Solar Energy for Summerfield!
NEWS OF AN EXCITING MAJOR GRANT FOR THE SCHOOL

As I write this article, it is the morning after a very successful and enjoyable Farm to Feast. Despite the challenges the weather presented, it turned out to be an absolutely beautiful event. The food was terrific, the wine sublime, the music was wonderful, and the speakers were emotional and engaging. The event was well attended and, although the final numbers are not yet in, we believe it was a very successful fundraising effort as well.

Vice President Gina Martinelli spoke on behalf of the Board this year as MC and, in addition to her welcome and thanks to our Feast makers, she shared some amazing news about a new opportunity the community will have to finally install a solar power system for the school’s energy needs.

Some of you may know that Summerfield has long considered the option of Solar, and it has been explored by numerous committees over the last twenty years or so. Simply put, it hasn’t been a viable investment for the school. The cost of purchasing or leasing equipment has always outweighed the benefit it would bring to the school, despite our commitment to sustainable practices... until now.

I am absolutely thrilled to share a few more details on what Gina mentioned. In April this year, SWSF was approved for a $348,000 solar grant from the California Energy Commission. The grant will allow the school to install 308 photovoltaic solar panels which will produce roughly 112 Kilowatts—completely covering the school’s energy usage, saving the school roughly $30,000 a year in energy expense, and lowering our already low carbon footprint even further. In addition, we will be looking into the possibility of installing several electric vehicle charging stations for use by faculty, staff and community members.

Now, the hard part! The grant is specifically for solar panel installation, so we will have to do some fundraising within the community to cover the cost of permits, structural engineering, and roof repairs. (The timing couldn’t be better, since our lower school roof is in dire need of replacement anyway.) Estimates at this stage indicate that we will need to raise roughly $150,000 to cover the infrastructure costs, but we got a GREAT head start on our campaign at Farm to Feast—thanks to all the generous donors who stepped forward to get the campaign rolling! More details will be shared very soon but if you want to GIVE TODAY, please see the link on our webpage: summerfieldwaldorf.org/giving!

The timeline for completion of the project is still being penciled out, but we are estimating that we may be able to be fully installed and solar-powered before the beginning of school in fall 2020, contingent on the community being able to raise the necessary funds for the installation infrastructure and to replace the roof surface on our lower school buildings.

Enormous gratitude needs to go to parent Brian Gannon, who envisioned the possibilities and worked so diligently on the application process—thank you, Brian! We should also thank board member Dan Westphal, parent Gabe Johnson, and faculty members Ronni Sands and Ben Mew for working together with the Board and Development on our Solar Committee.

I hope you are as excited as I am to welcome renewable, sustainable solar energy to Summerfield’s ongoing commitment to the land, our environment, and our climate.

~ Jefferson Buller, Board President
We are happy to announce the hire of our new First Grade Class Teacher, Jennifer Sparks!

Jennifer is very pleased to begin her work at Summerfield in the coming year, bringing over 20 years of experience as an educator to this first grade class.

Jennifer grew up surrounded by nature and farm life, raising sheep and vegetables in Santa Cruz, California. She completed her B.A. in Geography and Environmental studies at U.C. Santa Barbara and found a passion for teaching as a naturalist for the city of Santa Barbara at their summer Nature Camp. Jennifer completed her Waldorf Teacher Training at the Waldorf Institute of Southern California, in both Early Childhood and Grades Teaching.

She taught in Santa Cruz, South Lake Tahoe, San Diego and has spent the last 11 years teaching at the Waldorf School of Louisville, Kentucky. In Louisville, Jennifer taught kindergarten and grades one through five. She also served as athletic director, coached girls basketball and taught movement. She will complete her five-year Certificate in Spacial Dynamics in July 2019.

Jennifer is a lifelong athlete, performer and artist, and enjoys sharing crafts, gardening, games, and cooking with children. She loves spending time with her family: Noah (18) and Holly (14), and her husband Shane. In her free time, you will find Jennifer with her daughter riding horses, playing basketball with her son, or walking in the woods with her husband and their dog Leo.

Welcome to Summerfield, Jennifer!

Sincerely, the Lower School Core Group: Tim Allen, Laura Sternik, Tricia Walker
Successful Accreditation Visit!

COMMENDATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OUR MID-YEAR ACCREDITATION VISIT

By Kibby MacKinnon, on behalf of the Accreditation Leadership Team

During the end of February 2019, the Governance Council, Board Members, Core Groups and high school students met with the visiting members that comprised our WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges)/AWSNA (Association of Waldorf Schools of North America) dual accreditation team. The team was comprised of directors of both Waldorf and mainstream private schools. They visited classrooms, toured the campus and thoroughly evaluated Summerfield from preschool to high school. This was a mid-cycle visit, as the term of our accreditation is seven years.

