

Radius

A NEWSLETTER FOR CAMPHILL SPECIAL SCHOOL FAMILIES

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

Rededication of Blue Room windows a colorful celebration of history and fairy tale

By Cara Schmidt

On Thursday, October 20 the Camphill Special School community gathered in the Blue Room of the Karl Köenig Schoolhouse for the rededication of its stained glass windows.

Those attending were engaged as they listened to stories as colorful as the glass before them. Else Wolf shared the history of the Blue Room, Peter Bruckner spoke of the creation of the colored glass, and Norma Lindenberg told the fairy tale that inspired the beautiful windows. Kay Kinderman put that fairy tale into calligraphy and was asked to hang her piece on the wall next to the windows. Ruth Liberatore, a retired coworker from Camphill Village Kimberton Hills, composed the music that followed. Refreshments, inspired by the day, were enjoyed.

Initially intended for use as a gymnasium, the Blue Room had slanted windows in place up high on the ceiling. The lofty space caused acoustical problems though and ten years after completion it was decided that this large room should be split in half. In what was an unconventional but highly effective renovation, the lower floor became classrooms and above it, the Blue Room became a space for weekly concerts, movement lessons and large gatherings. *(Continued on page 2)*



Artist Peter Bruckner draws attention to the parallels between the child in the story and the children in attendance.

Michaelmas Fair and pageant emphasize courage

By Gillian Schoemaker

One of the most joyful aspects of our life in Camphill Special School is the celebration of festivals honoring the turning of the seasons. Michaelmas is the festival of Archangel Michael, who calls us to awaken and face the dragons of our lives!

At the end of September we are finally awakening from summer's lovely dream, ready for new learning, new activities and new deeds. We shared the harvest bounty in a merry meal: apple cider, jams and jellies, buns and bread. The students took part in tests and games requiring courage and judgment at the Michaelmas Fair, and our gardens were planted with daffodil bulbs as a gesture of hope for new life in springtime. *(Continued on page 2)*

OCTOBER 2011

Sun. November 6	"The Point and Circle Meditation," Ingelore Maier 8:30PM Rainbow Hall
Fri. November 18	Last day of classes
Sat. November 19	Students depart for break Parent Workshop
Thurs. November 24	Thanksgiving
Fri. November 25	Office and Maintenance closed
Sat. November 26	Residential students return Christmas Café 10:30AM Karl Köenig Schoolhouse
Sun. November 27	Advent Garden Rainbow Hall
Mon. November 28	Day students return Classes resume Advent Garden for Day Students Rainbow Hall

Happy Thanksgiving!



Join us for our Christmas Café

On Saturday, November 26, the Blue Room will be home to our annual holiday bazaar. All are welcome to enjoy a cup of coffee and a sweet snack while catching up with friends and connecting with other families.

Take time to look at the beautiful variety and purchase some handcrafted pieces by local artisans, our students, and friends of the Camphill Special School community.

If you are interested in selling your creations at this fun event, please contact Andrea Janisch at 610.469.9236 x300.



Welcome to our new students!



Twelve year old **Lily** is in sixth grade. From Great Barrington, Massachusetts she lives in Ember. Her parents are Tyler and Chris and her siblings are Charles and Caroline.



Nine year old **Ziora** comes from Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria. She is in third grade and resides in Woodledge. Her parents are Chidinma and Edmund and her siblings are Munachiso, Tikue and Sommie.



Eleven year old **Maxine** is in sixth grade. She lives in Mohnton with parents Beth and Peter and her sister Anastasia.



Twelve year old **Izzy** also is in Becky's sixth grade class. She resides in Kempton with her parents Gail and Mike and siblings Madeline, Frederic, and Lucy.



Kai is an eight-year-old from Hardwick, Vermont. He is in the third grade class and lives in Garden House. His parents are Seneca and Eric and his brother is Wilde.



Peace is a twelve-year-old from Abuja, Nigeria. She is in sixth grade and lives in Woodledge. Her parents are Esther and Alfred.

More new students will be featured next month!

Windows (Continued from page 1)

With the large clerestory windows now at eye level, Peter, an accomplished artist and teacher, began the eight year process of designing and crafting the stained glass triptych. His studio, Windrose, is located behind Rainbow Hall and overlooks the Easter Glade. Inspired by Rudolf Steiner's "The Child of Light," he depicted the fairy tale across three panels. One of the first stories performed in Rainbow Hall, it encourages children to maintain their sense of creativity.

During a recent cleaning Peter noticed that the panes were slipping and the glass was being damaged by the elements. He determined it was best to remove the pieces to properly maintain the art. In the process the wall around it needed repairs. What started out as a routine cleaning quickly led to a considerable but necessary undertaking. Along with woodworker Gavin Powers, he cleaned, reframed and reinstalled the windows.

Peter hopes that the windows will remain fine for another twenty years. All are welcome and encouraged to see the stained glass windows and read the story hanging beside them.

Michaelmas (Continued from page 1)

A pageant, created from a story written by a Camphill founder named Anke Weihs, was performed. It told the tale of a king and his many sons. Seven of his children received kingdoms. But for the eighth son, whose gift it was to play the lyre and soothe the heart, there was no kingdom.

