



WALDORF CLEARING HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Contributions on First Grade
Michaelmas in the Hebrides
Eighth Grade Plays
Classroom Color Chart

NEW SERIES
Vol. 1, no.3
Fall, 1982

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From the DETROIT WALDORF SCHOOL

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Celebration of the changing seasons and the festivals provide the nurturing atmosphere for the development of other elements of the curriculum.

Beginning with autumn and Michaelmas, harvest colors and forms adorn the room. Sheaves of wheat, autumn leaves and acorn cups give inspiration for beeswax modeling, and for nature stories. Songs and verses of golden September, Jack-O-Lantern October and grey November appear in circle, speech and music parts of the curriculum. Songs and dramatization of St. George and Dragon catch the imaginations of young first graders. They enjoy the teacher's gift of a puppet performance done with silk string puppets and pentatonic music.

With decreasing outer light, symbols of inner light begin to be reflected in the room - paper lanterns, a carved Jack-O-Lantern. Stories for the introduction of letters at this time can also reflect themes of inner light forces. As the darkness grows most intense the Advent Garden walk is prepared and each child walks the spiral to get his light from the one central candle flame. Stories and songs during Advent take place with an aura of reverence. The Advent wreath candles are lit and each child has a turn to open a window on the calendar. Dramatization of Mary's Journey to the Stars and stories such as The White Bird and Star Gold are especially welcome. In mood and in gesture "preparation" for the Holy Birth is enhanced.

With January and February images of King Winter, Jack Frost and the Snow Maiden provide the inspiration for songs and speech verses and for numbers or letters. A real favorite with the children at this time of the year is The Twelfth Night Candle - a Norwegian tale about the 12 holy nights that includes the 12 months of the year. The Russian tale of the Snow Maiden can be given by the children in puppet form. The sounds of words like Baba Yaga, Sasha, Natasha, Omishutka, Petrushka enliven their interest in sounds.

By March songs of King Winter Begone and Spring is Coming begin. For math and language arts fairy tales with emphasis on renewal take the stage. A special favorite is Frog Prince. It gives opportunities for humorous dramatization or retelling. The story of Snow White and Rose Red can be retold as the transition from winter to spring is vividly portrayed. Projects in gardening, baking and crafts increase joyfully in the spring. Wheat berries, planted after hearing the story of the Elf and the Grain of Wheat grow to be the natural grass for Easter baskets. Blown out eggs can be painted and delicately hung on pussywillow branches. The week of Easter gives the opportunity to make hot cross buns to watch the process and finally to bring soul and spiritual impressions into a physical community meal together. Many of the speech verses for this time of the year involve the caterpillar and the butterfly imagery.

Moving toward Ascension and Whitsun songs of flowers, rain and light such as the Root Children or The Fairies are part of morning singing. A puppet play based on

Dorothy Harrers' story of Rainbows and Flowers gives an artistic finish to the theme. And the story of Goldener is a special gift for the summer months ahead.

From the DETROIT WALDORF SCHOOL (continued)

With the soul moods inspired by the seasons and the festivals it is just a matter of weaving them into the main lesson material. Within the harvest theme "plus" can come on the scene as "Farmer Plus" in big green jeans carrying apples and grapes from the fields. After the frog of Frog Prince form drawing can call him forth to make his jumps from stone to stone and then to dive into the water and come up again from lily pad to lily pad. The cycle of the raindrop can inspire many a form drawing. The possibilities are exciting and the need for soul nourishment through the celebration of seasons and festivals is greater now than ever. Just as the fairy tale keeps the reality of the spiritual world alive for children, so the celebration of seasonal, festival and Christian rhythms helps keep us aware of our connections with the cosmos.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
8:30 - 10:20	Main Lesson	Main Lesson	Main Lesson	Main Lesson	Main Lesson
10:40 - 11:20	Form Drawing	French	Painting	French	Form Drawing
11:25 - 12:00	Recorder	Extra time*	Recorder	Eurythmy	German
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch and Recess	Lunch and Recess	Lunch and Recess	Lunch and Recess	Lunch and Recess
1:00 - 1:30	Quite rest time - teacher reads to the children				
1:30 - 2:15	German	Crafts	Beeswax	Crafts	Games
2:20 - 3:00	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess

* catch up on pictures, printing, etc.

From the GREEN MEADOW SCHOOL

FIRST GRADE

TOOTH FAIRY GAME

This night it is a special night
As fairies dance upon the roof.
All the fairies must alight,
For _____ has lost a tooth!
The Fairy Queen gives her commands -
Twelve bright fairies must join hands
Then together in a circle stand
To guard _____ while (he/she) sleeps.

The Tooth Fairy into the circle leaps
The hidden tooth she takes
Ah, but she has far to go
Before _____ awakes.

Three times around the world she flies
O'er valleys deep and mountains high;
Skirts the stormclouds thick with thunder,
Wings o'er waves all wild with wonder.

Deep within their earthly home
Finally she finds the gnomes,
Who upon the tooth must work,
Never once their duty shirk.

Some are hammering, hammering, hammering,
Some the bellows blow
Others sweat at the sweltering forge
And then cry out, "Heigh-ho!"

