

Radius

February 2012

Issue 74

A newsletter for Camphill Special School families

"Receive the children with reverence, educate them with love, send them forth in freedom" - Rudolf Steiner

Music is instrumental to our school

Music class and weekly recitals are two of the ways rhythm and sound play a part in our daily routine. This is because music can be used to achieve specific therapeutic goals and because music is an integral part of Waldorf education.

When traditional academic subjects are taught in our modified and individually engaging Waldorf curriculum, balance is nurtured through the strong development of "the life of the will" (the ability to get things done) and the "life of feeling" (emotions and aesthetics). Learning to sing a song or play a musical instrument instills a feeling of accomplishment in our students, a sense of the "ability to get things done."

Our weekly recital affords students, coworkers, and employees an opportunity to perform. The students who perform in the recital participate in music lessons and practice regularly. Both Upper and Lower Schools have instrumental ensembles and choruses. We also have a school handbell choir.

Music certainly stirs the emotions of Camphill Special School students, be it a calming and focusing effect or an exciting and inspiring one. Some music can assist children to concentrate on the quiet task at hand, such as reading or writing, or motivate greater involvement and better performance in a dramatic presentation. Active music making, such as the striking of percussion instruments or the ringing of a handbell, can improve motor skills. In short, music is invaluable to almost everything that occurs in our school.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Sunday February 5 8:30PM	"100 Years of Eurhythmy" with Carsten Callesen Rainbow Hall
Tuesday February 14	Valentine's Day
Monday February 20	Presidents' Day No classes Office and maintenance closed
Tuesday February 21	Fasching (Mardi Gras)
Friday February 24 7:00 PM	Parent Group Meeting at Applebee's Restaurant 174 Eagleview Blvd. Exton



LOOKING AHEAD TUESDAY, APRIL 24th

**"Launching Teens and
Young Adults with Autism"
A Special Presentation by
Laura Shumaker
(Read more on Page 4)**

From top: **Rachel** plays the *whichtel chrotta* with **Elsbeth**. **Ziora** learns to strum the *bordun lyre*, which is tuned to a specific chord and played in groups. When playing together the students look to the conductor who indicates when the players are to strum. Seventh grade students **Trevor** and **Chris** perform together on recorders with **Elsbeth** as part of our weekly recital.

Volunteers help in kitchen, visiting students assist on land



Tracey, Willie, Kathy, and Matthew in the kitchen at Beaver Farm

Camphill Special School is extremely fortunate to have volunteers who gladly lend a hand wherever and whenever they are needed. An example of such kindness took place on January 11th Kathy and Joe Heenan and their friend Tracey visited our Transition Program at Beaver Farm and taught **Willie** and the rest of the kitchen crew how to make Irish Soda Bread. It was delicious and promptly consumed at lunch that day whilst still warm from the oven!

Also in January, approximately twenty eleventh graders from Green Meadow Waldorf School in Chestnut Ridge, New York came for a week of service in conjunction with their study of *Percival*. On Thursday afternoon the students took part in the weekly recital where they danced for our community who enjoyed the performance.

If you have time you would like to share, consider becoming a volunteer. Please contact Courtney Coffman, Events and Volunteer Manager, at 610.469.9236 x132 or ccoffman@camphillspecialschool.org for information.



Please take note: change in Camphill Special School attendance policy

We have updated our policy on school attendance and the procedures for excused absences to meet the requirements of Pennsylvania school law. The following reasons are considered to be reasonable cause for an excused absence:

- Illness
- Injury
- Quarantine
- Death in the family
- Family trip
- Family emergency
- Religious holiday not observed in our calendar
- Other excused absence approved by the school

Absences of residential students from the educational program while on campus will be documented internally. No additional documentation from parents or guardians is needed in this case.

These procedures will ensure that we are able to maintain the required documentation of all absences from the school program. They are not meant to replace direct communication between the parents and teachers or houseparents. In addition to providing official notification, please continue to follow the communications arrangements currently in place between you and the staff responsible for your child's program. The following applies to **any day student who will be late or absent, any residential student who will be absent off campus on a school day, or any student who will leave campus before the end of a school day:**

1. **Report the absence:** call the attendance line at 610.469.9236 ext. 409 or email Jennifer McEvoy at jmcevoy@camphillspecialschool.org before 9:00AM on the day of the absence. Leave a message including the child's name, your name, the reason for the absence and the anticipated duration of the absence.
2. **Report tardiness:** if your *day student* will be late for school for any reason other than a delayed school bus, please follow the same procedures as above, stating the reason for tardiness and when your child will arrive at school.
3. **Request and early dismissal:** if you need to pick you your child before the end of the school day, follow the same procedure as above, stating the reason for the early dismissal, the pick-up time, and when your child will return to school.
4. **Follow-up note:** within three days after the absence, please submit a written note, including the child's full name, date(s) of absence, specific reason, and a parent or guardian signature.

