

# TAOS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

## The Golden Willow

September 6, 2009

### Harvest Festival This Friday 5:30-7

Gather friends and family for Taos Country Day School's festival of down-home sharing, live music, good food and old-fashioned fun. Bring a favorite potluck dish for our cornucopia of delectable treats, which will include sweet corn from our garden. Listen and dance to the soulful bluegrass rhythms of Unstrung Heroes.

Remember last year's Land Blessing when we as a community planted rye seeds? They became a bountiful crop from which we'll have bread for

the Festival. We will have the opportunity to plant seeds Friday once again for next year's harvest. Join in on hand-pressing cider to quench your thirst.

You may also try your hand/feet at wheat grinding, rye stomping and wool carding. Or, relax, soak in the sounds and partake of lively, heartfelt conversation with friends old and new.

We look forward to seeing one and all this Friday at 5:30.

### Dates to Remember

Sept 7 Labor Day—No School  
Sept 8 Fundraising Meeting 2pm  
Sept 8 Fourth Grade Parent Meeting 5:30pm  
Sept 11 Harvest Festival 5:30-7  
Sept 21 Eighth Grade Parent Meeting 5:30pm  
Sept 30 San Geronimo Day—No School  
Oct 1 Eighth Grade 4-Day Llama Camping Trip  
Oct 3 & 4 Wool Festival  
Oct 6 Fifth Grade Meeting & Pot Luck 5:30  
Tuesdays: Handwork Circle 3:15 in 8th Grade  
Tuesdays: TCDS Farm Market

### Welcome New and Returning Families

School is now well under way. Welcome back to all of our lovely returning students and their families. We are so happy to be together again. We have many new students and families who have joined us this school year whom we would like to welcome.

In the Golden Aspen kindergarten we extend a warm welcome to Rafael Andrew (Marcy Andrew), Sophia Basara (Jennifer Hart and Blaise Basara), Lakai Brown (Lara Serena Brown & Bow Tucker), Aneena Clinger (Janssen King & Rush Clinger), Andrew Edenfield (LisaAnn Edenfield), Olivia Gyovai (Laura Evelyn and Joseph Gyovai), Isaac and Thea Hardaway (Kimzey Gunter & Tim Hardaway), Kalden Murphy (Tiffany Jama and Rick Murphy), Dylan Phillips (Lauren Peak), Alexander Preston (Thomas Preston & Claudia Janah), Quentin Rebholtz (Maria Samora & Kevin Rebholtz), Ocean Smith (Laurel Hardin & Jeremy Smith) and Neal Young (Jennifer & Brian Young).

Welcome to more wee ones in the Gnomes kindergarten: David Arellano (Jodie & Bob Arellano), Annabel Caldwell (Nikki Ross & Jake Caldwell), Santiago Goodhue (Julie Cortopassi and Jason Goodhue), Miel Hagler-Shorr (Dorie Hagler & Michael Shorr), Louis Hay (Jessie & Andrew Hay), Liam Jansen (Chris & Vanessa Jansen), Declan McDonnell (Susan Longhenry & Jeremy McDonnell), Nicolas Powell (Annie & Jay Powell), Ezra Ratigan (Shelly Ratigan & Naomi Hannah), Mikaela Tompkins (Sandra & David Tompkins) and Caitlyn Woolery (Lisa & John Woolery).

We offer a sincere welcome to first grader William Sanders (Joanne & Richard Sanders), second grader Kira Murphy (Tiffany Jama and Rick Murphy), third graders Rajani Clinger (Janssen King & Rush Clinger), Eden Ratigan (Naomi Hannah & Shelly Ratigan), and Camille Cooper (Zoe Zimmerman & Conrad Cooper) as well as to fourth graders Andrew Jusbasche (Rebecca & Michael Jusbasche), Alex Pangia (Adellina Pangia & Jesse Ford), Liam Sullivan (Shaun Sullivan) and Danielle Tompkins (Sandra & David Tompkins); fifth graders Claudia Dimond (Vanessa & Ted Dimond), Delilah Himm (Megan Keller and Blake Himm) and Reyna Jansen (Vanessa Hunt-Jansen & Chris Jansen); sixth graders Ariana Gonzalez (Debbie & Tracy Tapia), Alyssa Hood (Patricia Passino) and Julianna Stoner (Jennifer & Jim Stoner); and eighth graders Domacio Mondragon (Anita Mondragon) and Michael Spring (Martina Gebhardt).

