

Radius

A NEWSLETTER FOR CAMPHILL SPECIAL SCHOOL FAMILIES

"RECEIVE THE CHILDREN WITH REVERENCE, EDUCATE THEM WITH LOVE, SEND THEM FORTH IN FREEDOM" - RUDOLF STEINER

Third grade visits Beaver Farm



Third grade recently bundled up and headed to the farm. Clockwise from top left: students walking up to the barn; Annika and Kathy check on the roosters; Braden enjoys the day; Ziora is delighted by the cows; everyone gathers for a group photo.



December 2011

Fri. & Saturday December 2, 3	Craft Show Kimberton Waldorf School
Friday December 9	Parent-Staff Collaboration Group 7:00PM
Tuesday December 20	First day of Chanukah
Wednesday 21 December	Last day of classes before Winter Break
Thursday December 22	Residential students depart First day of winter
Fri, Mon, & Tuesday December 23, 26 & 27	Office and maintenance closed
Sunday December 25	Christmas Day
Monday December 26	First day of Kwanzaa
Monday January 2	Office and maintenance closed
Sunday January 8	Residential students return
Monday January 9	Classes resume

Happy holidays!

With winter weather on its way, please keep in mind...

Our school is accessed via small rural roads. These roads often are unsafe or in poor condition even when major routes are open and clear. Since the majority of our student enrollment is residential, Camphill Special School always will be open except in the most extreme conditions. However, we do need to address the transportation issues for our day students when there is inclement weather. During inclement weather, please check one of the resources listed below to know if we are on a two-hour delay.

Please bear in mind that each school district makes an independent decision about busing students during hazardous weather. Therefore, your district's closing/delay schedule may not match ours. If school in our district is delayed or cancelled even though we are open, unless you are going to transport your child, you must follow your district's schedule. Conversely, if we are having a two-hour delay that means that our roads have been judged to be unsafe for school buses so please do not allow your child to board the bus at the regular time when we have a delay.

Snow closings for our school will be announced as #738 on:
 KYW – 1060 AM
 KYW's school closing line is 215-925-1060.
 KYW's website: www.kyw1060.com
 Closings and delays can also be found on WPVI – ABC TV (Channel 6)



*Where winter weather is concerned, expect the unexpected. The recent early snowfall caused quite a stir but children like third grader **Sasha**, at right, knew just what to do.*



Welcome to our new students!



Nine year old **Sasha** is in third grade. She is from North Wales and lives in Garden House. Her parents are Clare and Bill and she has seven siblings.



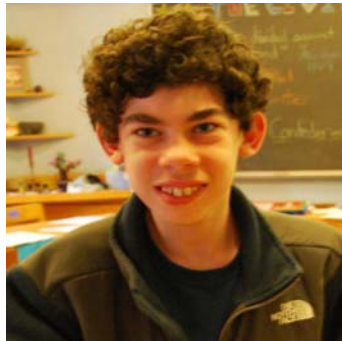
Eighteen year old **Rory** comes from Cambridge, Massachusetts. He lives in Silver Maple at Beaver Farm. His parents are Heather and Mark and his siblings are Jessica and Johnny.



Connor is eighteen years old from Coatesville. He lives in Silver Maple at Beaver Farm and his mother is Donna.



Eva is in Ginny's first grade class. She is six years old and lives in Chester Springs with her parents Tara and John and sibling Alek.



Fifteen year old **Noah** recently joined Sally's ninth grade class. He lives in Doylestown with his parents Rosemary and Robert.

“Light Feast” celebrates a tradition from Thailand

Coworkers **Jiap** and **Morn** led the colorful creek-side celebration of Loi Krathong. The festival takes place on the evening of the full moon of the 12th month of the traditional Thai lunar calendar.

Loi means “to float” and Krathong refers to a lotus shaped vessel that contains a candle and is decorated with beads and flowers. It is then placed in the water.

The krathong floats away, symbolic of a person letting go of any grudges they might hold. This allows them to start fresh, their life on a new foot.

The ceremony also featured food, decorations, music, and many happy people in attendance.

And welcome to our new staff member!



Jennifer McEvoy, Special Education Program Coordinator, with her husband Dan

Jennifer McEvoy recently joined the staff of the IEP office, taking on the title of Special Education Program Coordinator. She works closely with Sandy Williams in Oak Hill and reports having the best view in the entire community!

