



SONORAN SUN

Receive the children in reverence; educate them with love; let them go forth in freedom.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SPOTLIGHT

Little Bakers & the Shiny Kitchen

by Jennifer O'Brien

In the story "The Little Red Hen," the hen has a hard time encouraging the duck, cat, and dog to help transform the grain of wheat she has found into a loaf of bread. Not so in our early childhood program, where the children gather with great delight each week to grind wheat berries into flour. They then measure, pour, mix ingredients together, knead the dough, and shape the loaves or buns. This tactile experience not only supports the development of fine motor coordination and control but also brings a sense of competence and joy. Being able to bake a loaf of bread together to share at snack time nourishes us in many different ways!



With tremendous gratitude for the gift of a newly renovated kitchen at the Presidio Campus, and with the Pima County Health Department's blessing, the early childhood faculty is once again able to incorporate the preparation of food for the children's snack into the curriculum. The rhythm of the week's menu for snack includes a grain served with a fruit or vegetable each day. A typical week might include rice and broccoli on Monday, oatmeal and apples on Tuesday, millet and sweet potato on Wednesday, vegetable soup with barley on Thursday, and bread with sunflower butter on Friday. Children participate in the preparation of snack as well as of special foods for festivals, including birthday cakes. Through the rhythm of the week and the cycle of the seasons, the children share an experience of creating nourishing food together and bringing warmth to our bellies and our hearts, with great learning opportunities along the way.



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Our Vision

The Tucson Waldorf Education Association (TWEA) will serve the community by creating a Waldorf school worthy of all children. Here, they can begin a lifelong love of learning in an atmosphere of wonder, gratitude, and reverence.

Our Waldorf school will cultivate clarity of thought, sensitivity of feeling, and strength of will, enabling its students to become balanced, creative human beings capable of independent human judgment. Graduates will meet the challenges of the future with compassion, courage, confidence, and innovation.



Yellow the bracken, golden the sheaves
Rosy the apples, crimson the leaves,
Mist on the hillside, clouds grey and white,
Autumn good morning, Summer good night.

- Autumn by Wynstones Press

Cover of book Autumn from Wynstones Press

In this issue

- Early Childhood Spotlight **1**
- Celebrations and Events **2**
- River Road Garden News **3**
- Gratitude **4**
- Now and the Future **5**
- Where We Stand **6**
- Heartfelt Thanks to our Sponsors **7**
- On the Horizon **8**

CELEBRATIONS

"When I walk in the spiral, I go into the middle, light my candle, then I set my apple down. It's beautiful to see all the lights of all the candles shining."

-Tavi Venzin, Grade 2

Martinmas: Celebrating Acts of Kindness

by Susan Sterns

November 11 marks Martinmas, a festival held in honor of a Roman soldier elevated to sainthood for his selfless kindness. Martin, the patron saint of the poor and the homeless, is known for his gentleness and ability to bring warmth and light to those in darkness. His deed of mindful sharing was to cut his red woolen cloak in two to share with a beggar; it is significant that he did not offer the whole cloak, for he well knew that his life might depend on its warmth. On the evening of Martinmas, Martin's act of kindness is remembered with singing and a Festival of Lanterns. Children in kindergarten and the younger grades, together with teachers and families, go for an evening walk with handmade lanterns. A story recognizing the "light" of another gives us all an experience of sharing as we move into the darkness of winter.

Song verse of Martinmas

I go with my little lantern, my lantern is going with me.

In heaven the stars are shining, on earth glows
my lantern for me.

The cock does crow, the cats meow, la bimila bimila bom.

The light grows dim, we must go in, la bomila bomila bim.

Advent Spiral

by Sereti Venzin



"The spiral has found its way into the art of almost all cultures, from ancient primitive rock carvings on all continents to today's corporate logos. They show up in Celtic art, Native American petroglyphs, Nazca earthworks, Arabic architecture, Japanese rock gardens, Hindu spiritual texts, Australian aboriginal paintings and African art. The spiral belongs to everyone and excludes no one."
- Reprinted with permission from Joyce Hull-Carlson.