The visiting team concluded their process by presenting their findings, both commendations and recommendations. The team members were deeply impressed by what takes place at Summerfield and shared with us the following commendations:

PEOPLE:

Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm enjoys a warm and inviting sense of itself and an abiding commitment to a clear Waldorf model education for all of its students, as well as a shared commitment to teachers who understand the value and differences inherent in their chosen mode of learning and teaching. Something that struck the visiting committee was the amount of respect and deference paid to the school’s faculty. If the teachers were not excellent and committed people, then this would not have been so marked. That respect clearly shows up in the classrooms, where instructors are viewed both as leaders through a broad and integrated curriculum and as ethical guides for young people, helping them see their own humanity in each challenge and acquired learning. Lunch with some of the high school students was a highlight. All of them knew why they were there and what they had learned deeply for themselves and with each other.

PLACE:

Summerfield is to be commended for the conscientious, even gentle, care of its campus. This feels like a very large family farm and a small liberal arts college at the same time. The school’s completion of the ArtTech space is remarkable, clearly purpose-built with students in mind. The Farm, Circus Program and Art Spaces are something to showcase, as they far outpace many of the schools around in terms of how place impacts learning. The campus is clean, organized, warm and inviting.

PROGRAM:

Summerfield’s academic program is broad and thoughtful. Students are given multiple avenues to demonstrate their understanding under the careful guidance of a committed and engaged teaching staff. Teacher tenure has been strong, though changes are expected and planning is encouraged to protect the balance found between a rich curriculum and teachers who are well-trained to teach in the Waldorf model.

The team’s recommendations included that the Board and Governance Council focus on a comprehensive strategic financial plan to insure our future, with key factors being teacher compensation and benefits, especially in light of impending retirements; enrollment, given the financial uncertainty of the independent school market, and the high cost and low supply of housing for families in Sonoma County; and a focus on the development and fundraising capacities of the school.

They finished the report by saying, “The school is both unique and excellent; the outside community should be made fully aware of this through innovative and extensive outreach and publicity ventures!”

Since the Accreditation visit, the Board has had an inspiring and productive retreat, and together with the Finance Committee and Governance Council have taken up these recommendations and are hard at work with plans for the future.
Farm to Feast 2019

By Caryn Stone, Development Coordinator

It was a week ago today that we realized that inclement weather was going to make a significant impact on our plans for Farm to Feast. Very quickly we had to decide to move the event to ensure the comfort of our guests at this important fundraiser event and celebration. Even though I’ve been at Summerfield for seven years, and working in the Development for six, I still couldn’t believe how quickly and fully everyone jumped on board to help. We moved tents, equipment, lights, pizza ovens, asked classes and dance committees to give up their spot in the Hall, patched puddles with hay and leaking tents with clamps, emailed our guests to remind them to wear rain boots, hauled out umbrellas from the containers...

And it was so exciting to watch Farm to Feast pop up on campus during a regular school day. The excitement of it all happening in our midst added a level of anticipation and enjoyment that we couldn’t have invented.

Walking up to campus on Saturday afternoon, guests were greeted by a bevy of white umbrellas gracing the path up the stairs to the event—student musicians at lower bus stop, and the wafting scent of delicious food cooking. Tents graced the lower school lawn and housed a magnificent array of class projects, artwork, jewelry, coffee, olive oil, wine and more in the silent auction. Guests enjoyed libations from Summerfield vintners and community partners, as well as delicious passed appetizers, while being warmed by heat lamps and a crackling fire and listening to fabulous jazz music by Shea Breaux Wells and band.

Dinner was served in a Sophia Hall transformed by lights, candles, colorful flowers and succulents. We heard inspiring, funny, humbling and interesting messages from Chloe McCormick, Liliana Delman, Donna Stusser [see next page] and Gina Martinelli, with a rousing auction by Renee Richardson (who donates her time because she loves our school).

After dinner, guests emerged to the patio for coffee, dessert and dancing to the fantastic David Luning Band. It was truly a celebration of who we are as a community, and the school experience we provide to our children. And it was a success! With our online auction still open and donations still coming in, it is early to report final numbers, but to date, Farm to Feast 2019 raised $162,655 for Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm. Between tickets, sponsorships, auctions, Golden Tickets, dinner ask, angel tickets, buy-in parties and donations from near and far—we raised funds essential to our school.

Thank you Summerfield Community, for your support, your energy, your hard work, your love, and your commitment to our school.

THANK YOU to those chefs, winemakers, and community partners, who made the day possible: Chefs Lowell Sheldon, Natalie Goble, Moishe Hahn-Schuman, Matthew Williams, Gerard Nebesky, Dana Revallo and Laura Matis; Anthesis Wines, CrossBarn, Emme Winery, D’Argenzio, Martinelli Winery, Miracle Plum, Porter-Bass, Small Vines Wines and West + Wilder; Acre Coffee, Bella Rosa Coffee, Brew Coffee and Beer, Black Oak Coffee, The Kefiry, HenHouse Brewery, Revive Kombucha, and Guayaki Yerba Mate.

