

Spring 2007

In Honor of Our 2007 Graduates

by Erika Loker

*Come wander quietly and listen to
the wind*

*Come here and listen to the sky
Come walking high above the rolling
of the sea*

*And watch the swallows as they fly
There is a secret in the murmur of
their wings*

*There is a choir in their song
There is a power in the freedom of
their flight*

When the swallows soar along

Spring blossoms are fading and the school year is coming to an end. This is always a bittersweet time as we reflect on what joys have come to pass and look toward the future with a sense of anticipation! At this time it is our Apple Blossom custom and ritual to honor the “graduates” who we proudly send out from our tightly-knit community and on to grade school. We joyfully celebrate Olivia Aries, Declan Askew, Cecilia Ferrante Adams, Jack Riordan, Esme Miano and Bayley Storrier!

These children collectively embody so many of the qualities that we adults strive for each day. Lovingly caring for younger classmates, acting with a

sense of responsibility for the school and grounds, and their bold, boundless enthusiasm for each new day has called forth the best in those around them.

As we know from the birth-day story, the “heavenly child,” must go through a process of preparation and thoughtfulness before venturing forth into his earthly life. Then with courage in his heart and his angel beside him he takes the step that will be the first of many in his colorful, challenging life. These children surely have an army of angels guiding them, watching over them and helping them

through their daily lives. And they surely have hearts full of courage, sunshine, sensitivity, creativity, humor, truth, love and beauty. Olivia, Declan, Cecilia, Jack, Esme and Bayley move through their lives with these inner qualities as well as strong bodies, able hands and a predisposition for doing good in the world. The people who are lucky enough to encounter them along the way – future friends, teachers, co-workers, partners and eventually their own children – will be blessed. We are grateful and have been privileged to know and work with these children. They will remain forever a part of the Apple Blossom story and forever in our hearts.



Reflections from the Merrybell Kindergarten

by Marcia Marquis

I am writing this on a most glorious Mother's Day morning and have begun to reflect, not on mothers alone, but parents, and particularly Apple Blossom parents and what makes them so very special.

First of all is the gift they have given their children of Waldorf education. Through this choice, there is an acknowledgment that education must encompass body, spirit, and mind. Often there are pressures from other family members to embrace a more "traditional" form of education, but Apple Blossom parents are willing to go against the current for an education that seems to honor stages of willing, feeling and thinking.

Then there is the openness and willingness to receive what this form of education has to offer and the striving to become better human beings, from receiving the teachers in their home on the day of the initial home visit, to working in collaboration with the teachers to support their children. This may mean re-examining parenting issues, beginning to create a more rhythmic life, setting an early bedtime, creating firmer boundaries, learning to do "good work" so that the children can grow healthier in their play, and fostering a sense of reverence for nature, human beings, fellow creatures and the world around us.

Apple Blossom parents strive to follow the code of conduct so that their children may

be inspired by the respect they show to each other and their ability to confront a problem with the individual in question without spreading gossip.

Apple Blossom parents perform tasks or join committees and work hard along with the teachers to support the school so that we can all work together to bring Waldorf education to families both present and future.

Apple Blossom parents participate in the festival life of the school to foster reverence for nature and the spiritual world and to help build community.

On a daily basis, parents offer their children a healthy warm breakfast and spend the time it takes to have their children dress in just the right clothes for the weather – sun hat and suntan lotion/bug juice in the warm weather; rain pants and coats and galoshes in the wet weather; woolies, snowsuit, hat, mittens, and snow boots in the coldest weather. They laugh good naturedly when their children come home with wet and dirty clothes because they recognize that this is the price they pay for their children to engage in outdoor play in all kinds of weather and they see how rosy-cheeked and happy their children are after a morning outside.

How blessed are the children to have such examples before them!

Play in the Rose Class

by Jessica Khoshabo

This year has been a wonderful opportunity for me to observe the development of the children's play in the classroom. Having always had the little ones, it has been special to see how the play of the five-year old becomes so much bigger than the play of the three and four-year old.

