

Radius

January 2016

Issue 110

A newsletter for Camphill Special School families

"Receive the children with reverence, educate them with love, send them forth in freedom" - Rudolf Steiner

Doing for Others

By Heather Wiglusz

In one of our first student council meetings the elected members of the council decided they wanted to help families that are in need of food. They began by brainstorming ideas of how this could be accomplished. In the end they decided the best way was to reach out beyond the doors of Beaver Run as well as within the community with a food drive. The council members wanted to include all the high school students so each class was asked to decorate a box for collections. A few posters with needed information were also hung around the community. An email was sent out to parents and community members making them aware of the event. The kick off of collections was November 28, at the Christmas Café, and continued through advent. As the weeks passed the boxes filled and various groups of high school students helped to place them in storage until the delivery date.

On Monday, December 22, the council members loaded a bus with all the donated food and delivered it to the North Coventry Food Pantry. Once there they also helped to unload the items and place them in the pantry. A gentleman that worked there allowed the students to look around at all the donated items and explained how



grateful the families are for the donations. Before leaving they each shook his hand as he thanked them for all their hard work. The council members all left with smiles on their faces knowing they helped some families during the Christmas season.

Calendar

Monday, Feb. 15	Presidents' Day School, Office, and Maintenance are closed
Saturday, Feb. 20	Meadowsweet Open House 10:00 AM
Wednesday, Mar. 16	Campus Tour 9:00 AM
Saturday, Mar. 19	Meadowsweet Open House 2:00 PM
Friday, Mar. 25	Last day for students Office closed
Sunday, Mar. 27	Easter Sunday Residential students leave for Spring Break
Monday, Mar. 28	Spring Break (through April 8)
Saturday, April 9	Parent Workshop
Sunday, April 10	Parent Workshop Residential students return
Monday, April 11	Classes resume

Thursday Concerts are at 3:00 PM in the Blue Room, all are welcome

The fifth grade class will be delivering

Valentines

to the school community.

Please send Valentines to:
The 5th Grade class
c/o Ginny Thimme
1784 Fairview Road
Glenmoore, PA 19343

Welcome new students!



Kai has joined Emma's second grade class. He lives in Catalpa. His parents are Bainy (Princeton, NJ) and Jeff (Narberth, PA).



Grace is in the Kindergarten class. Her parents Tara and John live in Chester Springs. Big sister Eva is in Ginny's class.



Tristan is also in Valerie's Kindergarten class. His parents are Mary and Todd Kimberton, PA).



Kennedy is another child in our Kindergarten class. Her mother is Courtney. Her grandmother Michelle is a classroom aide.



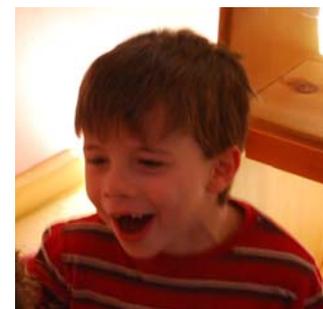
Nathan is also in Valerie's Kindergarten class. His parents are Heather and Jared (Pottstown, PA). Mom Heather works in Sally's class.



Phillip, a child in Valerie's Kindergarten class, lives with his parents Raphael and Rachel and his new little sister in Antanor.



Isaac is in also in Kindergarten. His mother Charlene is a classroom aide at the school.



Will is another child in our Kindergarten. His parents are Tricia and Michael (Royersford, PA).



Clockwise from top left: Michi and Julie bake cookies; Paige, Gleice, and Joseph sit at the farm; and Alina, Dylan, and Nico take a break while playing in the snow.

Happenings

In the winter garden, through the falling snow,
Stars are gleaming, streaming, gleaming,
down to earth below.

After our busy Advent season the children in the **kindergarten** have been enjoying our outdoor play area at Meadowsweet. We now have picnic tables on which we can work when we are outside; there is a big one and also a small one. When St. Nicholas came to the kindergarten he brought a basket filled with nuts. We have been busy cracking the nuts on these wonderful tables.

The land crew has been saving us stumps, many of which are used for building forts and our new sandbox. The children have enjoyed digging and "baking" in the sandbox. Many thanks to all the helpers who helped with that project. We also now have a laundry line which is much appreciated. We hang our dishcloths (used to dry the snack dishes) each day to dry.

The **third grade** have just begun to hear an exciting new story, Cain and Abel. There are new songs and new activities to help us learn, and plenty of outdoor activities like caring for and feeding animals to keep us in the cold winter months. We are excited to welcome our new handwork teacher, Tovit, on Wednesday mornings to help us make beautiful and useful things with our hands

The **fifth grade** finished a main lesson block on Botany. We planted spring bulbs outside and grew paper whites inside and watched as the roots, shoots, buds and flowers appeared. We learned about apples, roses and strawberries; labeled the different parts of the plant and wrote out our grace: "Blessings on the blossom; blessings on the fruit; blessings on the leaf and stem; blessings on the root."

We have begun our study of North American Geography. We are going to try to learn the names of as many states as possible!

I Played the cello and I Played
"Its me Its me oh lord" on the
piano. I saw Meg's Mom
and Ella's Dad. I saw
Antonio's Mom and Antonio's
Grandmom at the blue room.
by Antonio P



Seventh grade has begun their new block on “The Age of Exploration,” and we are all very excited to become our own adventurers by making maps, quills and exploring new lands. We would also like to wish every one a very happy New Year!!

During Advent **grade eight** studied Astronomy, made gifts of chutney, cranberry preserve and cookies. In January we are studying Organic Chemistry and have celebrated four of the students' birthdays. We also started handwork lessons and are enjoying sewing.

The **ninth graders** have been studying the history of drama. We are learning about the origins of theater, with a focus on comedy and tragedy. We will be making Greek theatrical masks. Acting out a tragedy and comedy will also take place in the classroom.



McKayla is ready for the mask making to begin



Ben sits patiently during the mask making process

The **tenth grade** had a very busy advent. In December we studied mineralogy and the classroom was full of beautiful pictures and painting of minerals, gems and crystals. We learned that precious gems and metals held an important place in the mythologies and beliefs of many cultures. For example the ancient Greeks believed that diamonds were tears of the gods and the ancient Egyptians believed that the blue color of Lapis Lazuli was reminiscent of the heavens and symbolized creation and rebirth. To complement our study, each student made a wooden holder for an agate slice, which, when lit from behind or put in a window reveals a variety of colors and patterns. Our current block is the story of *Gilgamesh*, an epic poem from ancient Mesopotamia, often regarded as the first great work of literature. The students are learning to recite the opening prologue and are captivated by the trials and heroic deeds of Gilgamesh and Enkidu.

Eleventh grade is currently studying the Romantic Poets, and we are delighted to announce that Daniel will be joining our class. We are all excited for him to be part of our family.

The students in **twelfth grade** are excited for the new year and are looking more and more forward to graduation! We continued our study of zoology, talking about the arthropod, which consists of insects, arachnids, and crustaceans. We looked specifically at bees, and the way that a hive creates a colony together with different tasks assigned to different groups of bees, and collaborative work all around!



Alex shows us his finished mask



Clockwise from top left:
 Katie spends some time with the chicks at Beaver Farm; friends Seth and Joseph together in Trillium; the Kindergarten class stops by to wish us a happy new year; from Trillium- the worst part of the day: when snack time is over



Our mission is to create wholeness for children and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities through education and therapy in extended family living.

Items for the next issue of *Radius* must be submitted by the third Monday of the month. Materials should be submitted to cschmidt@camphillspecialschool.org

All material submitted is subject to editing and is included on a space available basis.

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