And a special thank you to the dedicated Farm to Feast team, who make producing Farm to Feast a joyful and fun endeavor: Sarah MacPhail, Anna Ming, Carrie Wooldridge, Lisa Hensley, Elena Bass, Hayden Terstegge, Janet Rae Jorgensen, Audra Cauchon, Tonya Stoddard, Kristi Hruzewicz, Skydrit Bahr, Michelle Fitzgerald, Kim Shepard and Kerry Lynn Yeary. And to the Development Committee, the foundation of our work: Jefferson Buller, Cyndi Yoxall, Gina Martinelli, Jeffrey Westman, and Luke Bass. And to those without whom we could never have made the transition to Hall to Feast: Ignacio Garat, Dana Revallo, Bill Dator, Leila Allen and Lance Hensley. Finally, thank you to the volunteers, colleagues and high school students who pitched in—you made a huge difference!
The Vision of a 'Summer Field'

EXPLORING THE GIFT OF SUMMERFIELD WALDORF SCHOOL AND FARM

Donna Stusser—our Roots & Shoots Teacher and parent of two daughters who graduated from Summerfield—gave the following address at Farm to Feast this weekend, a speech which we felt was worth sharing with the whole community.

Good evening everyone! I am so pleased and honored to speak to you tonight.

To begin, I would like to ask you to take a brief moment and close your eyes. As I speak these next words allow your imagination to fill with images. Allow your body and soul to fill with feelings and sensations.

‘A summer field … Summerfield … Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm.’

You can open your eyes.

Was your image of our beautiful campus bustling with energy on a typical school morning? Or was it of your child’s classroom with natural light pouring in to illuminate a wall full of vibrant watercolor paintings? Was it of your child’s class play with so many exuberant and cheerful faces proud of their weeks of hard work? Or maybe your image was of our gathering tonight right here right now in this beautiful Sophia Hall full of wonderful people.

When I said “a summer field” perhaps you pictured a field full of sunflowers open to the sun. Or perhaps your field was full of slowly growing plump vegetables soon ready for harvest? No matter the details, all of our images share a few things in common. There is fullness, there is ripeness, there is abundance and hope.

Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm is a place of opportunity, growth and caring, loving attention. I am very privileged to have been teaching here for the past 17 years. I moved to Glen Ellen in 1988 with the Schatz family from Boston. They chose this area specifically so their three children could attend Summerfield. Our eldest child Micah was in sixth grade with Moishe Hans Shuman from Ramin Gajin, serving us tonight. I was very fortunate to have Anne and Moishe attend my Parent Child classes with their two infant daughters Elora and Kamala. Sharing many tender moments with them as new parents gave me a rare opportunity to complete a circle in my life.

I have been a Summerfield parent as my two daughters journeyed from kindergarten to twelfth grade. I have grown in so many ways as a part of this field/this community.

As a teacher I have been given many opportunities to further my studies through trainings and workshops as intimate as those with our own faculty right here on campus and as far away as Dornach, Switzerland. I have met colleagues from around the country and the world and shared stories of how to improve our teaching.

And I have gotten to know my own colleagues better through our travels together. Shall I tell you the story about how the entire Early Childhood faculty laughed into the wee hours of the night in a Sacramento hotel room, and how we were startled when a loud knock on the door asked us to be quiet? Apparently we had forgotten how to use our “inside voices”!

Summerfield’s belief in teacher development makes it a great school. Summerfield provides growth and learning. There is patience needed in waiting for the fruits to ripen.

For years I wanted to improve the small play yard for one of my classes. I held a vision of how I wanted it to be. There were shade sails and wooden posts and a tree and gardens. I tried with little success to make this happen and years went by and other structures came and went, but I kept holding on to my vision. You can imagine my delight when Jim Cowan, Billy’s dad, came to me and said, “Miss Donna, I could really see shade sails here in this yard,” and basically described my vision.” Hillary, Henry’s mom—skilled in landscape design—chimed in, “We could plant trees and put in gardens!” Within a few weeks the structure was up!

The care and attention that went into that project helped me realize how important it is for each of us to leave our mark on places we love and believe in. Jim and Kiki and Brian and Hilary and Nicole and Chris worked excitedly in the rain on a Saturday morning with small children underfoot. They shoveled clay soil out of the ground, mixed concrete, hauled large posts, laughing and chatting while they worked. When Hillary asked if we could put the children’s initials in the concrete so they could come back in twelfth grade to see them before they graduated, and everyone chimed in, I was touched. Like me, these families had found their place.

Parents with dedication make Summerfield a great school. There are so many ways to give, and we must each find the way that works for us, leaving our mark, our legacy, on Summerfield. For some it’s physical labor, for some it’s hours (and hours, and more hours) of volunteer work and for others it’s a financial gift. That is why we are here tonight!

Our summer field is vibrant due to each and every one of its 289 families. Today we are reaping the harvest of so many other committed parents and teachers who gave before us so we could be here today. We mustn’t forget this legacy.

The founding parents already had a commitment to a working farm here, and were aided in their goal of environmental sustainability by the vision of donor Robert Cabot (from the Turtle Island Institute in British Columbia) when his generous gift enabled them to purchase this property with the stipulation that there always be a wildlife sanctuary as part of the school and the surrounding land undeveloped.

Sonoma Land Trust has since taken up the management of this sanctuary. Our commitment to environmental stewardship makes Summerfield a great school.