This year the whole classroom has become part of the play, and even the cubby room sometimes gets included. Play stands, chairs, and pretty much everything that is not too heavy, is being moved and becomes part of the building project. Big sheets, bean bags and play clips help build the intricate houses, trucks, boats or airplanes that are the home of the farmer, the family, or the Queen. Some of the children get so involved in the building that it continues

all through play time. And often enough when it is time to tidy up, I will hear a disappointed: "But we have not played yet!"

The children's creative powers are so accessible to them now that they can transform the whole space around them. Play offers the children the opportunity to be a creator and practice that skill for life. And although their social skills have come a long way from where they were at three, play offers plenty of opportunities to continue to practice to live and work together with other children.

I invite everyone this summer to become a careful observer of your children's "play", and think about what Rudolf Steiner said: "Play is the work of the young child."



May Day



Music and Merriment Raises \$15,000 for Apple Blossom

by Joanna Simpson & Alison Riordan

On Friday evening, May 4th, almost seventy-five friends and families of Apple Blossom gathered at Fat Cat Joe in Norwalk for our second annual Music & Merriment celebration. We would have been satisfied matching the \$4500 we made last year, and would have been happy to meet our \$8000 event goal, so you can only imagine how incredibly thrilled we were to almost double our goal amount!

Set up

On the afternoon of the event, the event committee sprang into action, and Fat Cat Joe was buzzing with activity. Nancy Jack (mother of Bronwyn Walsh) and Amy Humes (mother of Katherine) adorned the walls our children's artwork, that Amy had lovingly matted. Tracy Castelli Tomas (mother of Maddie) brought beautiful flower centerpieces, which she created in vases covered in pretty green fabric and hand-tied with ribbon, for the tables. Alison Riordan (mother of Jack and Fenella), Joanna Simpson (mother of Lila and Willie) and Liane Bernard (mother of Schuyler Pritchard) set out the auction tables, ironed the tablecloths, and busied themselves trying to fit over 70 auction items in the space! Rob Aries (father of Olivia) and Laura Whyte (mother of Pia and Chloe) set up and rehearsed.

The Big Event

At 7 pm, guests began to arrive. They enjoyed artisanal cheeses, delectable appetizers, organic pizzas, and a selection of unique, small production wines imported by Fat Cat and its sister company, Fountainhead Wines. The atmosphere was warmed by the fabulous jazz stylings of Apple Blossom parent, Rob Aries, on keyboard. Rob is a freelance pianist and synthesist, and has toured and recorded with artists such as guitarist John Scofield, the "world jazz" group Special EFX, classic R&B band Change, saxophonist Bill Evans, Brazilian pianist Eliane Elias, and singers Liza Minnelli, Melba Moore and Freddie Jackson. He also produced and co-wrote

several songs on saxophonist Donald Harrison's CTI release "The Power of Cool", and played and composed for the late saxophonist Cornelius Bumpus (Steely Dan, Doobie Brothers, Boz Scaggs). This was Rob's second year donating his time and talent to our event.

About an hour into the evening, Event Chair, Joanna Simpson, introduced the evening and thanked everyone who helped make Music & Merriment possible. Special thanks were given

to Jacinta and Mark Ancona (parents of Ceara) for providing the

venue, Fat Cat Joe, and all the wine and comestibles for the second year in a

row. Then Auction Chair, Alison Riordan, explained how the auction would work, and introduced the teachers. Marcia

Marquis, Erika Loker and Jessica Khoshabo lead

us in three rounds of the school song. Jessica Khoshabo

then thanked everyone on behalf of

the three directors/teachers.

"Looking around the room at this beautiful space and all the wonderful donations that were collected gives a picture of our community, so colorful and individual. We have all come together to work on the same task, building our special, beautiful Apple Blossom for the children now, and those to come. Thank you on behalf of these children," said Jessica.

