dim A Little At Waldorf ...



Four of our brightest lights are retiring after many years of outstanding service to the Vancouver Waldorf School. **Elaine Mackee, Kyle Morton, Traudi Schneider and Marilyn Lange** will each take their shining torches of love, warmth and curiosity in order to cast a sweet glow in other parts of the world. Come and join me, Gary Jones, as I host a farewell celebration for these four amazing women who've given so much to our school on

Fri Jun 20 at 7:00p in the Lower School Hall.

It's your chance to send them off with a hug and a "Fare thee well!" (I have a tear in my eye as I write this so I suggest that if you've ever considered buying shares in Kleenex, do it before Jun 20.)

Refreshments, live music, performances and dancing.

See you all there!
jonesy

Here are a few brief notes about each of these incredible women - please come to the Farewell Party to hear and celebrate more!



Elaine Mackee

Elaine began her tenure at VWS in 1984 as a HS teacher and Class Guardian. She has become a Master teacher in a diversity of Main Lessons: Geology, Astronomy, History

of Art, Weather, History of Architecture, as well as Fine Art. Elaine was instrumental in implementing the Ministry of Education required graduation program for the high school. In addition to her outstanding work with students, Elaine has also contributed much to the VWS as HS Faculty Chair, PCG member, AWSNA representative, FISA representative, Co-Chair of the Board of Trustees, member of VWS Building Committee, and ...



Kyle Morton

Kyle was the school's first 'Extra Lesson'* specialist – she started the program at our school in 1976 and has been carrying it ever since, for 32 years! Kyle has also been deeply involved as a member of our Tuition

Adjustment Committee for many years, as a key member of the Care Group, as master bread baker, host of many Waldorf conferences, as member of the Professional Development committee, as 'guardian' of the kitchen & school linens & furniture, and ...

**The Extra Lesson is a remedial program based on Rudolf Steiner's teachings.*



Marilyn Lange

Marilyn has been accompanying lower school eurythmy classes on piano for over 20 years. For the last several years she has also brought her expertise from the Waldorf Music teacher training to the LS classes and faculty. She has been seen at many

a Christmas and May Fair conducting the VWS community choir and recorder ensembles, she brought the idea of the Bairns' Bazaar and Class Parents to the VWS, and ...



Traudi Schneider

Traudi began working at our school as a eurythmy accompanist in 1981, continuing in that capacity for 27 years—'surviving' almost ten eurythmists in that time! Traudi also managed our school library and faculty library for many years, costumed many

class plays, composed and played music for events and plays, was illustrator for the first VWS newsletter, and ...



School Announcements

▼ As we come to the end of the school year we want to acknowledge those colleagues who have worked with us in temporary positions throughout this year and who will not be returning to our community in September.

Cyrena Huang, who graciously taught cello for the past two years while Ms. Fortin was home with her new baby, your presence was a gift to our school, and we know that there are many children who were inspired to be the best cello players they could be under your guidance. We wish you well, and hope to see you in the concert halls, or at the flamenco dances!

Kyle Taylor, who stepped in to accompany the choirs and high school eurhythmy classes we know that your presence as a faculty member was an uplifting experience for faculty and students alike. It is always a treat to have an alumni teaching and working with us. We also want to thank you for all the subbing you did for Mr. Jeremias; the students always spoke well of their lessons with you. Kyle is touring this summer on the east coast with 'The Town Pants', and plans to return to university in 2009.

Bettina Hillaby has been an aide for the past four years at our school. Her humour and dedication were appreciated by Leonard (now in Grade 4), and by Ms. Nelson's current Grade 1 class. We wish you well in the future, and hope to see you working with us again in the near future.

And finally, our dear Kindergarten teacher, **Jill Dow**, is taking a well-deserved sabbatical for one year to enjoy the sun in Mexico. We wish her a wonderful year off, and look forward to her joining us again in 2009-2010 with lots of stories of her adventures.

Mary-Anne Taylor

On behalf of all the faculty and staff of the Vancouver Waldorf School



▼ Students and parents, please return **all library books** before school ends on June 11, next Wednesday. There are many books I haven't seen for a long, long time.

Thanks, Christiane Rolland

Email ▶ library@vws.ca

▼ Parents: Please come and pick up your child's lost (or thrown out!) items in the **Lost and Found** box. I will send them all to charity soon, as the end of the year is fast approaching. I also have a growing barnyard in my office: a little lamb and a pink little pig (stuffed!), and a collection of jewellery for those missing a necklace and bangles. Thank you, Ronaye

▼ I have some complimentary gate passes to the PNE during Aug 16 to Sep 1, for students in Kindergarten to GR 7. Please come to the office.