Photo by Farida Dowler, Alkelda:
Dolls for Storytelling at www.alkelda.com.

As the season shifts, darkness nimbly and imperceptibly lengthens the night's stride. The early childhood program's Advent Spiral invites the children to bravely and peacefully find light within this expanding darkness. A spiral of fragrant conifer boughs embraces the children as they journey into the center to find the one burning light. The children carry cored apples holding unlit candles to the center, light their candles at the central flame, and leave their light somewhere along the way as they return to the outside. In

the end, the connection of the individual to the collective is magically illuminated, and solidarity and courage tangibly remain.

The Advent Spiral takes place on Monday morning, November 29 for Early Childhood classes and Grades 1 to 3.

CRAFT FAIR

River Bend Farm & Craft Fair

by Margery Bates

The River Bend Farm and Craft Fair is an event that opens the creative richness of the Tucson Waldorf School and River Road Gardens to the greater Tucson community. This event has evolved over the years reflecting our development: from a small early childhood program to a vibrant school with programs from birth through eighth grade! The event has grown from a small craft fair to a large public and community event. In 2009, we had over 500 visitors to our first annual River Bend Farm and Craft Fair.

This year the River Bend Farm and Craft Fair offers a celebration of the season to our community with holiday shopping from local vendors and our own craft circle artisans. There will be food, farm tours, children's performances, demonstrations, cake walk, Angel Room, puppet shows, children's games and hands-on crafts.

The highlight of event will be the unveiling of our site design and Capital Campaign Kick-Off at 10am including a groundbreaking ceremony and virtual tours of the new buildings throughout the day.

This event marks a critical time in the season when people gather in the warmth of friends, families and community. As you know, in a strong community such as ours, the most powerful connections are made by word of mouth, which is what this opportunity is all about. We hope to see you at the River Bend Farm and Craft Winter Fair.

See you at the 2nd Annual River Bend Farm and Craft Fair on Saturday, December 4 from 10am to 4pm.

A Garden's Love

by Emily Mabry

Summer in the garden this year was abundant and fruitful. The plants thrived thanks to their intensive planting, creating a canopy to protect the soil and a "microclimate" for themselves. At mid-summer, it was often painful to leave the garden and say "goodbye" for the afternoon; it felt like abandoning a suffering friend. The squash leaves looked especially weary, but by evening or morning they were rejuvenated and ready for a new day.

In summer, the bees and ants seem to be about their work before daylight, and everyone is restored and enthusiastic in the midst of a cool moment of morning. The birds lift the day from the Earth with wing and song: promise of bounty and prosperity for all is eminent. A palpable joy and melody soar to meet the heart, and there is nothing to be but grateful and amazed. In the later summer months of August and September, the green, leafy vines of winter and summer squash spill from the beds, enthusiastically claiming their home on the Earth. Red sweet peppers begin to elude the rodents' bellies, and pumpkins surprise people who did not spy them in their green home growing orange and oh-so-large.



Now, brilliant, burgundy amaranth pose as proud queens gathered for the gala event of autumn. The queens watch over maturing pumpkins and their neighbors, the black beauty eggplants, which with cooler weather are happy to fruit. Okra, who loves the heat, stretches as tall as she may to meet the sun, but with Michaelmas now past she grows dreamy for winter. Her flowers are many, but her fruit ripens slowly and is less plentiful. The time has come for our beloved greens and root crops to take hold in the Earth.

The students continue preparing their beds for planting. Grade 6/7 has chosen to plant lettuce, peas, carrots, and calendula. Grades 3, 4, and 5 have labored intensively in their own garden, digging beds, hauling compost and manure, building compost, and clearing the space of summer weeds. On occasion, they have helped to clear tomato plants, winter squash, and peppers from the garden. The Grade 3 children, who come from the Presidio Campus to visit the garden, had a sunflower parade with tall, dried stalks and large sunflower heads. These became the bottom layer of our compost pile. The third grade is exceptionally happy to experience the garden and its many hidden surprises; it feels like a holiday when they are here. We hope that their love and admiration deepen as they grow in relationship and responsibility with their garden environment. Blessing on the Harvest. **For more information on becoming a CSA Shareholder of River Road Gardens, please contact Jon McNamara at pinacateplanters@mac.com.**



Photo by Mike Edgeton



While walking through the garden, Iain Milliken noticed a mousetrap. He asked Farmer Emily why it was there. She told him they were trying to catch the mice that were eating the food. Iain earnestly inquired, "What kinds of cheese are you growing in the garden?"