And now fast forward from 1988—31 years—on a Saturday night this March, when we hadn’t seen the sun for many days. I had been in a training in the city all day. I received a reminder of a reunion potluck of the parents of the class of 2018. I thought I was too tired to go, but my energy was revived after bumping into Dan Westphal in Olivers Market. Dan, who has been a dedicated Board member for 12 years, who led the Site Committee for many years, and who designed the Rosebud outdoor playhouse which the children built in third grade.

As we sat outside of Sophia Hall because no one had a key we realized it didn’t even matter. We scrambled together plates and silverware. The sun was setting in the sky across the Farm. It was beautiful! We shared stories of our graduates in the real world or in college, and we listened with tenacity and focus as we pictured the many times we had watched these young people perform and laugh and cry together over the last 14 years, and now we were imagining them out in the world. We had driven them to field trips, backed them up at fundraisers and festivals too many to count, and now they were launched! What a web we had created. Each and every parent here tonight knows how good it feels when you know your child has been loved and seen by other human beings and you have shared what is your most precious gift.

This is a rare opportunity to create this summer field together that nourishes deeply. We not only teach how to cultivate crops and soil here but we encourage a cultivation of inner radiance that will continue to grow in each of us.

I can honestly say to you tonight that by giving to Summerfield, you contribute 100% to making the world a healthier place in which to live.

Thank you!
SENIOR GRADUATION

The Twelfth Grade graduation will be held in the Circus Tent on Sunday, June 9, at 10am.

Graduates have prepared speeches and will sing as a group. Keynote speakers to be announced.

Senior self-portrait projects, in both oils and clay, will be on display. Refreshments to follow in front of Sophia Hall.

Please join us in celebrating the accomplishments of the Class of 2019!

Accepted College List for Class of 2019

By Caitlin Johnson, HS Counselor

As our seniors near the end of their time here at Summerfield, they have been working hard to prepare for their next adventure! Some students have chosen to take a gap year to travel or work while others are off to college.

Below is the impressive list of colleges where our seniors have been accepted this year. Please join us in congratulating our entire Senior Class on their achievements!

- American University of Paris
- Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
- Chico State University
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Evergreen State College
- Humboldt State University
- Lewis and Clark College
- Long Beach State University
- Loyola Marymount University
- NewSchool of Architecture and Design
- New York University
- Oregon State University
- Portland State University
- Quest College
- San Diego State University
- San Francisco State University
- Sarah Lawrence College
- Seattle University
- Sonoma State University
- The New School
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of Colorado, Boulder
- University of Oregon
- University of Puget Sound
- Western Washington University
- Whitman College
- & our wonderful Santa Rosa Junior College!
Summerfield faculty and staff are extremely grateful to all of the volunteers who helped put together this year’s beautiful May Faire! Thank you to Sieglinde Basmajian for working with the students on their wonderful dances and to all those who provided the music, especially Peaches Davenport and the music teachers, Mrs. MacKinnon and the third grade, Mrs. Vander Pluym and the fifth grade, and Mrs. Wundsam and the seventh grade. Thank you to all of the High School students and teachers who brought great food and fun to the Faire!

Thank you so much to all of the volunteers who made this Faire happen—there are too many to name but we appreciate each and every one of you! And lastly, to this year’s May Faire committee—Torey Halim and Kristen McKenna, Patti Enochian, Paisha Jorgensen and Hillary Curtis, and Holly Trivan. It was a pleasure to work with you all!

Finally, thanks also to our photographers! Photos from the event are available in the Main Office.

One of the highlights of May Faire each year is the abundance of colorful flowers all around—decorating the arch, atop the May Pole, decorating the stage, and most beautifully, crowned on our children’s heads! Many of those flowers are generously donated by local grocery stores or florists.

Unfortunately one of the downsides to this is the large amount of waste from these bouquets—plastic wrapping around each bunch and many cardboard boxes. We were also aware of how many of these flowers are grown far away, out of the country, and are not organic.

This year’s May Faire Committee has been inspired to look ahead at bringing in more local, organic flowers next year! We will be working with our very own farm to start growing more on campus and reaching out to other local flower growers for donations.

In addition, we ask that any families who enjoy gardening think ahead to planting flowers for next May, keeping in mind that we need both big blossoms and greenery for decorating and smaller flowers for the children’s head-wreaths.

We are already looking forward to seeing what blooms in our farms and gardens next spring!

~ Andrea Jolicoeur, on behalf of the May Faire Committee
A Day in our Magical Medicinal Garden

A PARENT’S REFLECTION ON THE HERBAL STUDIES WORKSHOP

By Heather Mutz, Third and Sixth Grade Parent

Teacher Ronni Sands and healer Jennifer Monin are deeply wise women who walk humbly among us every day. Back in March, I had the honor to spend several hours with them and other mamas in the Summerfield Permaculture Garden—roaming in what we mistakenly call “weeds”—to find Mother Nature’s hidden healing treasures.

Jennifer talked us through the crafting of a welcoming nervine tonic while we sipped gratefully. Afterwards, we followed Ronni to an untended and forbidding patch of nettles. While we harvested them for assembling later into a nettle and dandelion vinegar, Ronni shared fun facts with us like rusty metal objects thrown into a nettle patch make them grow vigorously. And we foraged for baby dandelion leaves—finding a few survivors from the recent mowing of the High School lawn. Nettle has been used for hundreds of years to support muscle and joint wellness, and to treat eczema, hay fever, and urinary tract infections. I learned that dandelion boosts our ability to access nutrients from our food and supplements, as our bodies age and decline in their nutrient-absorbing capacity—making it an excellent tea to drink before a meal or, in this case, vinegar to have with a meal.