Prior to Camphill Special School, Jennifer worked for the Downingtown Area School District. She attended the State University of New York, New Paltz and holds a B.A. in Communications.

Jennifer was born and raised on Long Island, New York and relocated to Chicago in 2001. After several years in the Windy City, the McEvoy's came back to the east coast to be closer to family. She and husband Dan have two children; Dylan is twelve and Madison is eight.

Jennifer is on campus Monday-Friday from 9:00-3:00. She can be reached at 610.469.9236 x406 or at jmcevoy@camphillspecialschool.org.



Grade five takes a class trip along Beaver Run, a corridor of French Creek which is part of Pennsylvania's Designated Scenic Rivers Program.



See Classroom happenings on page 3 for the story.

Classroom happenings

Kindergarten is celebrating and enjoying the holiday season. Plans include baking Christmas cookies and polishing shoes for a visit from St. Nicholas. The children also will decorate candles. Songs and stories of the season are another important part of the festivities.

First grade is excited to announce that they have a new pet rabbit! Her name is Ruby and she is a New Zealand Red. The first graders are busy feeding her carrots and apple cores. The children are keeping her water filled and fresh and also must fetch straw and hay from the barn. They are learning that caring for an animal is a fun responsibility.

Third graders very much enjoyed their recent trip to Beaver Farm. (See pictures on page 1.) They now are listening to and acting out the story of Noah's Ark and practicing counting by twos in Main Lesson time. In handwork class the children are working hard on their knitting project, making rainbow-colored beanbags.

Fifth grade took a class trip and wrote this collaborative piece about it,

“We went to see where the Beaver Run goes. We enjoyed riding in the car. We drove down the road. We saw Anna at Beaver Farm. The piglets were cute. It was hot. We saw a big dog. There were many cats at Beaver Farm. A cat jumped on Oliver. We saw French Creek. We drove through Phoenixville and saw the Firebird. The French Creek flows into the Schuylkill River. We all had fun at the river. Alex said we should swim. We stood under the bridge and made an echo. Then we came back in time for lunch.”

A hike along the Phoenixville canal, French Creek and the Schuylkill River finished **sixth grade's** main lesson block on North American geography. The story of Persephone will lead the class into their next main lesson block on Ancient Greece. This busy group was grateful for the Thanksgiving break!

Seventh grade has really been enjoying visits to the science lab where they are studying combustion and acids and bases in the Chemistry main lesson block. The last of the tomato and pepper harvest was transformed into tomato and apple chutneys.

Ninth grade welcomes new student Noah to their class. The group is studying the Civil War. They are learning why the war started and about important figures of that time. The students had the opportunity to bake hardtack, a cracker eaten by soldiers. They were excited to take a field trip to the Civil War Museum in Harrisburg.

Tenth grade completed a very successful term in the woodshop. The students made beautiful lyres in conjunction with a lesson on concave and convex shapes. November began a new block taught by Emma Brunner. The class enjoyed listening to and dramatizing the exciting story of Beowulf.

Eleventh grade has been studying chemistry for the last few weeks of term. On their adventure through the Waldorf curriculum we were studying things at a miniscule level. To imbue this with meaning, the class decided to study the chemical elements of human beings. The predominant elements of study were Carbon, Hydrogen, Nitrogen and Oxygen. They observed electrolysis, electro-plating and some exciting and explosive ways to test for Oxygen! The students learned fundamentals through the song "The Elements," by American rock band *They Might Be Giants*.

Twelfth grade has been studying zoology. They garnered a great deal of information and are excited to share: jellyfish are unable to swim sideways. Starfish are able to re-grow a lost limb. The students were surprised to learn that cheetahs can run 70 miles per hour and eagles keep their mates for life. Elephants are able to pick up an object the size of a penny with their trunks. Male lions can lose their mane. Ask the 12th graders about these and other amazing things they learned with a field trip to the Philadelphia Zoo! (See pictures below.)

In other twelfth grade news, Camphill Special School and especially Rowan House and the twelfth grade, are sad to say goodbye to **Brendan Konz**, who has left our school for an adult program near his home in the Poconos. Although we are disappointed that Brendan was unable to finish his final year at Camphill Special School, we are excited for him, because he seems to have found a nice new place to live in for his adult life. If at all possible, Brendan will join us for our graduation ceremony and in the meantime we will carry him in our hearts.