She continued, "One can envision a big maypole, each of us holding one of the ribbons, playing an essential part in the dance together. Through all your efforts to support the school, you give your children an image of the upright adult, holding your part of this wonderful weaving of colors. The three of us [director/teachers] feel truly grateful and blessed to be part of this wonderful Community!"

Entertainment

Laura Danehower Whyte, a soprano, then graced us with the first of her two magnificent vocal performance sets, accompanied by Rob.

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A Night of Music and Merriment

First Row:

Auctioneer and Parent, John Riordan (Redding) drives in a child's bike to kick off the live auction

Apple Blossom parent, Soprano Laura Whyte of South Salem, NY performs

John and Jodi Knuff of Redding sing the school song with Alison Riordan of Redding

Second Row:

Fat Cat Joe Cafe owners, Jacinta and Mark Ancona (pictured) underwrote the evening

Apple Blossom teacher, Jessica Khoshabo (Bethel) thanks the event committee as teachers Marcia Marquis (New Haven) and Erika Loker-Vass (Redding) watch

Apple Blossom parent, Robert Aries of Brewster, NY, a jazz musician performs

Third Row:

Joanna Simpson (Wilton), Alison Riordan (Redding) and Jacinta Ancona (Westport) receive flowers in recognition of their efforts

Sheila Power (Norwalk) gives an impromptu vocal performance to cap off the evening

John Riordan (Redding) auctions off the farmyard hand made by Apple Blossom teachers



MUSIC & MERRIMENT



Music and Merriment continued...

Laura has had a thriving career in classical music and as a teacher of voice and children's music. Her performances have included solo roles at Carnegie Hall with the Collegiate choral and the St. Lukes Orchestra; leading roles at Caramoor and with Connecticut Grand Opera, Virginia Opera, and Yale Opera; and many solo concert appearances with festivals/orchestras throughout the region. She can be heard on Newport

Classics label in an award-winning recording of Frank Martin's *Le Vin Herbe*. We are so grateful that she graced us with her talent for the second year in a row.

The Live Auction

After a second set of songs by Laura and Rob, and the closing of the Silent Auction, it was time to kick off the Live Auction. Alison joked,

"Major pressure was put on my husband to moderate this Live Auction." And how lucky for us all; John was absolutely hysterical! He entered the Auction room riding a bright red children's bike, generously donated by New Canaan Cyclery (owned by Parent/Toddler parents, Cari and Robert Sherlock). He rang the bike's bell and called the room to order.

Throughout the Live Auction, there was an atmosphere of humor and generosity. At one point, Mark Ancona was even bidding against himself when bidding for the farmyard hand-crafted by the teachers! Several auction items inspired heated bidding and before we knew it, John had cajoled donor families into doubling their donated items. As a result, in five cases, prizes were given to the two highest bidders (for the highest bid amount), generating twice the funds for the school! Carolyn and Tom Storrier (parents of Bailey, and graduate, Paige) gave two sets of Rangers skybox tickets, Jeffrey Busch and Stephen Davis (parents of Eli) donated two separate weeks at their Killington, Vermont vacation home, the Anconas gave away two Wine Tasting Dinners, Laura Whyte doubled her silent auction donation of voice lessons, and Amy and Bruce Humes doubled the size of their donated gourmet dinner party.

During the Live Auction, guests nibbled on cookies and pastries generously donated by Michelina's Bakery in Wilton, and desserts homemade by Apple Blossom parents Liane Bernard, Amy Humes, and Deirdre McCann (mother of Conor).

To top off the evening, Sheila Power (mother of Declan and Eva) was harangued into singing "Waltz for Debbie", accompanied by Rob. Who knew she used to sing with a band in Russia?! We were all thrilled to witness her fantastic impromptu performance.

The evening was a HUGE success. Funds raised from the auction will help towards Apple Blossom paying off \$50,000 in start-up debt incurred from renovating our building and grounds. As Apple Blossom becomes more established financially, we look forward to expanding our community center, which offers parenting workshops, providing teacher benefits, and setting up a fund for tuition assistance.