GRATITUDE

Gratitude *by Nicole Williams*

In 1923, Rudolf Steiner gave a lecture entitled "Gratitude, Love, and Duty." He spoke of these three fundamental virtues in relation to child development.

We know that, in the first seven years of life, children learn through imitation, and that during this time the growth forces are liveliest.

As parents and teachers, we want to instill an "attitude of gratitude" in our children. We want them to be respectful and courteous, so we encourage them to say "please" and "thank you."

But is that how we reach a child's true nature?

Steiner said that, as adult human beings, we must behave in a manner that is worthy of a child's gratitude. We don't need to remind children to be thankful for what they have; a child will naturally arrive at this feeling by witnessing the gratitude that we feel towards one another when we receive something that is freely given.

If we act out of love and devotion in front of a child, this feeling of gratitude will begin to grow, but it must be planted during the child's first seven years so that it can take root and continue to flourish.

Every day, I see parents and teachers and other community members giving to our school. Some of these gifts are monetary; some are gifts of time, as when a parent serves as a board member or room parent. The children give their teachers gifts when they bring something they made at home. Our community is rich with opportunities for giving and feeling grateful. This is the true gift for children and their future.

"If we act out of love and devotion in front of a child, this feeling of gratitude will begin to grow, but it must be planted during the child's first seven years so that it can take root and continue to flourish."



A new TWS family

"The community aspect of the Tucson Waldorf School was a large part of the reason why we chose the school for Ayden, our kindergartner. We love the freedom he has to be creative, and connecting with other like-minded parents here is really amazing."

-Jennifer Sorenson

Welcome new TWS families

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| Arnold | Liers |
| Aveline | McDonald |
| Bates | Mehren |
| Biederman | Nagorny |
| Brooks | Nemanova |
| Clark | Payne |
| Cliffon | Rhody |
| Cushman | Sorenson |
| Gabelsberg | Vigil |
| Dean | Wiley |
| Free | Wood |
| Gardner | Wortman |
| Levy | Zimmerman |

The TWS Community extends a warm "thank you" to our 2010-11 Room Parents

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Julia Grover | Marigold Garden | Laura Mielcarek | Grade 2 |
| Gabriela Masala | Marigold Garden | Michael & Sandy Morse | Grade 3 |
| Juliet Naone | Red Rose Garden | Carmen Ryken | Grade 3 |
| Andrea Pongratz | Red Rose Garden | Sadie Hadley | Grade 4 |
| Nina Luscombe | Star Garden | Ellen Regoort | Grade 4 |
| Anita Wood | Star Garden | Pamela Park | Grade 5 |
| Linda Biederman | Sun Garden | Monyka Salazar | Grade 5 |
| Melissa Campbell | Sun Garden | Ines Anderson | Grade 6/7 |
| Elizabeth Bartelsen | Grade 1 | Kindra Hadley | Grade 6/7 |
| Nicola Marshall | Grade 1 | Dena Jaffee | Grade 8 |
| Megan Austin | Grade 2 | | |

NOW & the FUTURE

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN River Bend Capital Campaign Kicks Off! Tucson Waldorf School to Raise \$1.2 Million for Phase One Construction

by Allan Adler and Grant Anderson, River Bend Capital Campaign Co-Chairs

We are proud to announce the launch of our school's capital campaign for the River Bend Campus Expansion. The River Bend land was purchased for \$1.9 million in 2008 with the generous gifts of a small group of donors. Since that time, the TWS community has been engaged in the process of creating a vision for this unique and bountiful property.

The long-term plan for River Bend includes building new classrooms for the early childhood program and the grade school, as well as an administration building, specialty classrooms, play yards, and a state-of-the-art performance center.

