

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

- 1 Family Game Night/P.A. Meeting, 5:30 pm
- 1 Crafting Klatsch (Handwork Room) 8:45-10 am
- 2 Visitor Morning 9:00 am
- 4 4th grade field trip to the Chattanooga Aquarium
- 4 5th grade class play, 6:00 p.m.
- 8 Crafting Klatsch 8:45-10 am
- 14-18 ERB achievement testing
- 15 Crafting Klatsch 8:45-10 am
- 16-17 6th grade class play, 6:00 pm
- 19 Earth Day—All School Campus Cleanup 8am-12pm
- 21 Teacher Planning Day—NO SCHOOL
- 21-25 National Turn-Off [Your Screens] Week
- 25 LCS students participate in YMCA Kids' Country Music Marathon
- 22 Crafting Klatsch 8:45-10 am
- 23 3rd grade class play, 5:30 pm
- 25 1st grade class play, 1:30 pm
- 28-30 5th Grade Pentathlon, Atlanta Waldorf School
- 29 Crafting Klatsch 8:45-10 am

MAY

- 2 May Faire/Grandparents' Day/Festival of Children's Work—½ DAY OF SCHOOL
- 3 Spring Gala
- 6 P.A. Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 9 Lower grades Orchestra and Choir Concert, 6:00 pm
- 13-15 3rd grade field trip to Hill and Hollow Farm
- 14-16 4th grade field trip to Fall Creek Falls State Park
- 16 Upper grades Orchestra and Choir Concert, 7:00 pm
- 26 Memorial Day—NO SCHOOL
- 29 Kindergarten Bridging Ceremony at 11:30 am; 8th Grade Graduation;
- 30 Last Day of School—½ DAY



Ms. Roche's chalkboard drawing beautifully enhances Aesop's fables for the second grade.

Linden Corner LEAFLET

April 2008

Linden Corner School • 3201 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville, TN 37215 • 615.354.0270 • lindencorner.org

The outer world, with all its phenomena, is filled with divine splendour, but we must have experienced the divine within ourselves before we can hope to discover it in our environment. —Rudolf Steiner

PARENT ALLIANCE

Revving Up for Fun

Well, another school year is winding down, but the action is just getting revved up! We have so many fun, wonderful events to promote, I hardly know where to start! Let's go chronologically:

Family Game Night, Tuesday, April 1st in the Fellowship Hall

In celebration of National Turn Off [Your Screens] Week the PA will host a family game night! Bring your favorite board game and a salad or dessert to share. There will be games from the Linden Seeds store to try, blocks and toys for our littlest ones, and pizza provided at a nominal charge. Dinner will start at 5:30. Please call Fawnie at the school office to let us know if you can make it, 354-0270 ext. 21.

Earth Day and All-Campus Clean-Up

On Saturday April 19th to celebrate Earth Day, the PA is sponsoring an All-Campus clean up. We need every family to donate a bag of mulch or topsoil (one of each, if possible!), whether or not you're planning to attend the festivities. But we hope you are because following the clean up, there will be a big, school-wide picnic. Details will follow on the list serve, so be on the look out for more information! In the meantime, be sure to pick up those bags of mulch and top soil at the home improvement store of your choice. They can be dropped off at the message board on the walk way.



May Faire, Grandparents' Day, and the Festival of Children's Works

Friday, May 2nd is a big day in the life of Linden Corner School, so mark your calendars now. And be

See PA.NEWS on page 4.

LINDEN CORNER SCHOOL CELEBRATES NATIONAL TURN-OFF [YOUR SCREENS] WEEK

Fool's Gold: A Look at Children and Computers

by The Alliance for Childhood

Computers are reshaping children's lives, at home and at school, in profound and unexpected ways. Common sense suggests that we consider the potential harm, as well as the promised benefits, of this change.

Computers pose serious health hazards to children. The risks include repetitive stress injuries, eyestrain, obesity, social isolation, and,

See FOOLS GOLD on page 7.

Earth Day!!

Join us on Saturday, April 19th from 9am-12, for our Earth Day celebration and campus clean-up. Linden Corner School and Trinity Presbyterian Church join forces to beautify our beautiful piece of shared earth. Danika Desai from Kilowatt Ours will be on hand to discuss energy conservation. Each Linden Corner family is asked to bring a bag of pine bark mulch and a bag of topsoil the week of April 14th to be used on Earth Day (drop off at message board). Pizza lunch will be provided as well as activities for the children.

