



THE GARLAND NEWSLETTER

Winter 2017

Receive the children in reverence; educate them in love; let them go forth in freedom.
-Rudolf Steiner



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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Harper Rosenberg turned 4 years old on December 9th.

Makete Biko Simms turned 3 years old on December 21st.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Keep your eyes peeled for Winter Workshops, led by "experts" in our community!

Jan. 16th: MLK Day: No school.

Jan. 24th: Parent Evening: attendance strongly encouraged.



Winter Spiral Walk



Lantern Walk

A RETROSPECTIVE LOOK

The first half of our school year together has gone by so quickly, but has also been a whole world, for all the development we've seen in our children, how settled our new teachers and families feel from the beginning of the school year, the festivals and events we've shared together, and how the community has re-established itself.

In keeping with the inward mood of this winter season, this bi-annual newsletter an introspective celebration of the school and our community here.

Let's take a look at some of the journey we've all taken together so far:

Before school started: the teachers met each other, decided together who would be the best fit for each classroom, and had a week-long orientation and training. We also opened the school back up from the summer program, and set up the All-School Workday.

September: A whirlwind work day, where we all came back together, and met our new families and staff for the first time. After we cleaned windows, sewed napkins, painted, shellacked, gardened...we had a lovely potluck and a brief parent welcome and orientation. This carried us through to the...

First day of School!

Our first festival was Michaelmas, where we had big circle, sharing an autumn song from each classroom. Then the teachers put on a pageant, and afterwards we had a potluck (dragon bread!), harvest activities for the children, and all under a bright blue sky!



Taking shifts at the Putney Harvest Fest October 2016

With the warmth of heart generated from our brave and valiant Michaelmas, parents gathered for an All-School Meeting, and signed up for committee work, crucial for making this year a success!

October: Our All-School Meeting kicked off our first fundraiser, the Putney Harvest Festival on Oct 9th, a rainy day boosting our coffee and cinnamon nut roll sales.

The sunlight “fast began to dwindle” as October progressed, and parents all gathered to help make their children’s beautiful lanterns on the 25th. We chatted, sang lantern songs, and turned out some beautiful lanterns!!

And after our Parent-Teacher conferences, we did indeed have a magical lantern walk, with the full moon, the community-effort for getting all the luminaries lit, and our bonfire time...we even got to see the forest’s response to our celebration, with all those other lantern-lit spaces along the path.

As the cold season approached, Taryn led an upcycled sweater workshop and Laura G. led a clothing swap, the leftover donations of which went to

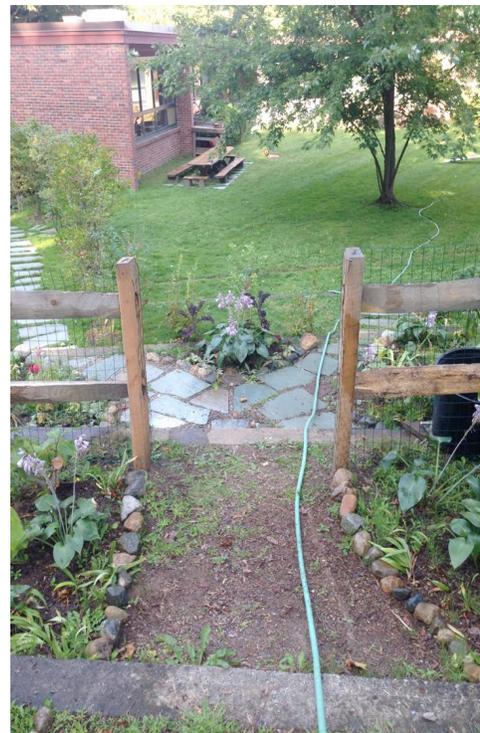
Community Action Network, a local organization (toy swap for the holidays was another of Laura G’s offerings this past week!)

We had some shifts in the Singing Crickets class at this time, as well: Laura took her leave at Thanksgiving Break, and Gia and Becka blessedly came to bridge her absence.

Victoria also welcomed her Rosebud parents more deeply into the school community with a felting workshop held at Taryn’s home.

And then, the Winter Garden! The spiral of pine boughs leading through darkness to the angelic being at the center, who gave the children their spark of light to bring to the other half. Some children were too shy to go by themselves, but went gladly to take care of their younger sibling; others went with their families, others bravely undertook the journey themselves...all the myriad ways we walk through the world together!

What a year so far! And within this framework of the seasons, our shifting and vibrant community, surrounding the growth of our fast-sprouting children, for whom we work every day with love and dedication.



GARLAND RECEIVES SOME GENEROUS DONATIONS

Thanks to two very generous donors this year:

--Hinten and Jane at the Putnam Foundation donated no less than \$1000, having heard about the Garland School from conversations with Elia. The Putnam Foundation chooses local initiatives to support, and early childhood education is a priority for them this year!