The Tucson Waldorf School exists today because of the hard work and vision of the school's founders, a dedicated faculty, and the many parents and children who have walked through the gates over the years and shared their time, talent, and treasure. Our current Presidio Road campus was purchased and nurtured by a dedicated group of donors and volunteers, and our school community is reaping the rewards of their hard work and investment, not only in the school we enjoy today, but in the financial equity that has been built and sustained in the property.

We now have the opportunity to build our own legacy for future generations at the River Bend campus. The Phase I fundraising goal for the River Bend Capital Campaign is \$3.2 million, \$2 million of which has already been raised. Phase I construction of two grade school buildings and parking will begin in December 2010, with the goal of completion by the beginning of the 2011-12 school year. We are now raising the \$1.2 million needed to finance this project.

RIVER BEND SITE PLAN



River Bend Campus Capital Campaign EVENTS



ONGOING "STONE SOUP PARTIES,"

where each class learns more about

the River Bend Construction Project and Capital Campaign.

CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF!

At the River Bend Farm and Craft Fair, Saturday, December 4, all day. Attend the groundbreaking ceremony of the Capital Campaign Kick-Off, see the site development plan, and go on a virtual tour of the new buildings.

Kick-off time starts promptly at 10 am.

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS: DECEMBER 6, 2010!

If you are interested in helping with this project in any way, please contact Laura Alexander at (520) 405-6145 or Laura@do-good-better.com.

WHERE WE STAND

TREASURER'S REPORT

Year-End Financial Report

by Grant Anderson, Treasurer

I am now in my sixth year as the Treasurer of the Tucson Waldorf Education Association. Each year has been a wonderful experience of watching a community pull together to build a school that we can look at with pride and gratitude. It's my duty to make sure that the growth is financially accounted for correctly and completely. The following report is meant to give the community insight into those accountings.

Our total revenue is approximately \$1.2 million. This is almost double the revenue from 2003-04 (the year I started as Treasurer). We garnered \$294,000 in donations and other direct support this year. Thank you!

As in the story of "Stone Soup," I know that we can pull together as a community to make our dreams happen. What this will take is perseverance, determination, and, most definitely, selfless volunteer effort.

We currently have a \$300,000 loan on the River Bend property, which has been used to cover both design work on the new buildings and the remodeling of the ranch house at that campus to house the upper grades.

The size of the school, along with the planned increase in buildings, will start to require my full attention. I have agreed to

take on the co-chairmanship of the Capital Campaign. In order to do this and still have time for work and family, I will be leaning on a Board Finance Subcommittee to split up the operational work of AWSF, budgeting, tax preparation, and operational finance.

I am grateful to those who have stepped forward, and I encourage you to ask me how you can also help. We have established a multi-year plan for the school. We will continually refine and execute that plan to make sure we stay ahead of the expanding financial work associated with a bigger and better school.

The Capital Campaign seems like a huge task. As in the story of "Stone Soup," I know that we can pull together as a community to make our dreams happen. What this will take is perseverance, determination, and, most definitely, selfless volunteer effort.

I have been asked, in private discussions, why I am working so hard on this when the majority of the work done will not be of benefit to my family—with most of my children having graduated before the final structures are built. My response is simple. I am looking at the future: the future of children that come after mine . . . the future of families that will be highly involved when my time with the school sunsets . . . and, most importantly, the future of the many children in Tucson who will benefit from our having built a lasting and viable school that meets them at their appropriate level and prepares them for the future. We all need to keep that in mind as we are asked to do the best we can with the time we have.