A Whirlwind of Waldorf Adventure

This year has been different from anything I have ever experienced. I have been challenged to bring something fresh each day to a classroom full of little eager souls. Second grade is a time of energy and wonder, when learning feels like an adventure led by a fearless guide. I am proud to be that guide to my students.

As I look back over the past months, I can see how, even in the whirlwind of new experiences (new for the “guide” too!), the little things have held fast. The winds blow strong sometimes, but songs rise up spontaneously, songs that I have brought to my students’ hearts from the roots of my own childhood, and calm returns. I hear little tricks and phrases being repeated on eight-year-old lips, and I have to smile. These moments help reassure me that not everything blows away, even when the winter wind whips up and it’s hard to hear oneself think amidst all the noise.

Teaching through stories, through songs, through little balance beams between laughter and firmness, has helped the important things in life to stick to these children. I am trusting that any good thing they learn here will help to form the shape of their character, giving them strength to face the struggles of our age.

Recently, I have had the joy of connecting back to my English educational roots to help bring our class play to life. On Friday, March 7, we presented “Aesop’s

Fables,” a series of four beloved tales narrated by Aesop himself. We had a great time practicing the scenes, collecting imaginative costume materials from home, and creating finishing touches out of classroom odds and ends. The final product was something our whole class is still beaming with pride about. My students have enjoyed the enthusiasm and support of our school community through compliments from older students and teachers as they pass in the halls. This morning in class we discussed how good those kind words made all of us feel. Now my second graders are excited to pass on that feeling to the other classes as they perform in their turn.

Producing a class play for the first time has just been one small piece of the array of new experiences during this year. All through the year, following the rhythm of changing seasons and corresponding curriculum, I have grown as both a teacher and a student within the structure of Waldorf education. It has been a blessing to be surrounded by such a diverse, wise group of teachers who have taken time from their own classes to share insight with me. The work being carried by my colleagues amazes, humbles, and inspires me. By following their example, I have been able to lead my own students through a school year of adventure.

—Whitni Roche, Grade 2 Class Teacher



Top: 2nd Grade Class, Top left: Main lesson book drawing Tortoise and the Hare, Top right: Class play, Bottom left: Observing nature, Bottom right: The First Valentines, Bottom center: Drawing of nature observations.

Scrip News Flash!

Linden Corner just earned \$215.56 from Target’s Take Charge of Education program. This is some of that “free money” that we’ve been talking about in this column all year. Just by doing our everyday shopping, we are earning money for our wonderful school. Good job, moms and dads! By linking those red Target Visa cards to Linden Corner and using them when you shop, you earn extra money for our school without any extra work! Keep up the good work and remember to use those Kroger Gift Cards, too!

Thanks for all you do to support our school, parents!

—Laura Bigbee-Fott, PA Co-Chair

Crafting Klatsch

In honor of National Turn-Off [Your Screens] Week, April 21-27, crafter and volunteer extraordinaire Catie Johnson and Outreach Coordinator Sonia Merchant will be leading crafting and conversation sessions on Tuesday mornings in April from 8:45-10 a.m. Catie will bring the materials and expertise necessary for making an item with a nature table theme while Sonia leads a discussion on articles related to media use (links to articles will be given in the Manse Minutes). Catie will also open the store from 10-11 a.m. on Tuesdays so you can acquire more supplies for crafting at home with your family. This is a great opportunity to give and get advice regarding screen time, to learn and share crafting tips, and to become better acquainted with your fellow parents. RSVP for any or all of the five sessions by calling the school office so we have enough materials ready.



Commitment, Celebration, Participation

The Development Committee's fundraising projects include grant writing, the Annual Fund Drive, and the Spring Gala. In an effort to keep tuition as low as possible, Linden Corner School has relied on the generosity of its community to contribute generously to the Annual Fund and the Spring Gala to fund the yearly operating budget shortfall. Our current tuition covers only 70% of the operating budget.