Winter has the effect of making our bodies sluggish, with shorter days and decreased activity. Two of nature’s responses are asparagus and artichoke, which come back to us in the spring. Both plants boost liver function, to move stagnation in the body and jump-start our months of increasing activity. Ronni helped us identify which asparagus were ready to cut and which needed more time.

We sampled chicory leaves—a welcome coffee substitute for those who like its bitter taste and who seek its assistance with high blood pressure, heart health, and constipation. We cooed over the soft bright calendula petals and other edible flowers that we snipped to add later to our salad.

Back at the Farm Kitchen, we all pitched in to roast asparagus, blended chive butter, snip and toss our wild “found” salad, including plantain leaves—one of the mostly commonly found “weeds” that I tread on carelessly every day! Plantain also has an ancient history, well known around the planet for its antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties. One team crafted a vegan nettle pesto—using nutritional yeast instead of cheese; another processed the echinacea and valerian we gathered, to start steeping a tincture that would be ready for us to pick up weeks later. Ronni and Jennifer let us peruse their wonderful herbal library for learning more in the future, solo or with our children.

After the workshop, Jennifer sent us recipes to use and share, to preserve the learning of that glorious early spring day. Please make time to enjoy another of these workshops, when next they are offered. I can assure you, it will be well worth your time and effort, even within your busy parenting schedule!

Eighth Grade vs Faculty & Staff Softball Game

Come cheer on teachers and students in our annual softball game Wednesday, June 5, 11am–12:30pm. Everyone is welcome!

New Life on the Farm!

It was a happy Mother’s Day for our farm cow, May, who gave birth to a healthy new calf on Monday, May 6 at 2pm during sixth grade farming lesson.

Farm Guild

continues to meet in the summer. Please join us for our Tuesday volunteer days. We work from about 9am–noon, breaking halfway for a potluck snack and food. We’re happy to help with your gardening questions, and you also get to leave with a basket full of produce. RSVP and questions to Farmer Dana at dana@summerfieldwaldorf.org.
**Steven Sheldon**

![](image)

Steven Sheldon, local architect, builder and long-time Summerfield parent and contributor, passed away May 10. He spent his last day meeting with an inspiring new client, training for a San Francisco to Santa Barbara bike ride climate fundraiser, playing with his grandson, and watching the Warriors pull off an epic last-minute win.

Steve’s family evaded the Holocaust, immigrated to the U.S., and he grew up in Los Angeles in a working class multi-generational German-Jewish household. Since his childhood, he dreamt of being an architect, which led him to attain a degree from USC in architecture. There he met a group of fellow students who would remain his closest friends and collaborators throughout his career. Upon graduating, he apprenticed with a builder and began working with a hammer. For the rest of his life, he blended architectural drawing with hands-on building.

Steve contributed enormously to the development of the Summerfield Waldorf School & Farm campus, designing the High School and both of the curved Lower School buildings, and jumping in with the rest of the parents at the time to do much of the construction of the first building themselves.

Both his first wife Leslie, and second wife Michaela, were trained Waldorf teachers and worked for many years at Summerfield, Leslie in the office and as a language arts specialty teacher, and Michaela as a grades teacher. Steven’s four children all attended and graduated from Summerfield.

Steve had the rare privilege of a life whose passion and livelihood were one and the same. His life was foundationally driven by the idea of community and connecting more meaningfully with the natural world. As his children began their own lives, he found a new passion in sustainability and green building, always striving to lower the carbon footprint of his work. Through his design, landscaping, and thoughtfully chosen building materials, he encouraged human interaction and a close connection to the natural world.

His death at 72 years old leaves many projects in process, including a hempcrete house and his work as president of his local chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council. But he felt that his greatest accomplishments were his family, his children and grandchildren, even as he created a landscape of utility and beauty around us all.

He is survived by his wife, Michaela, children Oliver (Brody), Will (Sarah), Lowell (Natalie), Brenna, six grandchildren and brother, Mark.

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NEW WALDORF CENTENNIAL FILM MADE BY SUMMERFIELD PARENT

**“Becoming”—Early Childhood Around the World**

Award-winning documentary filmmaker and Summerfield parent Paul Zehrer (father of Elias in fifth grade) has produced and directed a third film, **Becoming**, in celebration of the Waldorf 100 centenary, this time focusing on early childhood.

Made in partnership with the Waldorf 100 organization and the International Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education (IASWECE), the film portrays early childhood today in the mirror of different cultures worldwide.

The series as a whole gives a fascinating and inspiring insight into Waldorf Education in the most diverse cultural, social, religious and economic conditions around the globe and provides a compelling picture of what’s unique and special about the Waldorf approach. We hope you will feel moved to share these films with family members and others who might be interested in Waldorf education. Find links and learn more at waldorf-100.org/en/films.
The Seventh/Eighth Grade Team: What’s It All About?

