



The Anchorage
Waldorf
School

Awakening Wonder

NURTURE

INSPIRE

EMPOWER

Waldorf Run Around the World

Last spring, I wrote about the culture of gift-giving in Waldorf education. Teachers present birthday gifts to students; classmates exchange wishes among themselves; first and eighth grade buddies make gifts for one another; students celebrate their parents with handmade items; and classes offer projects to the school community as parting gifts. This month, our school was given a gift from afar, a most beautiful and unexpected of gifts: a guest teacher named Viola Thiere.

Viola is the handwork teacher at the Freie Waldorf Schule in Gottingen, Germany. She wrote to me over the summer, wanting to commemorate Waldorf education's 100th year via a cultural exchange with our school. She asked to visit us with her son, Hugo, during their Fall break, and offered to teach doll-making to our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders during her stay. I quickly accepted her offer.

In the spirit of celebration, Viola engaged all of her German handwork students in making something for each and every one of our classes. Over the past three weeks, she has presented each grade with those gifts, carefully packed in her bags, and flown over the North Pole to Alaska.

Aside from her vast knowledge of doll-making, Viola brought the following gifts to our community:

Early childhood: Viola herself crafted several, beautiful, seasonal transparencies, an Advent spiral, and a circle of miniature angels.

First grade: In addition to an Advent spiral, a card with greetings from Freie's first graders.

Second and third grade: Freie students made string games, each in a felt pouch, and a knitted version of an Advent calendar.

Fourth and fifth grade: letters, written in English, filled with curiosity about Alaska and the commonality of blocks studied.

Sixth grade: A book entitled Trouble the Bear, about our own Anchorage Zoo's bruin. Viola has a German translation of the book, which she reads to her students as inspiration for a cloth sculpted bear created in handwork.

Seventh/eighth grade: A baton representing the Waldorf Run Around the World. The run for Freie Schule stretched from Flensburg, in northern Germany to Munchen, in southern Germany. Pledges that runners garnered were donated to Waldorf schools in need worldwide. Freie Schule's pledges were donated to a school in Brazil. This baton's traveling from Gottingen to Anchorage comprises one of the longest runs.

Perhaps the greatest gift that Viola has given is her time. She has shadowed Ms. Debbie

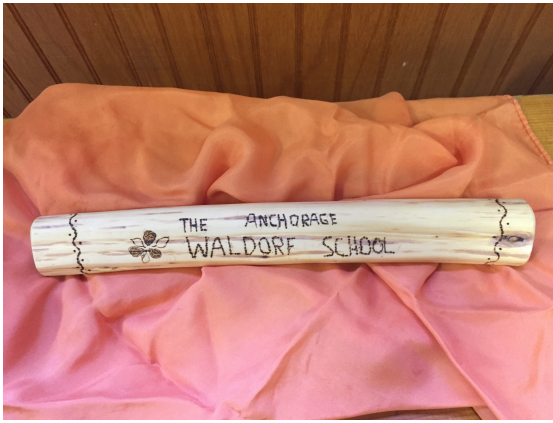
Even, to all of her handwork classes, lending a hand. In between classes, she has shared

handwork pedagogy with Ms. Debbie as well. In essence, she has provided a foundational training for our new handwork teacher. Debbie hopes to shadow Viola at the Freie Schule this summer, to continue her training.

If you happen to see Viola next week, her last few days with us, please extend gratitude to her for honoring us with so many gifts. Not to mention her passing of the baton.
Donna Levesque
Pedagogical Director

Handwork items for Martinmas made by Viola Thiere:





Dolls in progress by 6th, 7th and 8th graders and an angel ring by Viola:



Grades 2 and 3 Handwork gifts from Germany via Viola:



HEALTH ALERT - There is a confirmation of a student with lice. One resource for treatment of lice is The Alaska Lice Clinic on Debarr Road: 907-444-1050 if need be.

Refugee Scholarship Fund RAFFLE

Our Refugee Scholarship Fund is still happening! We are partnered with Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services to raise funds to provide a scholarship for refugees to attend AWS. Reach out. Welcome others. Share our message.

Raffle ends October 25.

GRATITUDE - Many thanks to Christopher Nowak for fashioning a lovely wooden stand to make an office pencil sharpener functional again.

MISSING - Reflective jogger's vest, missing since Wednesday, October 16th. If found, please return to Eva Marley-Jester in Grade 7.

From the Grades:

Happy Fall! First grade is off to a great start, and we are settling into a wonderful rhythm. Form drawing, consonants and their various sounds, beeswax letters and colorful paintings fill our days. The first graders enjoy learning and playing, and each other's company very much! Every Friday we make a trip to the bog and most of the Fridays have been very rainy, but we have fun anyway. Here's to a sunny Fall! - Mrs. Parks

GRADE 2 and 3: The fall has been a busy one for us. In addition to our work learning cursive, language arts and arithmetic in the classroom, we have taken on more of the upkeep of the campus and are busy making sure the grounds and garden are ready for winter. - Mr. Jensen



Grade 8 Fundraiser - California Citrus Fruit

Orders!

Order a box of beautiful and juicy California citrus fruit/s for their 'The Healthy Solution for Fundraising'. The Eighth Grade is providing an opportunity for families to receive farm fresh fruits this winter, with a delivery date to the school the second week in December. California Navels, grapefruits and Clementines are available... please check at the front desk for sign up and prices.

Grade 8 - Asian history block is in progress!



Movement: Great to be back and see everyone on the campus! We've been enjoying our campus outside before the snow falls with lots of tag games in the woods and ball games in the parking lot. Also we've been playing a new game with early Norse roots called Kubb. Grade 8 practiced their archery for Michaelmas while grades 6/7 honed their archery skills to participate in the Medieval Games at Birch Tree in Wasilla in September.

If anyone knows of a basketball hoop to donate to our campus, please let Matt know!



Upcoming Events:

October 25 - Assembly (Eurythmy) 11:30 a.m. and Early Dismissal (12:30 p.m.)

October 31 & November 1 - Parent-Teacher Conferences (No Classes)

November 8 - Martinmas Lantern Walk (Friday)

November 27 - Grandparents Day/Assembly/Early Dismissal (Wednesday)

December 14 - Winter Craft Faire

The evolving work of busy hands during outside play...



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