While the benefits of a low tuition allows for many community members to afford Waldorf education, it also creates a challenge and a commitment from our community to contribute in every way; head, heart, and hands; toward raising the funds which round out the budget to simply operate the school for one year. The contribution of everyone, not just a few, make this possible. And the degree of our success is a reflection of your degree of commitment.

Annual Fund

The 2007-2008 Annual Fund, our most successful to date, has raised nearly \$70,000 of the \$140,000 hoped for. 65 families (54%) have pledged or donated and 55 families (46%) have made no pledge. If, for instance, each of the remaining families pledged only \$250, those pledges would bring Linden Corner \$13,750. And a pledge of \$500 would bring \$27,500! When we all participate, our goals are attainable.

Spring Gala

This year's Spring Gala theme is "The Best Is Yet To Come", a song attributed greatly to Frank Sinatra, and a fitting note for our growth and future plans.

In celebration of our current accomplishments, the Gala will officially host the unveiling of our new school name and logo! AWSNA's acknowledgment of our status as a developing

Waldorf school is cause enough for a grand celebration. And here's to the best yet to come!

In order for the Spring Gala to be profitable and fun for our community, each family is asked to consider your own spheres of influence and how the people you touch every day could benefit from knowing about Linden Waldorf School and Waldorf education. Extend an invitation to your friends and family and have them share in an evening of fun!

Online Auction

The online auction is under way. ***If you have yet to contribute your five donated items, delay no longer!*** The office is open and ready to receive your generous offerings. This auction plays an integral role in our fundraising efforts.

Tremendous Accomplishments

Ten short years have seen us grow from a pre-school to the completion of pre-school through middle-school, graduating our first eighth grade class last year. Our pioneer graduates are flourishing in their respective high schools (Nashville School of the Arts, Harpeth Hall, University School, Saint Cecilia, Ensworth, and Hillsboro High School). The success of those students has raised interest and curiosity amongst their new teachers as to what the Waldorf philosophy is all about.

This year's graduates to be have been accepted to Hume Fogg, Ensworth, University School, and Nashville School of the Arts.

Our new Administrative team and new staff members have risen to their respective tasks this year with determination and grace. We are blessed and grateful for the commitment and talent they have shared with us for the benefit of the whole community. Much of our success this year is



Scenes from the 2006 Spring Gala auction.

3rd Annual Spring Gala



SAVE THE DATE!
MAY 3, 2008

attributed to them.

Here are a just a few of the many accomplishments to celebrate:

Since this school year began, 18 new students have enrolled, increasing our enrollment by 12%. Unprecedented and fabulous! AWSNA has been impressed with our Administration and its many strides forward.

A Faculty Leadership Council has been formed, consisting of Kim Ross, Ching Li Wang, Mary Bryan, and Gine Olney, representing preschool through middle school. This Council has worked diligently to codify many of our policies and procedures and develop the organizational structure of our maturing school.

A Mentoring Program for new teachers has been developed, bringing in outside evaluators.

As many Waldorf schools struggle to find fully trained Waldorf teachers, Linden Corner has made the commitment for teacher training a priority.

Each teacher attends training seminars during the summer months and during the school year. Your contributions to the Annual Fund and the Spring Gala help create the necessary

funds to make this possible.

Moving Forward

Next school year will see our highest enrollment to date with a waiting list for pre-school and first grade!

We are a growing, thriving Waldorf institution. We owe a debt of gratitude to our wonderful and committed teachers, our exceptionally talented administrative staff, and our community. All our children benefit from this gift which strives to honor the spirit of each child and to support their own unfolding contribution to the world.

My daughter, Hanna, is who she is because of this school. Vivian and I can't imagine our children being anywhere else. It's that simple.

As we come quickly to the close of this school year, consider your own commitment and contributions and the true difference it makes in the success of this school. It is with gratitude that we give thanks for all of you who have helped to bring us to where we are today.

Truly, the best is yet to come.

—Todd Burr
Vice-Chair, LCS Board of Trustees
Chair, Development Committee

LCS Concerts Coming in May!

Our Lower Grades Concert takes place on Friday night, May 9th at 6:00 p.m. 3rd–5th Graders will perform their string repertoire and will sing a beautiful concert canon, an Appalachian folk song and a Latin-flavored lullaby with a beat.

