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UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE

Parent Events

1/16, 6-7:30 pm
1st Grade Readiness
Parent Evening

1/18, 10-11 am
Kindergarten Experiential
Morning

1/21, 4-5 pm
3rd Grade Parent Evening

1/22, 6-7:30 pm
7th Grade Poetry Night

1/23, 8:45-10:45 am
Walk Through the Grades

1/28, 6-7:30 pm
Middle School Curriculum
Night

1/29, 8:45-10:45 am
Talk & Tour Visitors Morning

1/29, 6-7 pm
1st Grade Parent Evening

School Dates

1/18, 7 pm
9th Grade Play
Story Theatre

1/20, NO SCHOOL
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day

1/22, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
9th Grade Trip to
Mountain Phoenix

1/31, 8:45 am - 12:30 pm
3rd - 7th Grade Trip
to Colorado Symphony

H.S. Basketball

1/17 vs. Rocky Mountain
Lutheran, played at Vantage
Point High School,
Northglenn; JV-4pm, Girls-
5pm, Boys Varsity-6:30pm

1/21 [HOME](#) vs. Gilpin
JV-4pm, Girls-5pm, Boys
Varsity-6:30pm

1/23 vs. Sky View Academy,
Highlands Ranch; JV-4pm,
Girls-5:30pm, Boys Varsity-
7pm

1/28 [HOME](#) vs. Belleview
Christian; JV-4pm, Girls-
5pm, Boys Varsity-6:30pm

1/31 [HOME](#) vs. Community
Christian; JV-4:00pm, Girls
-5pm, Boys Varsity-7pm

Home Games at Our Lady of
Lourdes, 2200 S. Logan St.



“Educating the mind
without educating the heart
is no education at all.” ~ *Aristotle*

MEET NEXT YEAR'S 1ST GRADE TEACHER, KEENAN HAND

We are pleased to announce that the College of Teachers has offered Keenan Hand the position of class teacher for next year's 1st Grade and that he has graciously accepted our offer.

You may know Keenan, as he is currently serving as a Special Subjects Teacher and Assistant in the lower grades. In his application letter Keenan wrote, "Assisting in 3rd Grade has given me insight into the potential and realities of working with a large class. Teaching games has revealed the importance of giving the children pictures and imaginations that they can bring into healthy movement and use to enliven their play."

Keenan earned a Bachelor's Degree in Art from Humboldt State University and his Waldorf Teacher Education from Emerson College in England. He also has taken courses in Consciousness Studies at Rudolf Steiner College, focusing on inner transformation and initiation studies, collage, painting and drawing.

He has been a Waldorf Grades Teacher at the Olympia Waldorf School, teaching a class from 6th to 8th Grade. He has many passions, including backpacking, hiking, rock climbing, fly fishing, surfing, painting, photography, ceramics, sculpture, soccer, basketball, Ultimate Frisbee, running and cycling.

Keenan has earned glowing recommendations from his colleagues. We are impressed with his calm, loving demeanor with the children, his obvious joy in teaching, his enthusiasm for learning from his colleagues, and his combination of deep reflectiveness, brilliant creativity, and love of sports. We will schedule an evening gathering for next year's 1st Grade parents to meet Keenan. Also in January, Keenan will visit the Kindergartens to gain a sense of the children coming towards next year's 1st Grade. Please join us in welcoming him into the role!



1ST GRADE READINESS EVENING

On **Thursday, Jan. 16th** from **6:00—7:30 pm**, please join Nancy Blanning and Tom Clark for an informative evening about the Grades curriculum and how 1st Grade readiness is evaluated. For a great bookend to this evening, join Leigh Rhysling for a Walk Through the Grades on **Thursday, Jan. 23rd** from **8:45—10:45 am** to see the Grades curriculum in action!

DWS FRESHMEN PRESENT...



The Denver Waldorf School's
9th Grade Class
presents

Story Theatre

by Paul Sills

Saturday, January 18th at 7:00 pm

Ginny Boone Oppenheim Festival Hall

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Excellent Colorado Gives Day Totals

We are thrilled to report that all of the numbers are in from Colorado Gives Day, and The Denver Waldorf School raised a total of \$152,383.08 on December 10, 2013! Your generous donations help our school continue to improve, grow and, most importantly, nurture and educate our students.