Instead, he was given a small piece of land inhabited by a dark dragon. Through the power of his music the eighth son was able to lull the dragon to sleep. As time passed the dark power of the sleeping dragon seeped into the hearts of the people, waking the monster. The eighth son played his lyre, singing songs of love and freedom to the people and restoring goodness to the kingdom, which he left to all of us.

Classroom happenings

The children in **kindergarten** have been preparing for Halloween with seasonal circle time activities, song verses, stories, and crafts. They carved a jack-o-lantern and baked pumpkin pies. The children enjoyed changes in nature and dancing leaves. Daily, they check to see if enough leaves have fallen to the ground in hopes of raking together a giant pile to jump into!

The **first grade** children had a great time making pompom pumpkins. They are busy baking bread and recently enjoyed acting out fairy tales and learning their letters.

Third grade welcomed a new student, **Sasha**, to the class. The children are learning about gardening and farming this month. They have been working in their own plot in Beaver Run's garden and look forward to visiting Beaver Farm. Look for photos in the next issue of the *Radius*!

Fifth grade completed their Botany block with a wonderful walk through the woods viewing many different kinds of mushrooms. They recently moved on to learn about Ancient India. The students enjoyed learning about Manu and the Fish and some of the customs of India. They look forward to ending the block with an Indian meal!

Sixth grade is happy to have Michelle Valway join their class as an assistant following several years away from Beaver Run. The all-girl-group is studying North American geography; finding our little creek in the woods and learning how it joins French Creek, the Schuylkill River, and then the Delaware River. A field trip is planned!

Seventh graders are studying the Geography of Asia, particularly some of the countries where our coworkers have lived. Min Wang shared beautiful things from China. Nikki Weiser wore her elegant Korean outfit and showed the class how to eat with metal chopsticks. Renata Largent brought toys from Russia and Uzbekistan which were very popular. The class held a plant sale to raise money for a good cause and have been eating peppers and tomatoes from their garden.

Following an exciting volcano eruption, **ninth graders** have moved on to study Art History. They started their block with Prehistoric Art and will follow with Egyptian and Greek art movements. In handwork the class is busy learning how to spin wool, first learning with spindles and then with the spinning wheel. (See below for pictures.)

The **tenth grade** recently went on two field trips. They had a wonderful time at the Art Museum where their tour guides included a special person and an ASL interpreter. Then, on October 18 the students visited the Esherick House in Malvern. The class also is learning about mechanics and the six simple machines with science teacher Manfred Maier.

Students in **eleventh grade** are studying world economics. They began by baking cookies and trading them for various goods around the community. This gradually widened, encompassing a broader perspective of the economy, money, and dealing with other nations. In the final weeks the students will turn their attention to ecological concerns and multinational companies. As with many areas of life, they discovered that Bob Dylan was able to help them understand the world economy through his song "Union Sundown."

The **twelfth grade** is studying world geography by listening to the book *Around the World in 80 Days* by Jules Verne. Students learned to identify the continents and some of the countries in each. The class was happy to have coworkers and teachers share their experiences coming from or having visited many countries, including England, Egypt, India, and China!

All are doing well in the **Transition Program** and are happy to be eating three delicious meals a week in their new hall. The group is busy planning a Halloween Festival for Monday, October 31 and will invite the high school for this annual event. They hope their guests will be thinking about costumes!



Ninth grader **Victoria** tries the spindle with Renata.



Jack and Tina at the wheel.



Madeleine and Tina produce yarn on the spinning wheel.

Save the date

The 2012 Camphill ProAm gala will be held on **Friday, June 1**. We are excited to announce that this year's affair will be at the **Phoenixville Foundry**.

The ProAm Tennis Tournament will be on **Saturday, June 2** at a location to be determined.

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.



Camphill Special School
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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 December issue of the *Radius* must be submitted by Thursday, November 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.

Thank you for taking the Challenge!

More than 300 cyclists enjoyed a beautiful day for the Camphill Challenge bike ride on Sunday, October 16th. The vibrant colors of the season set the tone for good times shared on the road and at the post-ride picnic.

It was wonderful to see the familiar faces of many returning riders. Additionally, a nice portion of those participating in the event were there for the first time and were previously unaware of the Camphill communities in our area. The Camphill Challenge was a fine opportunity to introduce these new participants to our communities. More pictures from the event are posted on our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).



Phillip, Tricia, **Oliver**, grade five, and sister Phoebe ride together.



Rick Moseley, founder of the Camphill Challenge and father of **Leta**, grade seven.

Beaver Tales

Last year Camphill Special School was grateful for a total of 539 volunteer hours from groups that lent a hand to our school.

As of mid-October, we are proud to say, we already have surpassed that figure greatly with 1,045 volunteer hours! Many thanks to those who have contributed to this surge in numbers.

If you are interested in sharing your time as a volunteer, please contact Courtney at 610.469.9236 x132 or ccoeffman@camphillspecialschool.org.



Over seventy volunteers from Vanguard participated in the United Way Day of Caring at the school on September 30.