The Upper Grades Concert follows the next Friday night, May 16th at 7:00 pm Our 6th–8th Graders will play music for strings by Bach, Handel, and contemporary composers. Special highlights will be a Bach prelude for harp and string orchestra and a Corelli trio for two violins, cello, and piano. The choral part of the concert will feature a Baroque canon in German, a lovely folk song in Hebrew, a wonderful Renaissance madrigal, a spirited three-way partner song by Irving Berlin, and a real toe-tapper of a spiritual.

Students: your music is getting better and better every week. Parents, please remember to give “concert dress” an eagle eye—sizes may have changed, items may have gotten misplaced, etc. Let’s do what we can to have our students look as good as they sound! As a reminder, Concert Dress, as always, means a white Linden Corner shirt (ordering details available in the school office), khaki skirt or pants, and dark shoes.

See you in May!
—Biff Fink and Jocelyn Sprouse

PA. NEWS (continued from page 1)

sure to get on the phone to call and invite those grandparents if you haven’t already! That morning, the PA will sponsor a lovely breakfast reception for our Grandparents and Special Friends while they peruse the beautiful work of our incredibly talented kids. School will be out that day at 12:30 so that we can all participate in May Faire. Again, as with the Earth Day festivities, please be on the look out for the most up-to-date information on the list serve.

The 3rd Annual Spring Gala



Scenes from the 2006 Spring Gala.

May 3rd, conveniently, the day after May Faire, is the date for Linden Corner’s 3rd Annual Spring Gala. And for those of you who have attended in the past, you know what a singularly fun and entertaining event this is in the life of our school. All us adults get to wear our big-kid dress-up clothes and have a good time hob-knobbing with each other! It really is a wonderful time and an important fund-raiser for our school. So mark your calendars now! And if your grandparents will be here for May Faire (just the day before), why don’t you buy them tickets for the Gala and make a weekend of it?

Whew! What a roster of fun and exciting activities! Never a dull moment! See you there!

—Laura Bigbee-Fott, PA. Co-Chair

Volunteers Needed

Okay. I know what most of you are thinking. You’re rolling your eyes and thinking, I’ve done my bit! I did everything they asked me to do for the Elves’ Faire, I gave to the Annual Fund, and I’ve even been to a couple of P.A. meetings. I would have been at the Potluck if it hadn’t snowed. What more do they want from me?

Every single parent in this school gives their time and talents to further Linden Corner’s goals in educating our children. There is no doubt about that. However, what we receive as families from our children’s Waldorf education, in my opinion, far outweighs what we put into it. Let me explain: We have a nurturing community and we make friends here that will most likely last far beyond eighth grade graduation. We receive support for our efforts and beliefs in making the wider world a better place. Art and music and their importance in our lives is honored. And most importantly, our children are nurtured and challenged to be the best human beings they can be. And somehow, this is all accomplished with one of the lowest tuitions in greater Nashville.

How is this possible? Well, most of it is possible because of our extraordinarily gifted and selfless teachers. But there is a great deal of credit due to the organized force of parent volunteers. The Parent Alliance is an extremely important tool for fostering the work of our wonderful teachers as well as furthering the financial goals of our very talented and dedicated board and administration.

And the Parent Alliance has big plans in both these regards for the coming school year. We would like to purchase swings for the upper playground. We would like to help support before- and after-care and provide more supplies in these areas. We would like to have more potlucks and would like to have a monthly family game

night. We would like to have year-round crafting mornings where moms (and dads!) can meet and discuss issues important to their families’ lives while learning to create lovely, useful items. We would like to continue to have speakers to educate and challenge us as parents. To accomplish these goals, all we need is you—to attend meetings, to be your class Parent Alliance Representative, or to take a leadership role in the Parent Alliance.

What we receive as families from our children’s Waldorf education . . . far outweighs what we put into it.

Now you’re probably thinking, sure, this all sounds great, and I’d love to do it, but I work every day. I make dinner every night. I can barely squeeze in family time. How can I possibly find time for the Parent Alliance as well? I can tell you that it is possible. If we are organized and have an enthusiastic team, the work will be minimal and we will be there to support each other. It’s amazing what can be accomplished when you’re having fun and working with people you like to achieve a shared goal.