Just by participating in Colorado Gives Day, over \$3,914 in bank charges and processing fees were waived, sending all of that money directly to our school. Thanks to the First Bank Incentive Fund, we received an additional \$1,833.68 donation.

There's Still Time!

It is not too late to donate to The Denver Waldorf School. You can still give through the [Colorado Gives site](#), where all bank fees are still waived. You'll also still benefit from the Colorado Child Care Contribution Tax Credit for unrestricted gifts. No gift is too small and your participation is very important! Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the success of our students.



Annual Giving T-Shirts Still Available!

Receive your annual giving t-shirt, designed by DWS alumna Kelly Taylor, by making a first time gift, or by doubling your gift from last year. Receive one t-shirt for every \$125 donated to The Denver Waldorf School. See Ben or Woody to pick up your t-shirt while supplies last—limited sizes available.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO PARK?

Drop-off & Pick-up:

- ♦ Preschool/Kindergartens: Fillmore St., east side
- ♦ Grades, Middle & High School: 10th Avenue, south side & Milwaukee St., west side
- ♦ High School Students with Parking Permits: park in designated spots on south side of building

Parking for Special Events:

- ♦ Use all on-campus parking, including back lot near ball court
- ♦ Try to find street parking adjacent to our campus

Accessible Parking for People with Disabilities:

There is a designated spot in front of the main entrance on Fillmore St. Please be respectful of this space and those who need it.

Questions? Please ask! Email Molly Burke at communicate@denverwaldorf.org or call 303-777-0531 x103 for more information.



DWS ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEWS

Dear Parents,

As part of our ongoing evaluation process of administrative staff, we will be reviewing several members of our team, including:

Leigh Rhysling, Enrollment Director

Ben Drotar, Development Director

Lori Pucelik, Business Affairs Director

Christa Gustafson, Office Manager

Carolyn Goodman, Financial Coordinator

Please let us know your experience of each of these administrative staff members, both what is working well and areas for improvement.

Thank you for supporting us in meeting your needs,

Judy Lucas, Administrative Director



THAT PEACE GROUP

Last weekend's Improv Night raised more than \$1,000 to support a school in South Sudan that our high school students have been working with for the past three years.

The High School Peace Group organized the evening, performing improv skits and musical performances for a full Festival Hall audience to raise money for the Duk Payuel School. The student-inspired, service-learning group started working with Daniel Duol, a Colorado Lost Boy, three years ago.

Daniel has taught the students about the importance of universal education in working to alleviate poverty and to promote peace throughout all regions of the world through his own story, ranging from his childhood during the Sudanese Civil War, his new life in Colorado, and his work to bring education back to the children of his home in Sudan.

The Peace Group learns about different obstacles to peace and ways to promote it throughout communities, locally, nationally and globally, such as through increasing universal access to education. In addition to the Duk Payuel School, the students work with the Lakota Waldorf School on the Pine Ridge Reservation in North Dakota; they organize school events to promote peace and understanding of others within their own community; and they work to diminish their own environmental impact and help promote sustainability in the Front Range. Each action starts with education.

The students learn through a weekly elective class that focuses on topics that promote peace. The class also teaches the students how to effectively work within communities, how to look at both the immediate need and the root cause of issues acting as obstacles to peace, and empowers the students to affect change.



The Peace Group class incorporates education from a collection of resources. In addition to connections with local nonprofits, the group also incorporates the Peace Jam curriculum, which connects youth with Nobel Peace Laureates. Most recently, the Peace Group started working with the Student Peace Alliance, a national organization that works to promote peace within schools, largely through Restorative Practices.

How You Can Support the Work of the High School Peace Group

In addition to the Peace Group's annual improv show, the students also have a section in the school store where they sell hand-made items to raise funding to support their work. The students create and sell



artwork, T-shirts, soaps, seasonally themed cards, and more. Next week the group will release the new season's cards in the school store! Post-holidays, this set of cards features Thank-You cards, winter-themed and New Year-themed artwork. Come check them out and get your thank-you cards and New Year cards from the Peace Group. The school store is located in the front hallway of the school and is open before and after school. You can also purchase cards directly from Lydia Fiser, high school coordinator, by emailing highschool@denverwaldorf.org or calling 303-777-0531 ext. 109. This is the best way if you want to special order a set of specific cards.