Special Thanks

We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated items for our auction, everyone who bid so heartily on the items, and everyone who came and made our evening so full of magic. We would also like to recognize, in particular, Rob Aries and Laura Whyte for performing, Amy Humes and Nancy Jack for matting and hanging our children's artwork, Tracy Castelli Tomas for creating the flower arrangements, Sandi and Brien O'Reilly for designing our logo and providing graphic design direction for the event, Deirdre McCann, Jeffrey Busch and Jennifer Ferrante for assisting with ticket sales, John Riordan for moderating the Live Auction, John Knuff for arranging auction payment details, Amy Humes, Deirdre McCann and Liane Bernard for baking desserts, Brian Pounds for photographing the event, Duncan Simpson for videotaping, and Joanna Simpson's parents, Joan and Henry Pounds, and Alison Riordan's parents, Sally and Jerry Casey, for their monetary donations.

And a HUGE thank you to the Ancona family for their incredible generosity providing the fabulous location, and wine and comestibles for our merry event.

Event Chair, Joanna Simpson of Wilton makes opening remarks as Auction Chair, Alison Riordan of Redding looks on



Tracy Tomas (Wilton) and Marie Chan (Redding) strike a pose



The Silent Auction Sponsors

Apple Blossom would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all the businesses who generously donated items and made our Auction possible.

Bethel

A Stitch In Time
Agway
Escape Salon & Day Spa
Take Time Relaxation Center
The Gift Cottage
The Putnam House

Georgetown

Conservatory of Dance, LLC
Georgetown Saloon
SWIRL Ice Cream & Treats

Greenwich

Magnum-Dinoffer

New Canaan

New Canaan Cyclery

Norwalk

CLARKE Distributors
Elmer's All the Best Wines
Fat Cat Pie Company
Fountainhead Wines
Maggie Moos
SONO Baking Company & Cafe

Redding

Art of Control
Chris Rexon Photos
Daniella Panessa Creations
New Pond Farm
Wes Loker & Associates

Ridgefield

Adam Broderick Salon & Spa
Ancona's Market
Ridgefield Playhouse

Riverside

Dr. C. Evers Whyte

Weston

just jan designs

Westport

Acqua Restaurant
Arogya Holistic Healing
Biotone Skin Clinic, Inc.
Children of the Sound Private Swim School
Dr. Joshua Lander
Knitting Central
Mr. Rami Rachamkin
Peter Coppola Salon and Spa

Wilton:

The Bar Method
The Cake Boutique
Kathleen Cragan Interior Design
Kaoud Oriental Rugs, LLC
LUCA Ristorante Italiano
Michelina's Bakery
Moon Hollow
Organic Gourmet
Outdoor Sports Center
Penny Ha' Penny
Physical Integrity Fitness Center
Ring's End
Dr. Elihu Rosen, Chiropractor
Soup Alley
The Schoolhouse at Cannondale
Tracy Castelli and Associates
Triloma Spa & Hair Design
Village Market
Walter Schalk School of Dance
Wilton Family Y
Young's Nurseries

Internet

TheBeadedPeacock.com



Finding the Courage to be Storytellers for Our Children: A Discussion with Nancy Mellon

by Brenner Brown

What stories do we tell our children? How do we tell personal stories to young children? What happens when our child wants to direct the story herself? Why do children want to hear a familiar story the same way every time and correct us if we get it wrong? How do we end a story? Nancy Mellon, a psychotherapist, writer, and teacher, addressed these and other questions from parents during a visit to Apple Blossom on April 30. Mellon came to discuss family storytelling and to inspire us all to access our “sacred capacity to be story weavers.”

Mellon described how in old villages or tribal cultures, the person designated as a storyteller was responsible for holding the community history and for telling stories that resonated with the community’s challenges. She believes that we are spiritually called to recreate that role in our own families and communities, particularly in these times of ever-increasing electronic communications. She also worries that we’ve lost the experience of ourselves as holding the family or community threads and that children are missing out on opportunities to learn about who they are if they don’t have someone to share these threads with them. “Without someone doing this for each child,” she said, “they have to go to books or television to find out who they are.”

