

## Mission Statement

The Upper Valley Waldorf School's mission is to cultivate a balance of intellectual achievement, spiritual growth, physical development, and personal responsibility through a classical education that reflects an understanding of the growing child.

## Contact Information

80 Bluff Road, P.O. Box 709,  
Quechee, VT 05059

Tel: 802.296.2496      Fax: 802.296.5075  
office@uvws.org, www.uvws.org

### **Administrative Director:**

Christine Scherding – ext. 12  
*christineScherding@uvws.org*

### **Admissions Director:**

Lori Parent – ext.11  
*loriParent@uvws.org*

### **Human Resources and Finance Director:**

Jocelyn Richards – ext.15  
*jocelynRichards@uvws.org*

### **Development Director:**

Robyn Rost – ext. 14  
*robynRost@uvws.org*

### **Office Manager:**

Mary Sutton Smith – ext.10  
*marySutton-Smith@uvws.org*

### **Facilities Manager:**

Dave Meredith – ext.18  
*daveMeredith@uvws.org*

### **Administrative Assistant:**

Jeannie Surrell - ext 10  
*jeannieSurrell@uvws.org*

## December Festivals

"These festivals, which have come down to us from the past, had their source in an ancient wisdom, a spiritual knowledge of man and nature. In the modern world they have, to a far reaching extent, lost their substance. They have become matters of tradition, habit, economics, at best of mere sentimentality; but rightly understood, rightly celebrated the festivals can become a source of healing for the individual and society, a harmonizing, community building power."

From the, Waldorf Education A Family Guide

## Santa Lucia



Singing and light filled the hallways of the Early Childhood and the Grades buildings on Wednesday, December 14th as the 2nd and 7th Grade children visited each classroom with an offering of sweet buns. This beautiful festival is based on a story from Sweden. In the story, a young woman, Lucia, ventures out in the cold winter to feed and bring a message of hope to the people suffering from harsh winter conditions. Our Lucia, Emily Foster, wore a crown with four candles on her head to symbolize warmth and light as we enter the winter season. All of the children wore white gowns with red sashes, gold crowns and star hats. A special thank you to Umpleby's Bakery for providing the 7th Grade with the opportunity to prepare the Santa Lucia buns themselves and thank you to the 2nd Graders who presented the buns with such grace.

*Cally McCrave, grade 2 teacher*



## Advent Spiral



It is well I remember my first Advent Spiral and how awed I was that a room full of children under the age of six could be silent and spellbound for an hour as one by one they made their way to the center of the spiral alone and emerged holding their glowing light. Since then I have always looked forward to the Advent Spiral as it never fails to call me back into myself in a season when so much seems to call us out of ourselves.

This year we had a quiet, candle lit dinner and then drove to school, the sky already dark, singing songs of darkness and light. Entering the darkened building I could feel myself dropping in, deeper into my bones. In the auditorium the spiral lay welcoming on the floor and the harpist held the space with her other worldly music as we settled into our seats.

What a relief to just sit in the quiet and dimly lit room with the enchanting music floating through the space. As the children began, yet again, to journey to the center of the spiral I was keenly aware that those of us watching or witnessing actually co-create each child's experience of the spiral. As we watchers bring our full attention to both the child in the spiral as well as to our own experience, we help to hold the sacred space. Here is a chance to see each child deeply. We see their goodness, their light, their nervousness, their struggles, their excitement...all that it is to be human. We see them making this trek that we each must make over and over again. And we notice where these feelings and experiences live in our own bodies. The Advent Spiral is a chance for each child to see and be seen as s/he is in the moment, without judgment, lovingly accepted while they do the work that all humans must do. This intentional traveling to the inner depths, gathering light, and finding a place for it in the outer form is important work for all of us and something our world desperately needs.

Of course when we got home my girls created their own spiral out of all the silks and candles they could find. All the dolls had a turn. Then Kurt and I had our turn. I realized that the purely physical act of walking in a spiral has a powerful effect. Even as my outer form walked the small spiral of silks in my living room, I could vividly feel my inner self being drawn down and around to a deeper place, the source of my light, strength and wisdom. And then a grounding as I pretended to light my candle from that solid place in the center. As I walked out again I could feel expansiveness, freedom and a true sense of touching and sharing my own light. Isn't that what we all need in this season? What a gift to our children!

Thank you to the Faculty Festivals Committee for offering this beautiful and meaningful ritual for our children and families. It is a blessing to witness.

*Kelly Armbrust, UVWS Parent*

*Often held in late afternoon or in the early evening, the room will be dark and filled with a mood of wonder and quiet anticipation.*



## Winter Fair 2011 – One Parent’s Perspective

Long before my daughter attended the Upper Valley Waldorf School, my affinity for the school began at a Winter Fair. It was the first Waldorf event that I had ever attended, so I had no idea what to expect. When I walked into the school and saw the white lights on the trees it was magic. Every year, I look forward to the Winter Fair due to its magical feeling and this year was no exception.

As a second year Waldorf parent with a few Winter Fairs under my belt, and knowing that this event does not happen without parent involvement, I threw myself into being one of the Pocket Lady coordinators. I love this activity because the smallest, youngest members of our community can participate. I had fun making small handcrafts and seeing all the other wonderful items that parents made to stuff bulging pockets with joy; hand painted gems, felted toadstools and acorns, gingerbread, bell, and pouch necklaces, magnets, and ornaments of all types.

This was the first year that I volunteered to be Pocket Lady. I truly enjoyed the role and, honestly, at one point I felt like a ‘rock star’ as children followed me and crowded around me brandishing their tickets to take a turn. I especially enjoyed watching the little ones... some reached into a pocket with a parent’s loving encouragement and others were not sure what to make of the situation, so a parent picked for them. Either way, the look of wonder on their little faces after receiving their keepsake was priceless.



*King Winter*

I was surprised by the variety of ages represented by Pocket Lady participants. I had incorrectly assumed that only the younger children would be interested in this activity. However, even the older children approached me to take a turn. One older girl typified, for me, the magic of the Winter Fair and one reason I volunteer to make it happen. I think that she gave me 3 tickets in all during my one-hour tenure! Each time she pulled out her pocket prize, she paused and studied it carefully. As she slowly realized what she had chosen, her face began to light up with a smile and her eyes sparkled. She would then look at me and say in an excited, almost breathless voice, “Thank you.”

This is the best part of the Winter Fair for me, experiencing heart-warming moments with children in our school community. Due to our cooperative effort, we are able to create a magical landscape and celebrate the simplicity of the season together.

*Stephanie Morgan, UVWS Parent*

## Saint Nicholas Day



*On the morning of December 6, students found gifts of clementines and gold walnuts left by St. Nick!*