Ronaye

▼ I have gathered some of the more "interesting" late excuses over the year and have included them here for your amusement:

- coyotes were howling last night and kept my mom up so she slept in
- my mom had to do the laundry (in a hushed voice)
- I'm not late, everyone else is early
- we had to get chocolate along the way
- the cat kept on following us to school and we had to keep taking it back home, and it was tackling my boots
- pieces of our car were falling off
- mom was washing windows
- mom missed the exit
- mom lost my homework
- my dad was sleepwalking
- I was playing cards and had to finish
- the electricity blew
- my dog got sprayed by a skunk and we had to go out at midnight to find a cleaner

Notice how many times it's mom's fault ...

My best wishes for a restful summer to all of you, when you can sleep in to your heart's content! Ronaye

The Updater

▼ A warm farewell and best wishes to those students who are moving on to other schools either near or far. The VWS would like to thank these families for being a part of our community and for their many contributions to the school. We welcome and invite you to attend future school events and hope you will stay in touch!

Preschool Julia Kosel, Tyler Jones, Ursula Freed, Emily Phillipov, Sabyne Inouye, Luc Dixon, Mika Diebolt, Li-Lana de Bruijne-Lam

Kindergarten Jacob Kosel, Shogo Kinoshita, Caleb Fahmi, Isaiah Paget, Sarah Norimatsu, Galen Juliusson, Sofia Jorgensen, Meenah Aldridge

Grade school & High School Camille & Isabel Schlyecher, Egor Povaliaev, Hannah & Serah Zavitz, Paige Halex, Vadim Kislenko, Peter Kang, Aiden Kim, Macius Bereza, Liam Hill-Allan, Callum Middleton, Andy Cho, Daniil Zelenoiuk

▼ Serah, Gr6 and Hannah, Gr3 along with Sherry and Perry would like to extend a very warm farewell to all those whom we have come to know and love during our six years at the Vancouver Waldorf School. It has been a wonderful experience for our whole family to be part of the community here and we shall miss all of you very much. As some of you may know we are moving to Wakefield, Quebec, just outside of Ottawa and will be continuing on with our children's education at the Parsifal Waldorf School. Big hugs to everyone and thank you so very much for everything! We can be reached at sherryrounds@telus.net

Anthroposophical Events

▼ **With the Salmon: A Path toward Reconnecting with the World of Nature**

"How do I use the Twelve Senses?"

A lecture by Seija Zimmermann, member of the Executive Council at the Goetheanum.

Thu Aug 21 at 7:30p, at the Rudolf Steiner Centre, 3743 Delbrook Plaza, North Vancouver

A Nature exploration weekend: observation and artistic activities at the Rudolf Steiner Centre and the Capilano River Salmon Hatchery.

Friday evening through Sunday morning,

Aug 22 through Aug 24. The weekend will be led by *The School of Nature Circle*, artist Aiona Anderson, and Seija Zimmermann.

Cost \$70 for the whole event
\$10 for Thursday lecture only
\$60 for Friday through Sunday

To register, contact Marjorie or Philip Thatcher at
▶ (604) 985-3569 or by email at ▶ philipthatcher@shaw.ca
Brochure available by email upon request.

▼ **Michaelmas Meditation Workshop: Seeking the Sources of Renewal**—Friday evening to Sunday morning, **Sep 26 through Sep 28**, at the Vancouver Waldorf School. The weekend will be led by Arthur Zajonc, former General Secretary of the Anthroposophical Society in the United States.

Outside Events of Interest

▼ **Catching The Spirit** - A **free** and fun outdoor adventure program for youth! **WildED** is coordinating a free and fun summer program open to all youths between the ages of 12 and 18. Over the summer, students will have an opportunity to develop leadership skills, receive training, and take an active role carrying out stewardship projects in various Regional Parks; all while learning about nature, the environment and sustainability. Please help us spread the word! Poster and brochures at both the Lower School and High School. For more information email us or see the website below. Get ready for this summer's *Catching the Spirit* Program!