According to Mellon, we are all storytellers. “It goes along with being a human being. We hold the story of who we are and our task is to work, weave, and build that story.” Storytelling requires that we use three important higher faculties – imagination, intuition, and inspiration – and Mellon said it is imperative that we use them in our children’s presence so that they have a model to develop these faculties for themselves.

As an exercise in storytelling, Mellon had us pair off and first tell each other about something we loved as a child. Then she asked us to give our partner the same information in the form of a story, for example, “Once there was a girl who loved to swim at her grand-parents, lake...” When we were done, we compared the two experiences as both storytellers and listeners. Many of us found that we were able to access more sensory memories and descriptive details when we were in story mode. As a result, the story version was often more interesting for both the teller

and the listener, and more real. Many of us also found that we were quite moved – sometimes to tears – by our own and others, stories.

Mellon explained that when we use first person, “I,” it sounds very dry to a child. Also, because a child’s ego, or sense of self, is so fragile, “I” can be a lot for children to handle. On the other hand, beginning a story with “Once there was a boy who...” and ending it with “and that boy is very much like your daddy when he was growing up,” is rich in possibility. According to Mellon, this way of telling a story allows children to meet our true selves and also gives them the freedom to have their own experience within the story. “Story mode is a gentler way of giving our personal stories to our children,” she said.

Mellon had several other practical tips for storytelling with our children. She advised us to tell stories of good, healthy, positive things and not to worry if we’re moved, even to tears, while telling a personal story. “Children don’t mind if we’re moved,” she said. “They need to see our true feelings and sensations – they want to know that we are feeling beings with emotions.”

She also explained that our breath is the best guide for a story’s cycle and recommended ending a story with a big breath, saying “and that’s all for today.” She reminded us that young children are much more interested in our breath, warmth, and devotion to them than in a story’s meaning and that children are “exquisitely patient if we just breathe.”

Mellon feels it is extremely important to sometimes face children while telling a story, so they can see our whole face and feel our heart opposite theirs. She explained that children want to see how we say a word – what we do with our eyebrows and our mouths while we’re speaking.

She also cautioned parents to teach children respect for listening to the storyteller without interrupting. When a child starts to direct a story herself, the parent can say “tonight it is Daddy’s turn to tell the story, next time you may tell the story.” This helps children learn to respect the integrity of the storyteller’s voice as well as prepare them for a school setting, where they will be expected to listen patiently to a teacher.

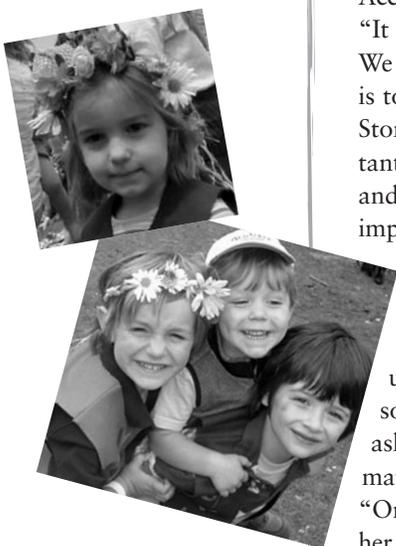
Many parents were curious to know why some children require that stories be exactly the same way every time and correct the storyteller when he makes a mistake. Mellon

Births

Our warmest wishes and congratulations to...

The Batra family on birth of their son Shiven, Jai’s baby brother...

The Brown Chamberlain family on the birth of their son Henry, Ian’s new baby brother!



suggested that this is because of the interior chaos young children experience as part of the growing process. This “growth chaos” makes them crave order and ritual as a sense of security. She also advised us against using dramatic tones and different voices for different characters, as these can be very unsettling to young children.