--The Vermont Community Foundation granted us \$500 from the Schuyler Fund, on the recommendation of former parents of the Garland School.

GARLAND GIVES TO THE COMMUNITY

Thanks to the Singing Crickets families who donated so generously to “Food Connects”, under the guidance of Abby Mnookin: an organization that cultivates healthy food and farm connection in classrooms, cafeterias, and communities in Southern Vermont.

TEACHER'S CORNER

ROSEBUD NURSERY:

Jack Frost has been busy painting the landscape with snow, and we have been busy playing in it! December brought more snow and cold, and the Rosebuds have been enjoying their time in the play yard with the Morning Glories. We all come in for lunch with hearty appetites! Joining our friends next door for advent songs and verses is something the rosebuds eagerly do! They still enjoy their time with the Morning Glory class on Thursdays, and love our new large motor story "What do Animals do in the Snow?"

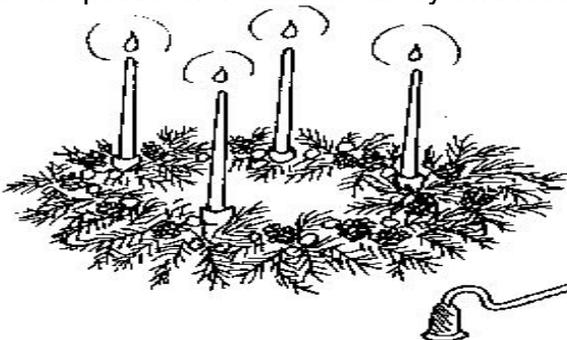
MORNING GLORY NURSERY:

Season's blessings! The Morning Glories danced, sledded and played in the snow. We all enjoyed celebrating each unique week of advent together, waiting for the return of the light. We celebrated the bones and crystals, plants, creatures and humankind in this world. The Morning Glories also said goodbye to our dear Eliza, wishing her a smooth transition to Putney and her new school. Here is a song from our advent circle.

"In the winter garden, through the falling snow, stars are gleaming, streaming, gleaming,
Down to earth below.
In the winter garden, seeds lie warm below, deep and snug and oh so warm,
Covered by the snow.
Deep in the earth, buried deep so deep, a dear little plant lay fast asleep.
Sleep little plant all snug and warm, sleep little plant all winter long.
The little plant slept so warm and tight, while King Winter raged with all his might."

SINGING CRICKETS KINDERGARTEN:

This month the children made beautiful moss gardens, representing the four kingdoms of minerals (seashell), plants (moss and bulb), animal (whittled creatures), and human being (little forest gnomey people). We worked on each part corresponding with the candles we lit on our table wreath, until in triumph, the gardens were complete! The children participated in each step of the process, helping their friends once they knew how. Our whittling shop was under the pine tree at the bottom of the sledding hill, or at our table. The children got to work with all kinds of materials: watching their teachers drill and whittle, they used wood glue to push in their matchstick legs, they stitched with colorful thread, and stuffed their gnomes with "tufts of wool", teasing the wool to draw out a small enough tuft, they played in the bowls of pea gravel and dropped them into the bottom of their glasses for their bulbs, filling it with water "like the bottom of the stream"—just enough to come to the surface of the pebbles. It took accuracy and focus, and the children rose proudly to the challenge.



The first light of Advent is the light of stones, the stones that live in crystals, seashells and bones.

The second light of Advent is the light of plants, plants that reach up to the sun and in the breezes dance.

The third light of Advent is the light of animals, who live and breathe and feel, and through the world do roam.

The fourth light of Advent is the light of Man, who lives and learns and loves, and grows to understand.

In connection with the mood of the season, this Winter edition of our Bi-Annual Newsletter honors an introspective look, and we appreciate what lives right here in our Garland community. "Voices from our families" and "Garland Marketplace" center on in-reach, (as opposed to outreach), hearing from ourselves.

VOICES FROM OUR FAMILIES: WHAT DOES THE GARLAND SCHOOL MEAN TO YOU?

☘☘☘ At Garland, I see my child moving through in the rhythm of the season and immersed in the beauty and gifts that each season brings. I see my child internalizes the sense of season, it manifests in her play and the stories that she tells; it's a reflection of her time at Garland where she has plenty of outdoor time and all the seasonal festivities. I feel that my child is very strongly connected with the nature that surrounds her, she always find something beautiful and exciting about each season and in return, gives us a gift of amazing insight, stories and nature crafts. It's quite amazing how my child is able to spend hours with just twigs, leaves and flowers, she can turn those materials into amazing creations and plops for her pretend games. I see this as a reflection of how she spends time at school and the creativity that is nurtured by the environment.