Sherry ▶ info@wilded.org

Website ▶ www.catchingthespirit.com

▼ **Pacific Dance Arts** presents the *Summer Solstice 2008 Performance* on **Sat Jun 21** at 7:00p at Centennial Theatre. This show is a wonderful opportunity to see young dancers perform a wide range of dances from classical ballet to jazz and hip-hop, including performances of the timeless Swan Lake Act II and the exciting Don Quixote pas de deux. The cost is reasonable and the show is one that even young children will enjoy and appreciate! Li Yaming, owner & principal teacher at PDA is an exceptional teacher who, in his prime as a performer worked with renowned dancers Rudolf Nureyev, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Karen Kain and Frank Augustyn. Dancers are from Brazil, Japan, Mexico, and Canada including our own Waldorf students Sasha Cooke, Tamara Daroshin, Rory & Monty Lussow, & Nashira Paradis. For tickets call Centennial Theatre

▶ (604)984-4484

<http://www.centennialtheatre.com>

Accommodation

▼ Nestor and Amanda Balce and their son Diego, who will be joining Gr6 in the fall, are looking for a 2-bedroom apartment or house, preferably close to the school or the school bus route, \$1500 max.

Email ▶ nestorbalce@gmail.com

▼ **For Rent** One bedroom basement suite with open den, mostly furnished, 1.5 km to Waldorf School, beautiful garden, close to green space on a cul de sac. Available immediately, \$850 (reduced if you want to cut grass and tend garden), no smoking and no pets. Please leave your name and number and we'll return your call.

Brenda ▶ (604)990-4637

▼ Parents of two daughters, the older of whom is going to attend Waldorf preschool, are seeking bright, garden level suite or apartment, 1-2 bedrooms, in Lynn Valley or Lonsdale areas.

Irina ▶ (604)451-8575

Email ▶ isolovieva@telus.net

▼ Looking for a nice, bright 2BR rental, ground level (or one with few stairs), for my brother and our mother from **Jul 29 to Aug 7**, in North or West Vancouver, Vancouver or Burnaby. Please call Robert Adams at the Waldorf High School during the day

▶ (604)986-2922, or at home in the evening,

▶ (604)988-1597

Thank you very much.

▼ Waldorf family (mother and daughter) from Nelson, BC, are looking for to housesit Aug 3 to Aug 23 in Vancouver while their daughter attends a dance program at Arts Umbrella. We would be happy to take care of your pets and garden.

Millie ▶ (250)825-0141 or

Email ▶ millie@netidea.com

▼ Art Therapy from Leiden College, Netherlands

The Vancouver Waldorf School is fortunate to have arranged for two Art Therapy students to work at our school next year. These fourth year students, who are completing their Bachelor degrees in Art Therapy at Leiden College in the Netherlands, will do their final educational art therapy practicum working within our remedial program with our students! Paula van de Bovenkamp and Renée de Weerd will

join us in September 2008, and will be working full days with children until February 2009. More information will be made available next year about their work. At this time we have the opportunity to help them secure accommodations as follows: We (Paul and Renée) are looking for a 2 bedroom apartment, furnished (kitchen and bathroom), non-smoking, internet, in North Vancouver close to the Vancouver Waldorf School, 2725 St Christophers Road, from approximately Aug 25 to Feb 10.

Email ▶ renee.paula@gmail.com

Please contact them directly if you can help meet their housing needs. Thank you,

Chris McLaughlin ▶ (604)677-4477

Email ▶ cmclaughlin@vws.ca

▼ Friendly and extremely chemically sensitive woman and partner are seeking *safe* accommodations from **Jul 10 to 14** in Vancouver. Sensitive to all chemicals, essential oils, and cats. Preferred space would be a home with hardwood or tile floors and older furniture (everything is "off-gassed"), where unscented personal, laundry and cleaning products are used. Please call or email if you know of any suitable accommodations.

Annie ▶ (250)898-8308

Email ▶ annie@anniehopper.com

▼ **Wild Bluff on Hornby Island** Spend time this summer at Wild Bluff, a lovely west-facing oceanfront home perched high among curling arbutus trees. 15 minutes walking in either direction takes you to Helliwell Park or Tribune Bay, both Provincial Parks. Accommodation – one queen size bedroom with deck overlooking the ocean, one full size bedroom, and a large separate sleeping loft with 2 single beds and a day bed. Wild Bluff is available July 5 to 13 and Aug 24 to 31. I have also just had a cancellation for July 27 to Aug 3. Rate \$2000/wk. Please contact us for bookings, photos or more information.