The tooth's been turned to a shining stone,
A glimmering, glowing gem,
The Tooth Fairy takes the gnome's good gift,
And bows (curtsies) to all of them.
Before the sun's first rays are shown,
She returns to _____'s bed,
Puts the gift beneath her(his) head,
And then --- always she's flown!

VERSE BEFORE FORM DRAWING

(Hold up thumb, index and middle fingers of
right hand so that arm is straight.)

Three companions who always serve
To help me draw straight lines,
To help me draw curves.

VOWELS (Ah, E,E,I)

The star shines in his heart,
The sun's rays make him brave,
He rides (or leads) a steed as fleet as thought,
From Fire and ice he's saved.

(Based on the story of "The Fairy of the Dawn". Horsemen
or swordsmen may act out the gestures for the vowels).

B

Be brave, Snow White!
Be bold, Rose Red!
The bear all burly brown
Will become the bearer
Of a bright and beauteous crown!

(LOW AND LOUD VOICES!)

SUMMER IS ENDING

"Summer is ending!" Father Bear said,
"In yonder tree hollow I'll build me a bed."

"Summer is ending," then said all the weeds,
And so softly sighing they scattered their seeds.

"Summer is ending!" the hurricane cried,
Hurling and whirling harsh rains high and wide.

"Summer is ending," said fair yellow Sun,
"My flame must grow fainter, then fade out to none!"

LATE WINTER (First Bulbs) Dactylic (- vv)
Anapest (vv -)

Busy gnomes chip away
At the winter's hard ground
So that bulbs may burst forth
And spring's beauty abound.
In the woods damp and dark
They must labor below
Crooked roots and cold stones
Pushing stalks through the snow.

Undines melt snow until
Water can flow again
Filling the leaves growing
Green with spring rain
Sylphs they are dreaming
Of winds softly streaming
Through petals all yellow
And purple and blue!

ONE (NUMBERS BLOCK)

ONE

One is the Sun that shines so bright
One is the Moon so high,
One is the day and one is the night,
And one is the sheltering sky.
One is a head so still and tame,
Upon one body whole with health;
And I is the one and the special name
That only I can call myself!

THREE (NUMBER BLOCK)

Around me in the world I see
Beast and plant and stone.
Nature weaves her world as three
But I am three in one:
A head well-wrought for wisdom's work
A heart hallowed by love;
Strong limbs which labor on the earth
As Angels do above.

FIVE (NUMBER BLOCK)

FIVE

Five are the fingers upon each hand,
Each foot has its five toes,
Five rays has the star shining high
o'er the land,
Five petals has the rose.
And when with limbs outstretched I
stand
Like a five-pointed star
All the world I command!

TWO (NUMBER BLOCK)

TWO

Two are the eyes with which I see,
Two are ears that hear,
Joy and sorrow both live in me,
And so do courage and Fear.
Darkness and light must together live
Night and day are as sister and brother
And two are the hands that receive and
give,
To help myself or serve another.

FOUR (NUMBER BLOCK)

Summer and Autumn, Winter and Spring
Through four seasons passes the year -
Fire and Air, Water and Earth
Out of these four our whole world does
appear.

SIX (NUMBER BLOCK)

SIX

The Snow Queen casts six-pointed flakes
On stormy winds to ride;
The crystal with its six clear walls
In deepest earth abides;
When the busy bee builds honeycombs
He sculpts them with six sides.
Wherever Light would find a home
In storm, or cave, or honeycomb
Six is its chosen number and form.

VERSES BY: Eugene Schwartz

THE NIXIE OF THE MILL POND

CHORUS: A miller, poor and so forlorn
Walked by his pond one early morn.
He wondered how he might gain wealth,
Win back his fortune and his health.
When of a sudden, to the miller's great surprise,
A Nixie from his pond did rise.

THE NIXIE OF THE MILL POND

NIXIE: Ah, miller dear, once rich, now poor,
Do not despair, but rest secure
I'll give you all the gold you crave,
The shining silver you would save.
All that I want from you this morn
Is that thing that's newly born!

MILLER: Some would say, "Beware the tricky
Ways of the crafty water nixie"-
But all she wants in return for gold
Is some kitten or puppy but one hour old.
I'll take your gift, and you are free
To have the new-born ... whatever it may be!

NIXIE: (as she runs off and disappears in the water)
Ho ho ho ho hee hee hee hee!

CHORUS: The miller now rushed home with joy --

MILLER' WIFE:

My husband -- see our new-born boy!

MILLER: Alas, that ever I saw this day -
To the nixie I've given our son away!
We will have silver and gold and jewels,
But our child - more precious - she will rule!

(MUSIC - as the following is spoken, the child becomes a man)

CHORUS: Over many nighttimes did the cold moon wax and wane,
Summers passed, autumns died, winters slowly came.
The miller's gold grew greater and his son, became a man,
A bold and fearless hunter known to all across the land.
His Father often warned him,

MILLER: Stay away from the mill pond's banks,
Or down you will be drawn
To the depths so dark and dank!

CHORUS: The hunter found himself a bride;
In a forest hut the two did bide,
She so fair, and he so fond,
They stayed far away from the cold mill pond.
One day he told his wife:

HUNTER: I must leave today I fear to hunt a deer.
All day for you I'll be a-yearning
But tonight I'll gladly be returning.

(They embrace and the hunter sets off.)