By the Governance Council

WHAT IS THE ‘TEAM’ IN SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES?
The ‘Team’ this year was our seventh and eighth class teachers together with specialists in Language Arts and Math. The goal is to jointly support and meet the needs of the students as they enter the complex period of adolescence. The team members work closely with each other, planning together how best to support the students in their learning. They offer the students regular mentoring times where they are available to help with school work. Each year a team of teachers is formed around the class teacher to address the needs.

WILL THE CLASS TEACHER STILL BE WITH THE CLASS IN SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES?
Yes, the class teacher still is the ‘anchor’ of the class in seventh and eighth grades, teaching the majority of the main lessons, but also has the opportunity to have specialists teach some main lessons in Math, Science and Language Arts. This is not new and has been our practice for the past 16 years at Summerfield. With the formalizing of the team in 2018, the work of the specialty teachers started to become more integrated with the work of the class teachers in the seventh and eighth grades.

WHAT OTHER CHANGES CAN I EXPECT TO SEE IN SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES?

- The school day starts at 8:00am with morning movement to help the students come fully into their bodies and be awake and ready for academic work at 8:30am. This change we made many years ago is so successful that the high school changed its schedule this year to move before main lesson as well.

- Specialty teachers support the class teachers in seventh and eighth grade, particularly in Math, Language Arts and Sciences, by consulting or teaching. In 2018 we took the step of having high school colleagues teach both English and Math in both seventh and eighth grades for the whole year.

- This year we added a daily ‘mentoring’ period to the seventh/eighth grade schedule after lunch, where the teachers on the Team are available to support the increasingly complex academic and social learning questions of these grades.

- Because a long lunch recess is not always productive in seventh and eighth grade, particularly in Math, Language Arts and Sciences, we shortened the recess but gave the teachers the freedom to use this period following lunch to meet the needs of the students as they see fit.

- Four afternoons a week for the entire year in seventh-tenth grades, the students are immersed in intensive practical and fine arts blocks where they work through the phases of imagining, designing, executing and reviewing a project. Through this process, students are rewarded with a finished craft and can see the results of their work in each block.

WHY THIS CHANGE IN TEACHING APPROACH?
At Summerfield, we continuously work to review and improve our approach to education and the changing needs of the students. As students enter into adolescence, schooling begins to focus on the development of healthy thinking. At this time it is especially beneficial to for the students to have exposure to different ways and approaches to teaching.

This task of helping the students actually think for themselves is evolving with the changing consciousness we are facing with the advent of our ubiquitous digital devices. How have these changes affected the lives of our students? What core experiences do they need today to help them learn to form judgments and discernments in the onslaught of information?

WHAT ARE ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES FOR ADOLESCENTS?
Through study, student observations and reflection, the College at Summerfield has conducted research into these questions beginning in the 2003-4 school year. We found that the core experiences include:

- Needing to be needed: The students need to have the experience “If I don’t do it, it won’t happen.” They need to feel themselves to be an essential part of something, doing meaningful work. This doing has to begin with seeing that something needs to be done, whether we want to do it or not, and then taking the next step.

- Imaginative thinking: It is critical for adolescents to continue to experience and grow in their imaginative thinking. At the end of his lectures in Study of Man, Steiner spoke of the shift in the child from living into the imagination of the class teacher to their own imaginative thinking and noted that less damage is done by introducing academics too early than by lack of their own imaginative thinking at the right time.

- Responsibility: Adolescents must be given increased responsibility for their own learning and for contributing to the community.

- Authenticity: Adolescents need to experience authenticity in their feeling life and not have to hide behind a ‘mask’.
When Did This Start?

16 years ago, Summerfield faculty looked at how to provide these essential experiences for adolescents. In 2003, we developed a new program which involved concentrated arts and crafts experiences dedicated to students in the critical age span from 12-16 years. Classes seven and eight adopted the high school schedule and added seven additional class periods each week. This allowed for morning movement before main lesson and dedicated practice periods each week for Math and English. High school teachers typically taught one or two main lessons in each of these grades, as well as either the English or Math practice periods.

This pioneering program was one of the first in the country to address the unique needs of adolescents in this way, and to form a bridge between the lower school and high school experiences. Our seventh and eighth graders’ experience of school was broadened, and their level of responsibility for their own learning increased.

This intensive activity provided a balance to the “continual partial attention” that they experience in their lives today, as the process of the art or craft activity demands attentiveness. Students learned, through experience, of the intelligence designed into the tools that they used. They developed a felt understanding of the natural materials and laws of the physical world. By engaging in the progression of crafts blocks over four years, they built increasing skill in woodworking, metalworking, clay, farming, printing, drawing and painting, and were regularly immersed in meaningful work. This practiced learning kindled the students’ trust in their own ability to navigate life. All of these aspects gave a foundation for a more explicit, more conscious shift in thinking which occurs during the tenth grade year supported by the academic main lessons.

2010-11: How Do Issues of Our Times Affect Core Experiences?

