



## NEWSLETTER

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*You are warmly invited to join Sunrise Waldorf School  
and The Robert Bateman Centre at the opening of*  
**“Connecting Children Across the  
World Through Nature”**

*A Student Art Exhibition of Classes 7 & 8  
Opening April 15, 2016 2:30 – 5:00 pm  
Exhibit April 15–24  
The Robert Bateman Centre  
in Victoria’s Inner Harbour*

Supported by: THE ROBERT BATEMAN CENTRE  artstarts

**Invitation for the Grade 7 & 8 Robert Bateman Art Exhibit**  
**The show runs from April 15th - 24th**

### *Upcoming Events*

#### **Thursday April 14**

Class 8 Play  
7:00 - 8:30 pm

#### **Friday April 15**

Class 5 Field Trip  
1:00 - 3:00 pm

Class 7 & 8  
Robert Bateman Art Exhibit Opening  
1:00 - 5:00 pm

#### **Wednesday April 20**

Class 5 Parent Evening

### *News items*

#### **SWS and the most recent FSA results**



Many of you may have already seen the [article](#) that appeared in the Cowichan Valley Citizen last week reporting that SWS is ranked by the Fraser Institute as the number one

school in the Cowichan Valley based on the results of the FSA (Foundation Skills Assessment) test. As required for all BC schools, each year SWS administers these standardized tests that assess reading comprehension, writing and numeracy. The results

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Board Meeting (Island Oak)  
7:00 - 9:00 pm

### Friday April 22nd

Class 4 Field Trip  
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Earth Day Gardening Celebrations  
1:30 - 3:00 pm

### Tuesday April 26

Class 7 Parent Evening  
7:30 - 9:00 pm

### Thursday April 28

Class 6 Play  
7:00 - 9:30 pm

### Friday April 29

Early Dismissal (PLP)  
1:30 pm

**(After Care still in effect)**

[View Calendar](#)

## From the Office

### Re-registration for 2016/2017

Re-registration is about to begin. Please note the following:

#### \* Re-Registration Information and Questionnaire:

Re-registration information, including the 2016-17 fee schedule and re-registration questionnaire will be placed in parent cubbies next week. Each family must complete a questionnaire and return it to the office with their registration deposit prior to registration taking place. The re-registration questionnaire is the first step in our re-registration process and is what we use to prepare your re-registration forms for the 2016-17 school year.

#### \* Re-Registration Deposits:

Each family is required to submit two non-refundable deposits in order to secure registration. Both of these deposits will be credited to your tuition and will be reflected on your tuition contract. The first deposit, \$200.00 (post-dated for May 2nd, 2016), is due when you return your re-registration questionnaire. The second deposit, \$500.00 (post dated for July 4th, 2016), must be returned with your registration paperwork.

come from last year's Class 4 and Class 7 students taught by Sietske Fichter and Hans-Peter Mothes.

Although I think that it's great to have the school recognized in the community and to have some indication that Waldorf education does indeed provide excellent academic instruction for those who may not understand that fact, I also have some discomfort in the idea of schools being ranked based on a limited standardized test without looking at the full picture of each school. I definitely believe that these yearly tests do not measure the values and full curriculum of Waldorf education.

We believe our school grows independent learners, critical thinkers and students who are well rounded in their skills. Our students come out of their Waldorf experience with much more than standardized academic skills, which can be seen in their self confidence, artistic and creative abilities, and leadership skills. All I have to do is look around the halls at the beautiful artwork, attend a class play, or open a main lesson book to see that our students do stand above the rest. I'm not convinced that any standardized test can accurately reflect this and, although it's nice to see our name featured prominently in the newspaper, I don't think it tells the whole story.

I am very proud of SWS and its teachers, and I am also incredibly proud that we are offering the amazing benefits of Waldorf education at SWS.

- Mr. McDuff

### The Robert Bateman Exhibit



Don't miss the SWS Art Exhibit at the Robert Bateman Centre in Victoria. Class 7 & 8 have been working towards this exhibit for the last 12 weeks, and it has been a wonderful journey of exploring the process of art making, the study and observation of animals, and the learning of painting techniques in acrylic on canvas. Chantey Dayal and Linda Weech, (thanks to an ArtStart grant), have been "artists in residence" at SWS and have been teaching and working alongside the students. The final paintings are not only a reflection of each student, but are also a testament to the incredible foundation of art that has been instilled in our students through the grades. Each one of them approached their painting with courage and creativity. Each one a beautiful example of staying committed to the process and having the endurance to see the project through to its end. We are so excited to see them all hung together on the gallery walls. [Click here](#) to see the full details.