☘☘☘ It's great to see that there is a deep understanding and respect for each child's temperament(s) at Garland, the support for each child's uniqueness and it is beautiful to see how it unfolds.

☘☘☘ My child has grown in so many ways!!! He is more comfortable and sometimes even eager at drop off. He is creating relationships and engaging in true imaginative play with friends. He is more confident socially. He can be independent in dressing, clearing the table and cleaning up. He started singing at home! Garland songs. He has become more creative and willing to do art and craft type activities at home. We are so very thankful for this school.

☘☘☘ Garland provides a great way to transition through children's development. The story time provides them a gentle way to wake up to the world, plenty of outdoor time provides them the opportunities to learn to be 'in the body', and the seasonal festivities with stories provide them the archetype/roles to look up to, which in return I hope to be their guiding lights as they continue to grow.

☘☘☘ I feel secure about my child at Garland, he loves to be there! He often sings: "Follow, follow, follow, me." He was singing another beautiful song that I could not understand but had the words: "be yourself."

GARLAND MARKETPLACE: WHAT ARE SOME INITIATIVES THAT LIVE IN OUR COMMUNITY?

duo RESTAURANT

keith + stephanie

(keith or stephanie)@duorestaurants.com
303-204-7695

Denver
2413 w. 32nd Ave
Denver, CO 80211
303-477-4141

Vermont
136 Main St.
Brattleboro, VT 05301
802-254-4141

duorestaurants.com



MAUREEN KENNEDY AND TRAVIS MASON
(PATRICK'S PARENTS)



GRAFFITI SANDWICH

SANDWICHES AND RICE BOWLS
49 ELLIOT STREET, BRATTLEBORO, VT
MONDAY-FRIDAY 11A-7P 802 490 2532
GRAFFITISANDWICH.COM

MAUREEN WILL GLADLY **DELIVER** TO YOU AT THE GARLAND SCHOOL WHEN PICKING PATRICK UP AT 3:30PM. JUST CALL AND ORDER BY 2:30PM!

"As a climate justice movement, we must make sincere efforts to be inclusive to families and to actively seek out the voices of parents in all aspects of our work. "Mother Up!" is intended as a verb – to mother – as opposed to a noun. We believe that "mothering" the Earth by all people and genders is part of the solution. The subheading of "Parents Exchange for Change" denotes our mission to be inclusive." See www.350vt.org

Mother Up!

Parents Exchange for Change



Abby Mnookin

Southern VT Organizer

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www.350vt.org

With her education and training in Mental Health Counseling, **Taina Lyons** is currently developing workshops and focusing on integrative energy work, therapeutic touch, and reiki for well-being, and support with emotional and mental balance. Taina also offers homemade elderberry syrup, sauerkraut and bone broth! Contact: Taina.lyons@gmail.com

Marybeth Kover
Certified Rubenfeld Synergist®

Keeping you connected in mind, body,
 spirit, and emotion to help you live
 the life you want.

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 Suite 410
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802-451-6895
 marybeth@kover.com

www.easefuljourney.com

For delicious homemade yogurt, made with raw milk, contact **Ingrid Burrows**: Ingridburrows@gmail.com

Biographical Counselling

Sometimes we want to look at our lives with a fresh perspective. Perhaps a question keeps surfacing, or we are in transition, have experienced a life-changing event or are struggling with thoughts, feelings and/or behaviours that are harming ourselves or others. We might want to discover some clarity and inspiration about ourselves and our future direction. I offer a warm, reverent, and fully conscious space for anyone to explore these things. I listen deeply with empathy and interest. Human beings are a rich and intricate tapestry and, through careful questioning, and artistic exercises, I will guide you to discover the threads and woven treasures inside yourself. I have a grounding in Psychosophy (Spiritual Psychology) and Biography work.

Biography Workshops and Regular Groups as a form of Social Art.

I also offer Biography Facilitation. Perhaps a group would like to explore a theme such as 'Forgiveness' or 'Parenting as a Path of Development' or 'Living a Life of Intention'. Group work can strengthen relationships, stimulate interest and respect amongst colleagues and be a source of helpful perspectives, renewed interactions and insight into temperaments, gender, life phases, and soul types. Biography group work can provide ground for strengthening relationships and inviting new self-understanding. Workshops might include short talks, artistic exercises, working with a story, nature observation, inner practice, and small group conversations.

Please contact me if you are interested rebeccaleanor@hotmail.co.uk 910 274 5296

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE STAFF, CHILDREN, AND PARENTS WHO
 MAKE THE GARLAND SCHOOL SO VIBRANT. TO EACH AND
 EVERYONE, A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!**