Mellon described storytelling as a path of self development and encouraged parents, especially those who do not feel confident as storytellers, to practice storytelling with each other before sharing stories with children. “Who you are is absolutely important to your children,” said Mellon. “They need a nutritious stream of stories from both parents.”

Nancy Mellon is the author of *The Art of Storytelling* (also published as *Storytelling and the Art of Imagination*) and *Storytelling with Children*, both of which are available at the Apple Blossom School store. Her web site is <http://healingstory.com>. She encourages parents to contact her by e-mail or phone for individual storytelling consultations. Thank you to Carolyn Storrier for arranging this wonderful parenting lecture! 🍷



A Spring Garden
by Nancy Jack

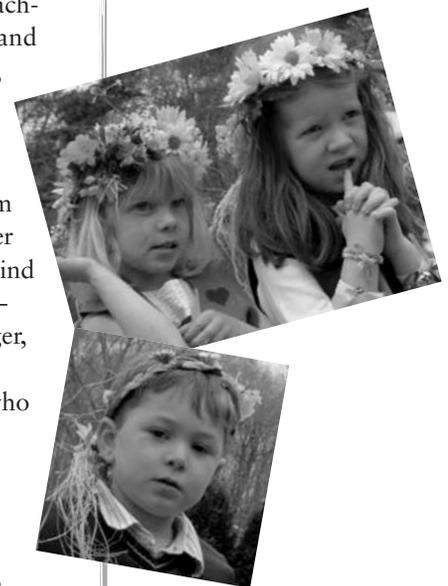
This spring we have been putting in our first vegetable garden with the Busch-Davis family, with frequent guidance from Tracy Castelli Tomas. Our older children, Jack and Amy, have become passionate about it! It is heart-

warming to see our lacrosse-playing son choose climbing roses, look through seed catalogs, dig fence posts and wheel barrows of mulch. At the end of the day, our children’s growth has been beautiful regardless of what the garden produces.

Over the past few years, my husband Bob and I have reflected that our society often looks at people it admires and the great icons of the World and thinks, “If our children have a similar list of achievements, they will actualize their potential and go on to do great things.” Who children are becomes defined by a list of what they can do.

Our time at Apple Blossom has helped us put our finger on what is so uncomfortable about this idea. By focusing on the spiritual and physical growth of children and their role as part of a community, we have seen the teachers help our youngest daughter Bronwyn and her friends develop curiosity, imagination, love and respect for each other. The ability to do wonderful things seems to follow naturally. At the end of the day, the accomplishments of the Apple Blossom children may look similar to those of other children, but I predict that the people behind those achievements will be very different – wiser, deeper, more compassionate, stronger, and more curious and creative – because what they will accomplish springs from who they are and not the other way around.

Watching our children in the garden has helped us to realize that what will lead to their greatest happiness in life is truly focusing not on what we want them to be when they grow up but how we want them to be. Our days in the garden have been a small step towards that goal. 🍷



Liane’s Craft Corner
Nature Bracelet

Submitted by Jodi Knuff

Materials

- Cellophane tape
- A curiosity for nature

Wrap a piece of cellophane tape (packing tape) loosely around your child’s arm with sticky side facing out. Then, go on a nature walk and have the children find interesting bits of nature (pine cones, leaves, sticks, seeds, etc.) and stick them to the tape. At the end of your walk, place another piece of tape over the top of their treasures to hold them securely in place, and they will have a beautiful nature bracelet to remember the season.

Please send craft questions for publication in our next newsletter to Liane.Bernard@Babson.edu.

Apple Blossom Summer Programs



Your children are not your children.

They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.

They come through you but not from you,

And though they are with you they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts,

For they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their souls,

For their souls dwell in a place of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.

You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.

For life goes not backward, nor tarries with yesterday.

—from The Prophet,
Kahlil Gibran

Support our Apple Blossom School by enrolling in a Summer Program!