### \* Re-Registration Forms:

Registration forms will be distributed to parent cubbies on a staggered basis starting over the next few weeks and will have a one week return date attached to them.

### Parent Field Trip Drivers

Our Insurance company requires parents who are driving for field trips to submit the following to the office:

- Current Driver's Licence
- Insurance with a minimum \$2,000,000 liability
- Driver's Abstract

[Click here](#) to view the steps for obtaining a Driver's Abstract and having it sent to the school for our records. **The driver's abstract is valid for one year only and will need to be resubmitted each year. The driver's licence and insurance records will need to be resubmitted as they become expired.**

### Attendance Requirements for Kindergarten to Grade 8

As an Independent School, we receive a government grant that is based on attendance. In order for SWS to receive the optimum grant we must diligently report the attendance to an auditor. Please help us be accurate with our audit by doing the following:

#### ABSENCES

All student absences must be reported through a phone call or written note to the office. If you haven't phoned in, a written notice is required.

#### LENGTHY STUDENT ABSENCES

Student absences of 10 days or more, for reasons other than an illness, must be reported to the office for auditing purposes. In order to sustain the Ministry of Education funding for that student, a homework plan must be in place with the teacher, and followed up upon the student's return to school. Parents are responsible for this, and any loss of Ministry funding will be the financial responsibility of the parent(s).

#### LATE STUDENTS

Please be reminded that all Grade School students need to come to the office to collect a late slip when arriving after 8:25 AM. This is to ensure they are not marked absent.

#### EARLY PICK-UP

### Welcome Tammie Wilson



You may have noticed a new and friendly face in reception at SWS. Please help us to warmly welcome Tammie Wilson as the newest member of our Administrative Staff. Be sure to stop in and say hello so that Tammie can get to know all of our amazing families at SWS. Tammie loves to dance and has studied Polynesian dancing for

12 years. She also loves dog training, the theatre and the arts.

### The Handwork Circle is Back!



We are so pleased to announce that the Handwork Circle is starting up again. Thank you Christiane Mothes for rekindling the spark of this amazing community builder

and parent education portion of our school. ALL are welcome, beginners and new parents alike. The first project will be Felted Wool Crowns and you can see a photo of some samples here. They are also on display in the reception window at the front entrance.

Handwork Circle will be held in the Portable on **Fridays from 8:45 - 10:45 am**

**Starting Friday May 6th**

Bring your coffee and join us.

### Earth Day



Grades one to eight look forward to celebrating Earth Day on April 22nd, from 1:30 - 3:00 pm. Please contact your child's class teacher if you are a parent, grandparent, or family member who would like to participate. Our extended family volunteers are most welcome, and extra gardening supplies will be needed and

appreciated.

### AWSNA Marketing Survey



The Association of Waldorf Schools of North America

Dear Parent,

We are requesting your participation in the Association of Waldorf Schools of North

America's electronic marketing survey.

Results of the survey will be used to further Waldorf Education's continental brand recognition and message - a message aimed at conveying confidence in the

Please remember to notify your class teacher when you know you will be picking up your child early from school. When you pick up a child early for illness or any other reason, you need to stop at the office before you leave and sign your child out. We may need a half day absent note from you.

**THANK YOU!**

## CLASSIFIEDS



credibility of the Waldorf experience and strengthening the visibility of our schools. The survey should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete.

Responder information will remain anonymous.

The data from the survey and resulting marketing tool kit will help Waldorf schools to refine the Waldorf message, inform member schools' use of marketing dollars, create a collaborative and sustained effort to build brand awareness, and increase digital presence continentally. The research is quantitative, and collecting of data will take place from now until May 2, 2016.

Completing this survey makes you eligible to win a one-year subscription to *Renewal: Journal for Waldorf Education*.

Thank you for supporting this important work!

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7BJWCG9>

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