



Detroit Waldorf School

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Dear Parents,

It is that time of year when the office staff starts preparing for the new school year. In fact, we will be busy all summer working to ensure that your student's transition into the upcoming school year goes as smoothly as possible.

In this letter you will find information on several important topics for the upcoming year, and enrollment forms that must be on file in the office no later than Friday, August 19. Please review carefully, and be sure to contact me if you have any questions. These are the updates that we would like to bring to your attention:

1. **All new, 6th grade and Early Childhood Center students** must have a physical signed by their physician and an updated immunization record on file in order for them to begin school. Additionally, **all children registered for the first time in kindergarten or first grade must have a vision screening** record signed by a physician or licensed eye care practitioner on file before attending school. Your local health department offers this screening at no cost to families and children.

2. **Students in grades 5-8 will need a sports physical before participating in any after school sport program.** Enclosed is a Physical Evaluation sheet to be completed by your family doctor in case you are already planning to see your doctor this summer.

3. **We will continue to use the automatic phone system and email for important daily and weekly updates.** We will use the DWS website as a place for parents to find important school information such as enrollment forms, monthly newsletters, parent handbook, student directory, and the school calendar. Hard copies are available upon request.

We are pleased to introduce the new staff for the 2011-2012 school year.

Please join us in welcoming the following:

Charis Calender, Outreach/ Enrollment Director

Ms. Calender was introduced to Waldorf education several years ago, and after learning more about Steiner and Waldorf education, she started the teacher training program at the Waldorf Institute of Southeastern Michigan in 2009. Her love of Waldorf education, along with her previous administrative experience and educational background (B. S. in Communication from Carroll College, with an emphasis in business and human resource management), provides a strong foundation, and is a good match, for her new role at DWS.

Katie Sobczak, Early Childhood Center Lead Teacher

Ms. Sobczak grew up in the Grand Rapids area of Michigan, and received a B.A. in English from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). While attending UCLA, she worked as an intern at the UCLA Lab School, where she spent time in a kindergarten-first grade mixed age classroom, and fell in love with teaching. She went on to serve in the Peace Corps in Paraguay, South America, where she trained early elementary school teachers, taught a community English class to children and worked with mothers and infants in a program aimed at children aged 0-3. Upon returning, she went on to earn a Master's in Bilingual education and teach for 7 years in the elementary grades at the Ocean Charter School (a Waldorf Inspired School). During this time she took the Waldorf teacher training program and earned a

Master's degree in Waldorf education. In the summer months, she worked at a Waldorf-inspired camp with children aged 4-6. She has been eager to find a Waldorf teaching job in Michigan to be closer to her family and hometown, and we are thrilled to welcome her as our new Early Childhood Center Lead Teacher.

Paul Trombley, Early Childhood Center Teacher's Assistant

Mr. Trombley has accepted a fulltime position as an early childhood teacher's assistant and the before care coordinator. Paul is no stranger to DWS or Waldorf education. Paul is a certified Waldorf teacher and, during the last few years, has worked for the school in numerous capacities. Most recently, he has been working as an assistant in the Rainbow class for the later part of the 2010-2011 school year.

Development News:

Many in the DWS community are already acquainted with Tara Tuomaala, our new Director of Development. Her children, Jackson and Lily Honner, joined the school in 2009 and she's been working behind the scenes as a volunteer grant writer ever since. Tara comes to us with an M.A. in nonprofit arts administration and extensive professional experience in fundraising. In her new role at DWS, Tara will continue to manage grants, as well as take on responsibility for the annual fund, develop a planned giving program and improve communication with donors and alumni.

In the 2011-2012 school year we will celebrate our **45th Anniversary**. This fall we will kick off our fundraising efforts with the return of the **Walk-a-thon!** Please look for more information on this important event at the back to school picnic, Saturday, September 17.

Enclosed are enrollment forms* that must be updated annually and on file in the office no later than Friday, August 19. These forms are required for attendance on the first day of school.

- * Emergency Contact Information-Field Trip /Transportation Release (All families, two-sided, white)
- * Media Release (New students only, green)
- * Consent to Use Creme, Gel, or Ointment (New Early Childhood Center only, pink)
- * Health Appraisal (Early Childhood Center, 6th graders, all new students, creme)
- * Immunization Waiver (Early Childhood Center, 6th graders, all new students, white)
- * Inhaler Use at School (New and returning students with Asthma, light blue)
- * School Based Asthma Management Plan (New and returning students with Asthma, biege)
- Volunteer Sign-up form (All families please return, purple)

Other forms/ updates enclosed:

2011-2012 School Calendar (yellow, two-sided)
After School Sports Physical Evaluation (5-8th grade students participating in basketball or softball)
Quick Guide of Who to Call for What & Before and Aftercare Hours and Fees (two- sided)

One final note: the 2010-2011 student reports have been mailed. If you have not received your student's report, please contact the school office.

Thank you for your attention to these details. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Sincerely,

Linda Brooks, Administrator