In the 2010-11 school year, the College led a symposium entitled “Imagination Under Attack,” which reviewed the seventh through tenth grade program and led to a refinement of the experiences we felt were essential for adolescents. Out of that work, it was recommended that main lesson blocks become four weeks long in these grades to provide a more rhythmical context for learning. For the high school, the schedule moved to trimesters, and a new Physical Education curriculum was introduced to allow for mixed age interaction.

College members recognized that students were undergoing a substantial change of consciousness. From the September 7, 2011, College meeting notes:

*Can we keep going the way of the past 100 years? Do we have a special challenge with the advent of virtual reality?*

We determined that the consequences are fragmentation and isolation. Our experience of time has changed. We are fatigued and overwhelmed. Last year, we found core experiences for students that would address these challenges:

- Solitude to inwardly digest experiences
- Being seen, recognized, guided
- Contextual learning, not fragmented experiences
- Faculty modeling collegial/collaborative creativity

The students should encounter the self as an overarching objective. Two experiences indicate this has happened:

- Individual has an “Aha!” moment in learning.
- Together, students experience that school is real life.

These core experiences are quite different from the ones that were identified in 2003-04. They now emphasize the experience of relationship between individuals and events. Students must learn to navigate a world where the emerging forms of social interaction have become physically remote, yet emotionally unguarded and intimate at an age where the adolescent emotional body is just developing. With the access to nearly unlimited quantities of disconnected information via the internet, students are being asked to discern and form judgments at a time when they are not yet capable of doing this.

2018-19: How Does SWSF Faculty Respond to Changing Student Needs?

In 2018, the College again reviewed the program. We shortened but concentrated the practical arts blocks from three days a week for six weeks to four days a week for four weeks to align them with main lesson blocks and improve the rhythm of the schedule, and made other changes noted above.

As our seventh and eighth grade team evolves, the students will have the experience of seeing adults working together creatively and actively problem-solving. They will have more diverse academic support. The success of this program is evidenced by the reflections of our seniors and graduates. Their experience-based education has given them a trust in themselves and their thinking. They are confident that they can navigate what life brings towards them.

The College of Teachers will continue to review and, as needed, modify our programs. At Summerfield we work to make the most of our academic freedom by reviewing and changing to meet the needs of the students. This is a foundational principle of Waldorf education and, in this way, the students and their evolving needs as seen by our experienced teachers is the true leadership of our school.

If you have further questions or comments about the seventh/eighth grade team, please talk with your child’s teachers, or email governancecouncil@summerfieldwaldorf.org.
We Proudly Announce the Commencement of the 2019 Eighth Grade Class on Saturday, June 8, at 10:30am, in Sophia Hall

Bastién Brace • Leighton Braglia
Kylie Donaldson
Matilda DuBois • Laura Emerson
Evan Hays • Orion Kent
Garrett Kinderman • Everett Laughlin
Isabella Limper • Dora Mesquita
Sophia Morris • Adam Persinger
Calum Rutherfurd • Levi Rutherfurd • David Scheffert
Rowan Smith • Daniel Tara-Browne • Saba Tebbutt
Benjamin Van Deursen • Amelie Woolf
Nicolas Xu • Benjamin Yeary

FROM GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Summerfield WALDORF SCHOOL AND FARM

Statement Regarding Vaccinations

Vaccination choice is a big topic in the news right now, with changes in vaccination legislation being proposed in Senate Bill 276, and concerns about the number of cases of measles. This is an issue we are taking seriously as a school.

We are aware that parents in our school have a wide range of opinions on vaccinations. We recognize that we live in a community, and our decisions affect others.

We believe that vaccination is a personal medical decision for parents. It is not the school’s place to bring an opinion, but to follow the law.

With everyone’s well-being in mind, all parents and teachers can help by being alert and vigilant, in particular to the three early symptoms of measles: fever, runny nose, and cough, as well as familiarizing ourselves with the measles rash.

If everyone can think about the other in these situations, we can meet our challenges and grow stronger as a community.

Thank you,
Governance Council
Ignacio Garat, Jason Gross, Kibby MacKinnon

Summerfield Wall Calendar Art Exhibit

East West Cafe,
128 N Main St, Sebastopol,
May 16 — June 30, 2019,
Come and bring family and friends to see the students artwork that made up this year’s calendar!

Summer Camps...

... are almost full! If you’re still looking for a camp, don’t delay! Register today at our website: summerfieldwaldorf.org/curriculum/summer-camps.

Farm Camp (ages 4–5 & 6–10), Fiber Arts in the Garden Camp (ages 10–14), Earth Ecology Camp (ages 10–14), Circus Camp (ages 6–8 & 9–14), Flying Trapeze Camp (ages 8+), Circus Camp for Advanced Performers
Events/Camps

Summer Theater Camp 2019

Three weeks of theatrical learning and fun, bringing to life the magical world of William Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream! Ages 10–14; July 15–August 2; Monday–Friday 9am–2pm; Performance Friday, August 2nd; Location: Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm, 655 Willowside Road, Santa Rosa; Tuition $750/student; Early bird discount: $675 for registration by March 29; For more information and registration forms, please email: lizturkel@gmail.com.

Summer Art Camp

Art Camp @ Summerfield Waldorf School; children ages 6-12. Fun and exciting weekly sessions. Explore and create with a variety of art forms: drawing, painting, sculpting and print-making.