Everyone seems to be working together beautifully and settling into the school year quite nicely. We wish everyone a rich and lively experience.

**Thursdays are Pizza Days!** Back by popular demand—pizza from Pizanos! Order in the morning on Thursday and your child can enjoy a special yummy lunch. You may order cheese or pepperoni and each slice will come with a garnish of seasonal veggies (e.g., carrot sticks) for only \$3.75. The eighth grade class will sponsor this project to raise money for their class trip. Each Thursday morning you will find a sign-up sheet outside your child's class along with an envelope for money. The order will be called in by 10:30am and delivered by 12:30pm sharp! These hot lunches are a favorite with the students.

Saturdays at the Farmers Market Sign up in office if interested in participating



## Classroom News

The **Golden Aspen** children have been working & playing with themes from *The Little Grey Pony*. We have explored blacksmithing, farming, milling & mining. The older children are finger knitting ropes and making braided bread roll hearts. We are also reciting delightful *Mother Goose* rhymes, fostering a love for language and creating phonic awareness as a foundation for reading and writing.

We will be wild-crafting herbs on our walks, enacting our story as a play, harvesting berries and visiting Alpaca in Mora, grafting our apple tree and harvesting from our very own garden & corn maze.

The **Gnomes** are experiencing harvest in the garden as a time of generosity. Activities such as helping elders or neighbors pick fruit for winter jams are educational and teach sharing and caring. Stringing marigolds or drying apples are fun and make the home beautiful.

The apples the trees give us before the frost are gifts to be found on the ground. The fruit on the trees waits for Jack Frost to visit; then we know it is time to pick the fruit to make cider, pie, apple sauce & butter—how delicious. Blessings on your Harvest.

Ms. Rehbach has been away for a week recovering from an injury. We have missed her in the **First Grade** and are grateful that Mr. Alvarez has taken good care of the first grade the whole week in addition to his teaching all grades Spanish. The first graders are establishing their rhythm and habit life and learning all about the life of the classroom.

The **Second Grade** began the year with form drawing, challenging ourselves with the creation of mirrored forms. We will be working with connected forms which "run" across the page to prepare us for cursive writing. All the while, Mr. Jansen is meticulously checking for proper pencil grips!

The **Fourth Grade** is learning of the Walls of Asgard, one of the first of the Norse Tales. Our year has started the stories of The Children of Odin, the World of Midgard and the Land of the Dwarves.

High on the mountain gathered the Aesir.  
Tell us Stranger, "Why have you come here?"  
"I know your mind. I heard the call.  
Now I have come, to build a great wall."



The **Fifth Grade** has been exploring the epic tales of Ancient India. The class is doing collaborative writing, mapmaking, and illustrations to document these beautiful stories in their Main Lesson books. We enjoyed a wonderful visit to the Hanuman Temple where we heard stories, visited the peacocks, chanted and played the harmo-

**Class Six** is learning Geometry. On a practical level, we are surveying the lay of our land using the ancient techniques—using plumb lines and stretch ropes. In the classroom, we have been using protractors to create colorful projective geometric forms. Precision is our byword!

We in the **Eighth Grade** are immersing ourselves in the art, science and history of the Renaissance. Our study will culminate with a trip to the Santa Fe Renaissance Faire Sept. 19 & 20. Additionally, the 8th grade has enjoyed digging micaceous clay, playing tennis, learning about high school and college from a Taos pre-med student, and discussing current events. New subjects this year include Wilderness First Aid in preparation for our 4-day hike to Lost Lake and guitar lessons with Michael Shorr. We also weed and harvest Mondays and Fridays in the garden. We have been selling our harvest at the Taos Farmers' Market on Saturdays and will open a new mid-week garden market at the school on Tuesday afternoons.