The Apple Blossom Summer programs will be led by Jessica Khoshabo and Erika Loker, Apple Blossom full-time teachers with Waldorf certification. Program designs will offer the children a true-to-form Waldorf experience: nourishing their physical development and striving for truth, beauty, and goodness in the classroom environment. A flowing, gentle rhythm, responsive to the openness of the summer will guide the children through the day.

To enroll, please fill in the application available at school or on line at appleblossomschool.org and return it to Apple Blossom with your payment. Classes are contingent upon enrollment of 5 or more children per week. Maximum amount of children per week is 12. No drop-ins please - sign up before the week begins. There are still a few spots available.



Teepees and Drums with Ms. Khoshabo:

Week One: June 18-22

Week Two: June 25-29

Ages 3 - 7 years: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Enrollment fee: \$295 per week

Together we will explore the wonderful cultures of Native American tribes. Through building, gardening, circle games, cooking and more, we will get to know these earliest Americans. A flowing, gentle rhythm, responsive to the openness of the summer will guide the children through the day. We will spend time outdoors and indoors.

Bees and Flowers with Ms. Loker:

Week Three: July 9-13

Week Four: July 16-20

Ages 3 - 7 years; 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Enrollment fee: \$295 per week

We will enjoy artistic activities, circle games centering on garden insects, especially bees, and their lovely flower friends. The plant and insect worlds are bursting forth in summer and there is so much to be observed. We anticipate that the garden will be bursting with fruits and vegetables at this time during the summer. We will enjoy cooking activities using our own produce, among other ingredients, like honey!



Green Tea Smoothies

Ingredients

1/2 to 1 C green tea

1 C tofu or
plain yogurt

2 C summer fruit
strawberries,
raspberries,
mangoes, pears
or pineapples

1 tsp. honey
(optional)

Combine all the ingredients into a blender with a few ice cubes. Blend to desired consistency and serve on a hot summer day.

Serves 2-4.

Committee Updates

Workshops and Lectures

This spring, we welcomed author and lecturer Nancy Mellon to Apple Blossom. Nancy lead a wonderful discussion on the art of storytelling (Read the full story on page 8).

Back by popular demand, Louise DeForest will join the Apple Blossom School and Family Center for a three-day parenting workshop on June 12, 13 and 14 (Tu, We, Th). This three-day workshop will take place in the mornings, approx. 2-1/2 hours, to discuss and participate in topics such as discipline, toys and the importance of fairy tales to young children. She last did this workshop in 2003 in our area. To this day, parents who attended speak of it as being one of the best parenting workshops they have ever attended. Please don't miss this rare opportunity. Ms. DeForest comes to us as a Waldorf kindergarten teacher for over 20 years. She is currently working as an early childhood mentor for teachers at the Steiner School in New York City. Advance sign-up information will be posted at the school near the parent mailboxes; a minimum of 10 people will be needed. Special bonus: Babysitting will be available (for potty-trained children) at a reasonable rate. Further details to follow. Stay Tuned!

While fall may be a few months away, we thought we would do a little pre-announcement of lectures to come. The Apple Blossom School will be hosting a lecture with Elizabeth Sustick, an anthroposophic nurse from the Hartsbrook Waldorf School in Massachusetts. Ms. Sustick will join us on Wednesday evening, October 24, 2007 on the topic of healing a sick child. Most of us turn to over the counter medicines to remedy a cough, fevers, and seasonal illnesses while wishing we knew how to handle these situations with natural remedies. We hope you'll mark your calendars early and join Ms. Sustick for a memorable and nurturing evening.

-Carolyn Storrier

Fundraising

As the school year comes to a close, I'd like to thank everyone who worked so hard on our "fun raising" committee raising money for Apple Blossom. We are excited to announce that year-to-date we have raised over \$19,000! Our latest event, Music & Merriment, was a

phenomenal success contributing over \$15,000 (Read the full story on page 4).