Dates: weekly 06/17; 06/24; 07/1. For more information please email Renate Kuprian: renatekuprian@gmail.com.

Website: www.artcampkuprian.weebly.com.

Summer Ceramic Lessons on the Farm

Create one of a kind pieces on the pottery wheel and hand building. Lessons are from June 24th through August 22nd. Pictures of students’ ceramic work and the farm are on Facebook. Located in Healdsburg. Contact: Carrie Shere carriessartfarm@gmail.com or 707-978-1778.

Summer Nature Camp

There is still room in Ms Donna’s Summer Nature Camp at Cherry Ridge for ages 3-7 for July and August. Inquire at Dstusser2@comcast.net 707-824-2959.

Circle of Hands

Sebastopol’s Waldorf Toys and Gifts store is now taking online orders: www.circleofhandswaldorfschool.com. Offering natural toys, classic children’s books, parenting books with Waldorf values, and seasonal craft workshops for children and adults, Circle of Hands is dedicated to nurturing young children and emphasizing imaginative play.
**MacKillop Construction**

Jim MacKillop offers complete building & remodeling services for Sonoma County homeowners. Specializing in major remodels, renovations, kitchens, baths and decks, with over 30 years experience. The MacKillops are a Summerfield family (parents of a 2nd Grader and Kindergartner)!

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**Services Needed/Offered**

**Summer Rental–Sebastopol**
Lovely 3br/2ba modern farmhouse house on 1.7 acres—fruit trees, veggie gardens. Near town. Available June 26th–August 10th. $3,200/month; $4,500 for full 6.5 weeks. Email for photos! kristanck@gmail.com.

**House for Rent from mid-summer**
Charming 3-bedroom cottage, 8 minutes from school, in downtown Graton, with additional renovated light-filled studio in large permaculture garden with mature fruit trees, a honey-bearing hive and tons of pollinating flowers, available for rent starting July 15. For more information, contact marie.tollon@gmail.com.

**House for Rent for 2019-20 Academic Year**
3-4 bedroom, 3.5 bath lovely furnished west Sebastopol home for rent for the academic year beginning September 1, 2019. Quiet location on one acre with gardens, fruit trees, berries, chicken coop, and two fairy rings. Easy commute to Summerfield. Beautiful family home. If interested, please call Kim at 860-857-7063. Photos available on request.

**House for Rent near Graton:**
4 Bedroom/3 bath, 10 minute drive to Summerfield, available 7/15/19, $3900 including all utilities. Contact: Karen Rice (707) 478-1138 or Dallinrice@aol.com.

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**SAILS**

the school store located in the main office

Books, candles, dolls, play silks, calendars, crayons, and more.
20-50% of “sails” from the store go to Summerfield.
Singing and Piano Instruction with Mary Beard
I am an experienced teacher, a Summerfield Waldorf founding parent and original creator of the school’s instrument music program. My studio is located in Santa Rosa. Please learn more at marybeardmusicstudio.com. Contact me at marymezzo@sonic.net or 707-546-8782.

Sebastopol Strings Academy

Rick Concoff Violins
Quality string instruments for rent or sale at below-market prices plus rent-to-own & accessories available! Call 707-477-9196 for an appointment.

Bone Broth made by Farmer Dana
Made to nourish the mind, body and soul, with grass-fed beef bones sourced from So.Co. Meat Company, our broth is incredibly nutritious. Rich in protein, collagen, and minerals, bone broth is very alkalining and good for your gut flora. Drink on its own or use as a base for soups. $8 per quart. Call (707) 570-5484 to order.

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LAZURE WORKSHOP
In Sebastopol, California
July 13 - 14, 2019
WEEKEND WORKSHOP INCLUDES INTRODUCTION TO LAZURE, HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE, AND TOGETHER WE WILL LAZURE A FIRST GRADE CLASSROOM IN SEBASTOPOL. LEARN EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW IN ORDER TO LAZURE ON YOUR OWN. ALL MATERIALS INCLUDED.
SLIDING SCALE $150-$200 - SINGLE DAY OPTION AVAILABLE. TO REGISTER, CALL ALYSSA ANAYA 707-774-9441. WWW.RADIANTARTS.ORG

Summerfield’s Messenger newsletter is published once a month during the school year and has a distribution list of 1,000 people! If you are interested in advertising in the Messenger, please visit our website at summerfieldwaldorf.org/newsletter, or email messenger@summerfieldwaldorf.org for more information.
• ‘LEVITY’ — BLACK AND WHITE DRAWING BY THE NINTH GRADE •

AN EXERCISE IN ‘VALUE’—EXPLORING THE RELATIONSHIP OF LIGHT TO DARK WITH WHITE AND BLACK ON EACH END AND FINDING THE INTERMEDIATE VALUES OF GREY IN BETWEEN • SEE ALL THESE DRAWINGS AND MORE EXHIBITED CURRENTLY IN SOPHIA HALL, ALONG WITH THEIR COMPANION DRAWINGS OF SEASHORE ROCKS ON THE TOPIC OF ‘GRAVITY’