The **Third Grade** has started the year with a farming block and with Jewish tales to build awareness of many biblical (Torah) characters. Additionally, we are working on building awareness of our own actions and feelings as members of the 3rd grade and Country Day communities in terms of our expectations, responsibilities and encouragement. We will work with our social-emotional awareness throughout the school year.

From Janssen King, our new **Spanish** teacher: Our themes for the fall will be the bountiful harvest, a discussion of the seasons and will culminate with a "Dia de los Muertos" altar and possibly a presence in the local parade. Dia de los Muertos is November 2. 2nd2nd.

We are studying Wilderness First Aid in **Environmental Studies** with Mr. Tuff in the 8th grade, learning how to survive in the wilderness, wilderness issues and awareness, patient assessment and risk management. The class will conclude with a 4-day camping sojourn with llamas. In **Clay Work** class, the 5th graders are sanding their bear sculptures and polishing them. The kindergartners, 5th and 8th graders are helping mix local micaceous clay dug by TCDS students.

## Parent Council Offers Thanks

Thank you to all the parents who came to the coffee hosted by the Parent Council on Wednesday, Sept 9th. Twenty-plus parents came to chat with old friends and meet new ones. We'll continue this lovely form of gathering the first Wednesday of each month. We hope to see/meet you at our next coffee on October 7th.

Parent Council would like to acknowledge & thank Dori Hagler, Anais Rumpfelt and Sabine Wilms who have completed their terms on Parent Council. We are grateful for their hard work, energy, dedication and sense of humor! All have been a pleasure to work with.

2009-2010 Parent Council Representatives are: Haileigh Palmer (Golden Aspen); Paymaneh Ghaffari (Gnomes); Jen Hull (First Grade); Molly McMullin (Second Grade); Shayla Pasternack (Third Grade); Jennifer Foley (Fourth Grade); Alex Wilson (Fifth Grade); Sixth TBA; Lyda Mae (Eighth Grade).

**Handwork** has been joyful in all grades. The children are thoroughly engaged in their age/grade-appropriate skills. Even with only two weeks under our belts, students have experienced great satisfaction with what they have learned. We look forward to sharing our creations with all of you.

Come Tuesdays for fresh produce midweek. You'll find sweet corn, carrots, beets from TCDS gardens, tomatoes & fruit from Mergirl gardens & possibly produce, eggs and cheese from other vendors. Market hours are 2:45-5:30pm through mid-October. See Micah if you are interested in participating as a vendor or in helping with the market.

Looking for a way to show faculty appreciation? Sign up to prepare a meal on the first Thursday of each month for the faculty (10-12 people), to be served following their Faculty and College meetings at 6pm. Call Jennifer Foley at 779-0013 for details.

# Country Day Community Bulletin Board

Do you have something for sale or rent, a need, an announcement? Introduce yourself and your needs to the community on our Golden Willow Community Bulletin Board. Please limit your submission to 2—3 lines.

**Reasonable room rates** for extra friends & guests for short-term stays. Contact Judith Duncan at [duncanretreat.com](http://duncanretreat.com) or 758-3966.

**For Sale:** Sweet 3B/1B adobe in Talpa. New roof, windows & addition. Recently renovated. Half acre, fenced, water rights. Call Molly at 770-8772.

**Rudolf Steiner: Theory & Practice** A course taught by Brannon Badeaux exploring Biodynamics and Waldorf education. Call 779-4121 for details.

**Tennis Rackets & Camping Equipment needed** Please loan or donate to 8th grade sports program & camping trips this fall. See or call Micah 770-6382

**Cerro Farms Fall Shares:** Bi-weekly bountiful harvest of 12 different fall vegetables + apples. Pick up at TCDS or St James. Call Daniel 770-1426.

**Computers still needed!** Please call if you are able to donate a computer with 1GB RAM (or more) to the school. Many thanks.

**Guitars needed:** Do you have a classical or other acoustic guitar to donate, loan or sell? Please let Deborah know at 751-0896.

**Sailboat Repair Needed** to prepare sailboat for school auction. Counts toward volunteer hours! Let the office know if you can help at 751-7750.