Elaine ▶ (604)990-0367

Email ▶ elainemuldrew@shaw.ca

Marketplace

▼ **We want to thank** all the teachers, parents and their families for supporting us at Waves Coffee in our new venture. It really means a lot to us, and so lovely to see all your familiar, smiling faces. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!! Darla, Gary, Breanna & Reed

The Updater

▼ Thule and an almost new bike (age 12+) for sale. Make an offer.
Christiane ▶ (604)985-7390

▼ **Kittens available!!** Timm's descendants!! 6 weeks old.
Available in the next week, 2 in the litter not yet with good homes!! Please call and speak with Lorraine, Michael or Celeste.

▶ (604)983-2424

▼ **Organic maple syrup has arrived.** Once again I'm offering Ferme Delapointe maple products from Bury, Quebec. I've moved away from plastic containers this year and all products are in tin or glass, except the maple butter, and I've gone with the tastier No.2 grade amber. It was a small crop this year and prices have gone up for the first time in about 10 years.

18 litre pail	\$230
4 litre tin or glass	\$60
2 litre tin	\$30
8 x 540 ml tin/box	\$65
250 gm maple butter	\$7
500 gm maple butter	\$13

I have some cases of Rothe biodynamic apple juice, pure not from concentrate and made only for us: 6 x 48 oz glass bottles for \$30. I will be in the lower school parking lot with my white Ford Explorer steed or at home. Biodynamic soft fruits; cherries, apricots, peaches, nectarines, plums and pears will be available throughout the summer from me at home. Preorder if you want some. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Les Tulloch ▶ (604)986-5170

3280 Robinson Road, North Vancouver

▼ **Brain Gym Workshop** June 6 to 8, Fri evening, Sat and Sun. Based on childhood reflexes and movement patterns, Brain Gym encourages development through playful activities. Once in an integrated state we return to our natural, normal curious state of learning and are able to more fully reach our potential. Recognized internationally and by many Waldorf Schools. Call Lori Wall, Licensed Brain Gym Instructor, for information and to register.

▶ (604)990-4019 or

mail ▶ braingymnastics@shaw.ca

Website ▶ www.braingym.org

▼ The **German School North Shore**, at the Lucas Centre for Continuing Education, 2132 Hamilton Avenue in North Vancouver, is accepting students for next September. Lessons take place on Thursdays, from 4:00p to 6:15p. They accept students between 5 & 16 years with or without prior knowledge of German. This is a great place for Waldorf

students to pick up some knowledge of the German language before going away on an exchange to Germany.

Christine Colbow ▶ (604)926-2730

▼ Waldorf parent now taking on new clients. Receive a free **Strategic Financial Analysis**. Learn European Lending Structure to pay down your mortgage in half the time or less. Also, solid investments to create an early retirement plan. Life changing financial choices.

Chris Gorin ▶ (778)999-8520

Email ▶ www.outwardbranch.com

▼ Soon you will have time to do other things! Ms Brant and Ms Glick would like to invite you to workshop with us! Our new studio is open **Saturdays**, 11:00a to 5:00p starting in June. Our next Gypsy Gathering will be Jun 20 at 8:00p. Workshops are held at 1875 Powell St, in the RAW studio.

Sat Jun 14 Feltmaking something big
with Ms. Glick

Sun Jun 15 Natural indigo dyeing
with Ms. Brant

Sat Jun 21 Acid and Procion synthetic dyes
with Ms. Brant

Each workshop is \$80, materials included; bring an apron, rubber gloves and a notebook. Space is limited to 8 persons, so sign up early! Please call to book your studio time.

▶ (778)686-8198

▼ **End of School Homeopathic Special!** Now through July 15, all new and existing clients receive 10% off on their next appointment! Use this opportunity to address any health issues that are affecting you or your loved ones' well-being. Call classical homeopath and Waldorf parent Susan Drury, RSHom (NA), CCH. Enjoy your best health ever this summer! Susan Drury ▶ (604)671-7863

▼ **Summer childcare, odd jobs and house tending** available. I am currently a grad student in social work and will be available for work from May 23 to early August. I am traveling and living in Vancouver with my boyfriend, Nathan Chase, who is a VWS alumni himself (class of 2004). I am a stellar chef, a gentle soul, and I love working with kids. I would love to help make this summer a memorable and relaxing one for you and your loved ones. I have a reliable car, valid driver's license, Pediatric CPR/ First Aid. The best way to reach me is through email.

Email ▶ wakingsimone21@yahoo.com or

Connie ▶ (626)856-9707