I'd like to extend special thanks to Alison Riordan who volunteered as the Auction Chair and spent an enormous amount of time making sure every detail of the Music & Merriment Auction was perfect, in such a loving manner and with such success. She has been such an angel and a pleasure to work with. Here energy and dedication are truly amazing.

Perhaps most importantly, this year we have laid the groundwork for future years' fundraising events and "set the bar" very high. Thanks to the Fundraising Committee and everyone who attended our Wednesday meetings and contributed ideas and effort on our school's behalf.

-Joanna Simpson

Enrollment & Outreach

We are happy to report that both the three and five-day kindergartens are at full enrollment for the 2007-08 year. There are limited spots available in our Parent/Toddler program. It is so wonderful to see our community continuing to grow and thrive! Please look out for our open house this fall and continue to spread the word about our dear school.

-Tracy Castelli Tomas

Building and Grounds

Our Spring Cleaning day was a wonderful success, due to all the busy workers that came. Thank you! It was a beautiful day and a lot of work was accomplished. Our school truly shines in its new spring dress that so many hands helped put together. If you have not already noticed all the new changes, take a closer look. A famously delicious Apple Blossom Potluck ended the day and nourished the rightfully tired workers. Thank you to all the chefs!

-Jessica Khoshabo



SAVE THE DATE!

June 12, 13 and 14

*Louise DeForest
Workshop*



Apple Blossom News and Events

Thursday, June 7

Last day of school and aftercare.

Friday, June 8, 10:00-11:00 am

All school closing ceremony, followed by light refreshments.

June 12-14

Louise DeForest Parenting Workshop.

June 18-July 20

Summer Program

Support Apple Blossom by enrolling in the Summer Program! See page 10 for more information.

Clothing Exchange

It is spring cleaning time!

Please bring to school any of your children's clothes that you can no longer use, and take some items that you can use in exchange.

Baskets will be set up in the front lobby through the last week of school. Any clothes remaining at that time will be saved for next year's tag sale or donated.

NEEDED: Organizer(s) for Handworks Group

The Apple Blossom community would like to thank Eileen Curry and Carolyn Storrier for leading our Handworks Group for the past several years.

As a result of their efforts to provide a handworks forum for our parents, friendships have been formed, new skills have been developed, old skills have been cultivated, we have a deeper understanding of the important work our children do while at school, and beautiful items have been lovingly created and donated to the Save the Children organization and our school store and given to our children as special keepsakes.

We will greatly miss Eileen's and Carolyn's gentle and spirited guidance and hope that they will be able to continue to attend the group in the coming year.

In that connection, we are looking for a new handworks group organizer or organizers. Please let Erika, Jessica or Marcia know if you are interested in this very rewarding role.

Newsletter edited by Jennifer Ferrante and Sandi O'Reilly. Illustrations by Erika Loker.



*May the road rise
up to meet you.*

*May the wind be
always at your
back.*

*May the sun shine
warm upon your
face;*

*The rains fall soft
upon your fields
and until we meet
again,*

*May God hold
you in the palm
of His hand.*

-TRADITIONAL GAELIC
BLESSING

Waldorf Community Events

Waldorf Web site

WhyWaldorfWorks.org

A new website, "WhyWaldorfWorks.org," has been launched by AWSNA (the Association of Waldorf Schools in North America). In AWSNA's words, "From early childhood through high school, this website tells the Waldorf story beautifully and thoughtfully."

Saturday, June 9, 11:00 am

Clover Hill School Family Picnic

Join us at the Friends Meeting House, 572 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT. Rain or shine. Please visit cloverhillschool.org for more information.

June 10 submission deadline

Waldorf Book of Breads

Steiner Books is seeking submissions from Waldorf kindergartens for the Waldorf Book of Breads, to be published this December. Recipes are due June 10. For details, please contact Carolyn Storrier or email marsha@steinerbooks.org.

July 30 to August 3

Introduction to the Waldorf Kindergarten

Sunbridge College.



"Childhood is the most beautiful of all life's seasons."

-Anonymous