Extended illness: students absent for three days or more due to extended illness, surgery and/or hospitalization, or recovering from a communicable disease, must present a doctor's note, certifying permission to return to school.

Classroom Happenings

There have been many changes in the **Kindergarten**. Unfortunately our lead teacher, Annika, had to take a leave of absence to take care of some health issues. Many new faces have joined hands in Chantry so that her work can continue. The children have been learning stories including "Starpenny" and "Babushka." Don't be surprised if you see a procession of little people in costumes marching and singing outside!



Ellie and Yarimar have fun sculpting.

The children in **first grade** learned the Russian legend of "The Three Kings." They really enjoyed the opportunity to dress up for it!



Jack, Eva, and Ella dress up as kings.

Third graders are enjoying stories from the Old Testament during this Language Arts block. The children have been playing a variety of instruments during music classes this term, including bells, tone bars, lyres and finger cymbals. See page one for photos.

The **fifth grade** is learning what the word "ancient" means. They are learning about ancient Persia: a time that was long, long, long, long, long, long, long, long, long ago. The students found out that in ancient Persian the people learned how to tame animals, make fire, and plough the land to plant crops.

Grade six has been studying life in the Roman Empire. The main lesson begins with a Roman salute and a verse in Latin affirming our loyalty to the Empire. The students have been working on beautiful mosaics depicting different animals.

Seventh grade is studying physics- they have enjoyed visiting the lab to learn more about sound, light and heat. A highlight was creating a "camera obscura" - no camera, just a small hole in a piece of cardboard in a blacked out window and we could see each other outside jumping, dancing, and waving!

Ninth grade spent time in the lab for their study of chemistry. The students experimented with baking soda and cookies, saw how lime juice reacts with water, and made cheese with milk and vinegar.

Tenth grade began the new year with the exciting story of "The Odyssey" by Homer. The class is enjoying the adventures, trials, and victories of Odysseus as he finds his way back to his homeland of Ithaca 10 years after the Trojan war.

Twelfth grade is studying history through architecture, beginning with the first dwellings of the early human beings, and covering many innovations along the way: ziggurats, pyramids, temples, towers, bridges, etc.

The **Transition Program's** Academic Group went on a field trip to the Goggleworks in Reading, PA. Highlights included: watching a glass blowing demonstration, going to a gallery that had sculptures made out of recycled materials, looking at modern art, and meeting some of the artists in their galleries.



Darby, Will, Nick, Lauren(aide), and Willie go to the Goggleworks.



Laura Shumaker: writer, autism advocate, and Camphill parent to appear here April 24

Laura will present a special program entitled "Launching Teens and Young Adults with Autism." The presentation is free and open to the public; it will be held in the Ursel Pietzner Community Room in the new Education Center at Beaver Farm at 7 PM.

Laura is the author of *A Regular Guy: Growing Up with Autism*, which tells the story of her son Matthew, a Beaver Run and Soltane alum. She is an internationally recognized autism advocate and is particularly proud of her work in helping parents to navigate the teen and young adults years. Laura's essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Literary Mama*, NPR, and CNN.com. For more information on Laura visit www.laurashumaker.com.

And circle April 24 on your calendar NOW!

Plein Air for Camphill: The Four Seasons

The bad news: You will have to wait until late autumn 2012 for our next Plein Air Art Exhibit and Sale.

The GREAT news: The talented artists who participate in this outdoor painting event inspired by the landscapes of Beaver Run and Beaver Farm are painting outdoors four times – autumn, winter, spring, and summer. What a variety of art awaits us in the fall!

Look for more information in the coming months about our *Plein Air for Camphill: The Four Seasons* gallery events scheduled for November 2012.

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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 March issue of the *Radius* must be submitted by February 17, 2012. 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.

Camphill ProAm – be a part of it!

There are many ways to be involved in the ProAm– we hope all of our families will be a part of this *vital* fundraising event for Camphill Special School!



How can you help?

- ◆ **Become a sponsor** – last year two families split a sponsorship and shared the benefits (what a great idea!)
- ◆ **Take out an ad in the program**– send a message to your child, a teacher or therapist, your parents, anyone!
- ◆ **Donate an auction item**– need ideas? Give us a call!
- ◆ **Donate a \$20 bottle of wine** to the wine pull (a fun raffle at the Gala)
- ◆ **Buy raffle tickets** for the chance at trip to Banff Springs, Alberta, Canada
- ◆ **Join the Steering Committee** to help plan the events; we need all the help we can muster!
- ◆ **Attend the events**– **June 1** is the Gala and **June 2** is the ProAm Tennis Tournament. We would love to see you there! Look for the invitation this spring which will include details about the FREE children's tennis clinic before the tournament.

Contact Courtney with questions or to volunteer:
610.469.9236 x132 or ccoffman@camphillspecialschool.org.



(Front) John Fish and Tracy Gallagher; (Back) Carol Levin, Anthony DeCecco, Amy McHugh, and Toni Bowersox...just a few members of our ProAm Steering Committee! Please join us!