So please consider what you can do to help foster the work of the Parent Alliance. This year we will be having elections in May so we can get a jump on next year. If you are interested in a leadership position, please contact me, Alex von Hoffman, or your class PA representative. This really is important work in the lives of our children. When we volunteer at Linden Corner, it is a very powerful example to our children. It proves to them that their education is both valued and valuable. And there is no greater gift we can give them than that.

—Laura Bigbee-Fott, PA. Co Chair

A Few of Our Favorite Things . . .

My original idea for this month's article was to highlight April's National Turn Off [Your Screens] Week by collecting tips from Linden Corner parents about fun, screen-free activities. I then realized that it might be better to go to the original sources—the children! (Okay, I was at deadline and the children were more easily accessible. But it worked out well anyway, I think.) —Sonia Merchant

Question: What are your favorite things to do with your friends and family after school or over the weekend?

Play Monopoly, and eat and go to the park—Minka Bell Reed (7th)

Hang out, talk, and play some kind of sport—Jonelle Palmer (7th)

I like going hiking and I also like just walking around and talking to them—Jane Camarata (6th)

I like staying after school on Thursdays and playing with my friends. I really like it when my Mom and I cook together.—Catherine Colbran (6th)

Play with my dog and also we sometimes play a little bit of kickball. Also, sometimes we'll all sit down and read together.—Anwen Wilkerson (5th)

I like to go to something fun in town like world cultural festivals or the Frist.—Shaan Merchant (5th)

I like to go to my Aunt's house and I like softball practice—Haley Morrill (4th)

Have a snack, play a board game and bike ride.—Emily Bridgers (4th)

Hikes and sitting around and talking—Noah Anderson (3rd)

Play games and, if we get a chance, run outside. I also really like to read.—Ryman Curtis (3rd)

Draw and build Legos—Sam Kingsbury (3rd)

Play tag with my friends and I also like to sleep in late—Jessie Dicker (2nd)

I like to go golfing—Noah Forbes (2nd)

Have play dates with Molly [Duke]—Margaret Johnson (2nd)

I like drawing pictures and I like beeswax—Jane Goodwin (1st)

I just like to go outside and play and if it's warm I like to go swimming —Erin Bates (1st)

Hmmm. If it's on the weekend there's a zipline in the back of my house that I like to ride.—Nathan Emahiser (1st)

Let's see . . . I like to go home and play outside and do knitting—Isabelle Dunn (1st)

For more screen-free activities, come to our new April Tuesday morning series, *Crafting Klatsch* (see page 2).

Congratulations LCS Chess Club!



Congratulations to students in the LCS Chess Club who competed on March 1 in the Region 3 Tennessee Chess Association scholastic team tournament. LCS finished 7th of 17 schools in the Elementary Section. Members of the team are Ryan Beahm, Shaan Merchant, Jack Duke, Zeke Starr and Anthony Day. In the Junior High category, the LCS team qualified to compete in the State finals, which will be held Sat., March 29 in Cookeville, TN on the campus of Tennessee Tech University. Members of the Jr. High team are Jaisal Merchant, Emma Smith, Miro Hurdle, Michael Ross and Jesse McNutt.



Early Childhood Education Play Morning

On Saturday March 1, the Early Childhood Education applicants came for a playdate. The children were with the teachers and the parents met with the Administrative Team. The parents were split into two groups to 'play.' Group one had plastic, remote control toys. Group two had all Waldorf toys. As seen in the pictures, group one was bored with the toys and just sat and chatted. Group two created a huge pirate ship and all were dressed for the part. We then had questions and answers and ended with a puppet show for the whole family. Thanks to future LWS parent Scott Kozicki for the pictures.

Faculty In-Service Week—February 2008

During the week of February 18th, children were absent from Linden Corner School, but their presence was still felt as the teachers worked and met for In-Service and Professional Development. So, with the children in our minds and hearts, we had a week rich with arts, community, and a deepened understanding of Waldorf philosophy.

We began each day, with verse and song. The music was quite beautiful as the week went on and with more practice, we hope to be able to present a song or two at an assembly this spring. One morning, we also had the pleasure and challenge of Spacial Dynamics with exercises led by Ms. Roff.