TURBO TEENS: DOUGLAS GERWIN, PH.D



On Tuesday, Jan. 14, The Denver Waldorf School welcomed Douglas Gerwin, Ph.D for an evening of insight and perspective on the challenging work of supporting adolescents in their academic and personal development. Below is a brief summary of his presentation—we hope you'll join us at parent education events in the near future!

This generation of teens was born into a world with:

- Home computers & advanced technology
- Cell phones
- The decline of the 9-5 workday – parents are always on call
- Cyberbullying
- 9/11 and other shocking acts of terrorism in the country and around the world
- Columbine and other school shootings, and the sense that school is an unsafe place to be

As parents/teachers, we also need to embrace modern life, and let our children feel that they can be successful in the circumstances into which they were born.

How are teens different today?

In general, today's teens are showing an acceleration of their physical growth accompanied by a deceleration of their psychological development.

Physical Differences:

- Taller
- Earlier onset of puberty
- More allergies
- More auto-immune disorders
- Increased incidences of obesity or anorexia
- Sensory sensitivities
- Delayed executive function skills

Psychological Differences:

- Increased incidences of depression, ADHD
- Lack of personal discipline and family structure
- Apathy – either not caring or not knowing what to care about
- Heightened global and environmental consciousness
- Increased fear and sense of instability

How can we meet their needs?

Slow education – learning through the will, rather than just the nerve-sense/intellect.

Arts-based education – reaching the students' lungs and heart: the breath; the imagination.

Imagination-based activities – teaching children to move between their own perspective and the perspective of another

Help them develop the capacity to see things in the world as part of a coherent whole by balancing their fragmentation; let them discover this coherence out of their own judgment

What are teens looking for?

- Meaning in the world
- True love (not necessarily for another person; perhaps for a passion, a dream, an endeavor)
- Discovery of their purpose or task in life

How can we help teens find what they're looking for?

- Give them the wisdom to find meaning in the world.
- Give them the courage to find love through the arts.
- Give them the wisdom, courage, resilience, strength of volition and will to discover their purpose for themselves; the most difficult of the three.

What is the best predictor of success in college & how can we help teens develop this skill?

A high executive function score is the best predictor of college success. Unstructured play (at all age levels) is the single most powerful way we can help our children develop their executive function.

What should the goal of adolescent education be to support their development?

In many schools, the current model is a stimulus-response format that emphasizes an input-output style of learning. Weighing, judging, and feeling connected to the action of learning is not emphasized.

By contrast, we should be shifting the role of education away from the nerve-sense based, strictly intellectual approach and towards educating the students' metabolism, volition and movement ability to bring some balance to learning that gradually awakens the intellect when students are ready.

CAROLYN'S COLLEGE CORNER

ACT Test Prep

Test prep for the ACT is just around the corner and we have a full house! Thanks to Prilla O'Connell for taking on the task of preparing our students. The class will begin the first Wednesday of February at 3:00 sharp, lasting approximately 1 to 1.5 hours. The class will finish right before the ACT test in April. Sign up early to avoid late fees:

ACT Dates: April 14, 2014 & June 12, 2014

SAT Dates: March 8, 2014, May 3, 2014 & June 7, 2014

Mike McHenry and I encourage the students to try both tests out to see which suits them and their learning style better. Each has a different approach, and depending on your student, one may suit better than the other. The ACT tests students on what they know, while the SAT is geared toward the critical thinker. Some may call the SAT "trickier", as it challenges the student's ability to discern the difference between a mostly right answer and THE right answer. Make sense? Please feel free to call or email me with testing questions. The school has chosen the ACT to prep for as the SAT is undergoing some major revamping in the years to come.

Important: College Night for Junior Parents **Thurs., February 6 at 7:00 pm**

On Thursday February 6, there will be a college meeting for parents of the Junior class. Mike McHenry and I will discuss the process, how to find a good fit for your student, what to expect and all the other ins and outs of the college process. We will discuss differences in Early Decision vs. Early Action, financial aid vs. merit aid and a whole host of issues. Bring your questions! The meeting will begin at 7 upstairs in the High School.

Gap Year Fair

This year's [Gap Year Fair](#) will be held at Denver Academy on Sunday, January 19th from 1:00 to 3:30 pm. This is a great opportunity to look into all the wonderful programs for students to participate in between high school and college. We will discuss Gap Year on College Night as well – many schools today encourage their incoming freshmen to take a year to mature and experience the world outside the classroom. Studies have shown that students who take gap years are more mature, better prepared to get to work, and graduate in four years. Stop by and see what there is being offered. It is pretty impressive!

