

KALEIDOSCOPE

November / December 2007

Addendum

South Shore Waldorf School

64 School Street, Blockhouse, NS

(902) 624-0874

There is some important information that did not make it into the recent newsletter.

Please take some time and read what a few individuals have to say:

Snow Days and School Cancellations ~ Rita Landgraf

Whenever the South Shore Regional School Board closes its schools due to weather or road conditions, we also close the South Shore Waldorf School & Kindergarten. Over the winter, please listen for school closures on CKBW or CBC in the morning. CBC Radio has a new website called StormCentre that also list cancellations:

<http://www.cbc.ca/ns/features/stormcentre/MT/>

On those days, Donna Himmelman may be able to provide childcare. You can reach her at 521-0708 to check for availability.

Reminders ~ Becky Akinson

After Christmas, parents who have not returned child abuse and criminal records checks will no longer be permitted to volunteer at the School. If you have not already done so, we ask you to help us ensure the safety and well-being of all our students by meeting these two requirements as soon as possible.

In addition, I noticed that Christmas Fair posters were missing from many of the locations people had committed to displaying them. Since the success of our fundraising relies upon attendance at school events, it is very important that parents help with the publicity by putting up the posters.

Thanks so much for your support and see you at the forthcoming holiday events – if not before!

Due to a continued need to discuss and further plan future Coffeehouse gatherings, we will not be holding the December Coffeehouse.

However, January 2008 will see once a month gatherings and will involve an organized, well- planned agenda.

Thanks to all for your continued interest and support. See you in January!

~ The Coffeehouse Crew ~

A Note from Your Treasurer:

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair has always been magical. A lot of planning, preparation and hard work happens in the weeks and months leading up to the event. Then we have about a day to pull it all together between Friday after school and 11 am Saturday morning – and keep it going for the next five hours. For me, the magic happens when help is there right when it is needed: when there was no one was marked on the work schedule for a certain time slot and someone gladly steps in; when someone drops off their crafts Friday afternoon or evening and stays on to help with the set-up for a couple of hours; when donations arrive from unexpected sources, when musicians volunteer to play at our coffeehouse; when someone happily washes the dishes for hours. It has taught me to trust in our community and keeps me involved long after my daughter has graduated. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this Christmas Fair such a success.

Increasing Numbers

This school year has seen a significant increase in enrolment. The school and kindergarten have been called ‘the best kept secret on the South Shore’. Maybe the word is finally getting out!!! From a financial point of view, though, with the increased enrolment come increased revenue and increased costs. In order to make the school accessible to as many people as possible, the board of directors aims to keep the fees reasonable and affordable. What this means is that there is lots of fundraising to do. We need to do what we did for the Christmas Fair for the rest of our events, such as Food & Film, Literary Series, May Fair, etc. Last year, we raised \$15,000 through our events alone. This year we are a larger community and can hopefully raise more in this way.

More Fundraising Needed

These events enrich our cultural life and contribute to the community around us, apart from being an important revenue source for our school and kindergarten. However, there is a limit to what we can accomplish through events fundraising. We need non-event fundraisers, such as the dollhouse raffle, the Veseys bulbs, the Avon Fundraiser, and donations of hard cash. Based on the available numbers and projections at this time, I estimate that we will need to raise an additional \$10,000 over what we fundraised through our events last year.

Donations

The South Shore Waldorf School Association is a registered charity and can issue official charitable donation receipts for income tax purposes. So, if you know of someone who may be able to make a cash contribution, please approach them yourselves or – if you deem it more appropriate – let the board know who to approach.

Most of you are aware that in past years we have held pledge meetings in early spring. That is when we got together as a community and looked for additional money from the within and without the immediate circle. For the past two years, we have been able to manage without such a meeting, but this depends on all of us doing our part.