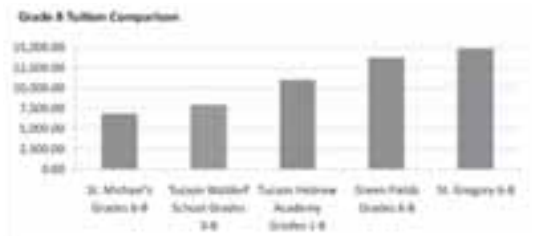
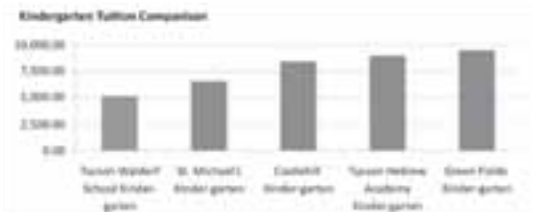
Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, at any time. I can be reached at GrantAnderson@Stanfordalumni.org.

Sincerely,

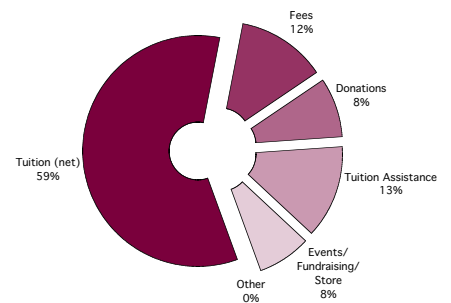


Grant A. Anderson
Treasurer, TWEA
Tucson Waldorf School

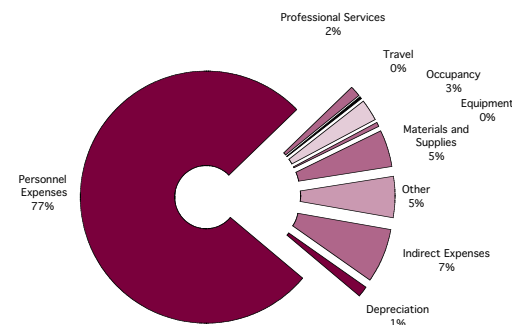
Tucson Waldorf School, in comparison with other private, non-profit, non-sectarian schools, offers competitive tuition rates. More than 25% of TWS students in 2010-11 will receive tuition assistance. 100% of scholarships come from your contributions to our tax credit program (AWSF) or Arizona School Choice



TWEA Revenue Breakdown by Category (July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010)



TWEA Expense Breakdown by Category (July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010)



Did you know? 7 out of 10 dollars that the school needs to operate come from tuition. 3 out of 10 dollars come from fundraising events and your generous contributions of time, talent, and resources. Thank you, TWS Supporters!

Thank you to our sponsors

We graciously offer our appreciation to each of our sponsors. In recognition of their generous contributions to the Tucson Waldorf School, please visit their websites and locations to learn more about them and their products and services.

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Gratitude to Waldorf and all of our families for creating HOME for Cole, for your lived care while we are at work, or running safe happy homes.

Statistics show that children of home owners have a higher rate of college attendance and completion than those who rent because of stability, commitment to education and values or achievement. PLEASE know that anyone in the US and abroad I can help you find HOME.

Recognizing the gift of watching lives growing upwards of the earth, joyful and committed in play, in work, and in love for one another.

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How to become a sponsor We are proud to invite you to sponsor TWS. We welcome any suggestions that would meet your marketing objectives. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Sereti Venzin, Development Director, at (520) 529-1032 or development@tucsonwaldorf.org.



Tucson Waldorf School

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ON THE HORIZON

THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 20 to November 28, 2010

RIVER BEND FARM AND CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, December 4, 2010 from 10 AM to 4 PM. This is a public event with handmade gifts, interactive demonstrations, food, and children's activities. Invite family, friends, and colleagues—this is our 2nd biggest fundraiser of the year.

RIVER ROAD GARDENS 2ND ANNUAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 5, 2010 4:00 PM–8:00 PM at River Road Gardens (RRG). RRG annual shareholders meeting. Dinner - prepared by award-winning Chef Ramiro Scavo and featuring wine from Coturri Winery with music and dancing.

SANTA LUCIA CELEBRATION

December 15, 2010

WINTER BREAK

December 18, 2010 to January 2, 2011

SONORAN SUN

Tucson Waldorf School, Fall 2010 (November)

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Have an idea?

Please send your ideas or contributions for upcoming editions of the quarterly Sonoran Sun to Sereti Venzin at development@tucsonwaldorf.org.

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