Spring College Fair

Sunday, April 6th is the annual [Denver College Fair](#) at the University of Denver. It will be held from 1 to 3:30 with over 150 schools being represented. Another good opportunity for Sophomores and Juniors to explore college options, make contacts with admission counselors and gather information. I would highly recommend that Juniors and parents attend this event to see what is out there. Breakout sessions will also be held at 1:30 and 2:30 that will cover college search topics, financial aid and others.

ANTHROPOSOPHY NOTES

Study Anthroposophy - *Spiritual Science* By Distance Education

EduCareDo International Research and Learning Centre,
based on the work of Rudolf Steiner

The 26 lessons include:

- Introduction to Anthroposophy
- The three soul forces
- The care and development of the twelve senses
- Threefold and fourfold human being and the world
- Goethean science, elements, ethers , temperaments
- Evolution
- Ecological-social-economy
- Female-Male studies
- Destiny and biographies
- Cosmology
- Health and nutrition, biodynamic agriculture
- Meditation, basic exercises
- Introduction to painting, speech, eurythmy and sculpting

Cost for the year (26 lessons):

By email \$A450*

By post in Australia \$A550*

By post to the rest of the world \$A600*

**Discounts for teachers and parents at Steiner Schools*

**Discounts for group bookings*

See website for details

Enroll Online: EduCareDo.org

Email study@educaredo.org

Enquiries Phone (02) 6601 9318 (International +61 2 6601 9318)

COMMUNITY NOTES

FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY

Submissions for 2014 Mask Project Silent Auction Wanted:

Hi, my name is Olivia Busenbark, but you might know me as the mother of Milo in Woodrose, Eli in the 8th Grade, and Junior Class Julia. I'm writing to you as a volunteer for The Denver Hospice to ask all artists and business owners to show your support for the work The Denver Hospice does by participating in the 2014 Mask Project Silent Auction.

You can participate in one of two ways:

- Use your artistic skills to decorate a mask

- Donate a good, service or gift certificate from your business to accompany a mask

This is a wonderful opportunity to not only support The Denver Hospice, but to get your company's name out there. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 303-502-6178 or obusenba@gmail.com. Thank you for your consideration!

For Sale:

Kurtzmann tall upright piano, circa 1920.

Excellent condition, original ivory keys.

Lovingly maintained, including new felts on hammers. \$2500

Call Claire or Dayna at 303-388-7888

COMMUNITY NOTES

FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY

Summer Tours of France Offered by [Pine Hill Waldorf Teacher Lorey Johnson](#)



Lorey Johnson has been teaching French at the Pine Hill Waldorf School in New Hampshire for more than 30 years, and running travel tours for over 20 years.

If you're interested in the tour opportunities below, please contact her directly at (603) 654-9817 or via email at loreyzjohnson@gmail.com.

Summer Tour to Provence

14 days in Provence including 3 days on the Mediterranean; great B&Bs, fabulous countryside and small villages of Provence. July 1-14; \$3000 per person plus airfare. Registration Deadline: February 15th.

Summer Tour to Loire Valley & Brittany

Includes 2 nights in Paris, 15 days to visit Chateaux in the Loire, megaliths in Brittany, an island and small villages. July 16-30; \$3100 per person plus airfare. Registration Deadline: February 15th.



Rudolf Steiner 1861-1925

Mission

Founded on Rudolf Steiner's humanitarian curriculum, The Denver Waldorf School awakens and inspires students' critical thinking, emotional intelligence and artistic expression, preparing them to bring relevant contributions to the world.

Vision

The focus of our work is the development of the whole human being. To further this aim, we strive to provide a beautiful, cohesive campus, that radiates learning, working, and playing while attracting and expanding full and diverse enrollment supported by abundant resources. We enthusiastically work and serve in the world community as stewards of social renewal.



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Organics Delivered proudly serves the students and staff of The Denver Waldorf School nutritious, hot lunches made from scratch. Orders are due by the Friday prior. Weekly & monthly orders are accepted. Paper menu/order forms are available next to the kiosk by the main office at school. Please [visit our website](#) for the current menu or to order online. Feel free to email us at: organics@organicsdelivered.net or call Miguel, Monday through Friday from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at: 720.883.2326.