It has been a busy autumn at **Beaver Farm**. The students have been preparing the new kitchen garden and watching two new litters of piglets grow. On Halloween night farm residents hosted Beaver Run for a spooky barn maze, haunted hay ride, and a dance party with sweet treats featuring live music by "The Beaver Farm Boys." Fun was had by all!



Brendan looks at an exhibit in the reptile house.



Josh, Celine, and Sam enjoy a day with the animals at the Philadelphia Zoo.



Josh and Jeff learn a lot about wildlife on their recent fieldtrip.

December's Beaver Tale...

A dear friend lost to the October snow

While the unusual October 29th snowstorm was beautiful to look at from the warmth of our homes, and it was great fun to slide down the huge hill at Beaver Run so early, it also caused the loss of a dear friend. In the woods along the far side of Beaver Run, three giant oak trees that had grown up together from the same base and seemed as one tree, succumbed to the heavy wet snow that fell upon the leaves. Each tree was huge, perhaps 250 to 300 years old. It would make a wonderful story to know what those forest



The three mighty oak trees that had grown together were lost to the early snow.

guardians had witnessed over the past centuries, but for at least the last fifty years, they had watched over everyone at Beaver Run. We are saddened and we will miss them.

Year-end giving opportunities!

The special tax incentive for contributions made directly to charities from your IRA is set to expire on December 31, 2011. You also might find that making a gift of stock to Camphill Special School will eliminate taxes on gains. Please click [here](#) for details. *As always, please consult with your advisors before making any charitable contribution.*

The Camphill ProAm Raffle Wants to Send You to a... CASTLE IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

Those who purchase raffle tickets will be in the running for five days and four nights for two at The Fairmont Banff Springs in Alberta, Canada (this trip includes airfare.) Styled after a Scottish baronial castle and surrounded by the majestic Canadian Rockies, the legendary Fairmont Banff Springs offers stunning vistas, championship golf courses, unparalleled skiing, classic cuisine, hiking, fishing, and Willow Stream, a world class European-style spa. Experience timeless beauty and luxurious comfort in a pristine wilderness.

The *Winning Ticket* will be drawn at the ProAm Gala on Friday, June 1, 2012. You need not be present to win. Information about the purchase of tickets is available by [clicking here](#). Tickets can be purchased online by [clicking here](#).



The Annual Village Fund needs you

By Carol Goetz

First, warm appreciation to the chairs of our 2011-2012 Annual Village Fund!

Keith and Melissa Epps	Parent Campaign
Scott and Janice Fleming	Grandparent Campaign
Michael and Stephanie Boldin	Alumni Parent Campaign
Rudiger and Andrea Janisch	Staff Campaign

Second, please support the Annual Village Fund to the best of your ability! Camphill Special School depends on year-round fundraising efforts to bridge the gap between tuition and the actual cost of education here while also maintaining an affordable tuition. In addition, funds are needed for specific capital improvement projects every year. Making a gift every year to The Annual Village Fund is the most important means of supporting our mission.

We hope that every parent, alumni parent, grandparent, and member of our staff will make a personally significant gift to the Fund each year. We ask that everyone give, and that those who can, give more.

Your gift to the Annual Village Fund is tax-deductible and may be made any time during the fiscal year (July 1 – June 30), but to qualify as a calendar year 2011 deduction your gift must be postmarked by December 31, 2011.

Checks should be made payable to Camphill Special School; we also accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express. In addition, our safe and secure [Donate Now](#) service may be found at www.camphillspecialschool.org.

Thank you, thank you, and thank you!

Camphill Special School
1784 Fairview Road Glenmoore, PA 19343
610.469.9236 camphillspecialschool.org

Our Mission is to create wholeness for children and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities through education and therapy in extended family living.

Items for the January issue of the *Radius* must be submitted by Saturday, December 17, 2011. Materials should be submitted electronically, on disk or via email, to Cara Schmidt at cschmidt@camphillspecialschool.org

All material submitted is subject to editing and is included on a space available basis.

Save the date

The 2012 Camphill ProAm gala will be held on **Friday, June 1** at the **Phoenixville Foundry**.

The ProAm Tennis Tournament will be on **Saturday, June 2** and we are excited to announce that it will take place at **Whitford Country Club** in Exton.

If you would like to be a part of the team that brings this great event to life, contact Steering Committee Chair Amy McHugh at amymchugh@mac.com or 484.888.1023.