Our mornings were filled with rich lectures given by visiting master teacher Georg Locher. He covered Rhythms in Teaching, The Pedagogy of the Arts, and Tuning the Instrument of Our Art. Throughout his lectures, he interwove child development, the four temperaments, quotes from Steiner's writings, anecdotes from his own personal experiences, and practical information, all without notes! We even had the pleasure of hearing him play the cello as we discussed the importance of fine tuning our own "instruments."

We broke for lunch, one day

graciously provided by Chef Biff, giving us an opportunity to talk and process what had been presented each morning. This was also a chance to connect and converse



with our colleagues with whom we never seem to have enough time to address concerns, challenges, and successes.

Our afternoons were given to artistic activities; Georg led us in clay sculpture and painting. His instruction and insights were inspirational and helpful. I learned a great deal from the exercises; although I can't say I was happy with my product, the process was a very positive learning experience. It was especially meaningful to be going through this in the company of fellow teachers.

We ended the week with "A



Journey through the School." Beginning in the Daisy Class, winding our way through the Early Childhood classes and up through the grades, interspersed with the specialty teachers, we all moved from room to room for a glimpse of something special that each and every teacher at Linden Corner School offers our children every day.

We completed the week tired but also inspired, grateful for the time to work with our colleagues, the chance to appreciate the hard work that goes on in our classrooms, and a clearer understanding of the philosophy behind it all.

—Sheri Scott,
Sunflower Kindergarten Class Teacher

CLASS STUDY BLOCKS

APRIL

1 Math—working with higher numbers including 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables, moving into first written multiplication and division; Class Play practice and performance; Begin Language Arts—introduction of lower case letters

2 Math through Forest Friends Story—continuation of carrying and borrowing, with new emphasis on estimating, continuation of the four processes; Begin Language Arts through Saints Legends

3 Arithmetic—focus on money; Begin Ecology—focus on farming and gardening

4 Fractions; Begin Tennessee History and Geography

5 Greek Mythology and History; Return to Geometry

6 Class Play; Geography

7 Physics—mechanics (with rescheduled guest teacher Stephen Sheen); Human Physiology

8 Modern History; Physics



Mrs. Ross's 5th grade class practices throwing the javelin in preparation for the Pentathlon being held in Atlanta this year. Good luck, 5th graders!

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FOOL'S GOLD

(continued from page 1)

for some, long-term physical, emotional, or intellectual developmental damage. Our children, the Surgeon General warns, are the most sedentary generation ever. Will they thrive spending even more time staring at screens?

Children need stronger personal bonds with caring adults. Yet powerful technologies are distracting children and adults from each other.

Children also need time for active, physical play; hands-on lessons of all kinds, especially in the arts; and direct experience of the natural world. Research shows these are not frills but are essential for healthy child development. Yet many schools have cut already minimal offerings in these areas to shift time and money to expensive, unproven technology. The emphasis on technology is diverting us from the urgent social and educational needs of low-income children. M.I.T. Professor Sherry Turkle has asked: "Are we using computer technology not because it teaches best but because we have lost the political will to fund education adequately?"

Let's examine the claims about computers and children more closely:

Do computers really motivate children to learn faster and better?

Children must start learning on computers as early as possible, we are told, to get a jump-start on success. But 30 years of research on educational technology has produced just one clear link between computers and children's learning. Drill-and-practice programs appear to improve scores modestly—though not as much or as cheaply as one-on-one tutoring—on some standardized tests in narrow skill areas, notes Larry Cuban of Stanford University. "Other than that," says Cuban, former president of the American Educational Research Association, "there is no clear, commanding body of evidence that students' sustained use of multimedia machines, the Internet, word processing, spreadsheets, and other popular applications has any impact on

academic achievement."

What is good for adults and older students is often inappropriate for youngsters. The sheer power of information technologies may actually hamper young children's intellectual growth. Face-to-face conversation with more competent language users, for example, is the one constant factor in studies of how children become expert speakers, readers, and writers. Time for real talk with parents and teachers is critical. Similarly, academic success requires focused attention, listening, and persistence.

The computer—like the TV—can be a mesmerizing babysitter. But many children, overwhelmed by the volume of data and flashy special effects of the World Wide Web and much software, have trouble focusing on any one task. And a new study from the American Association of University Women Educational Foundation casts doubt on the claim that computers automatically motivate learning. Many girls, it found, are bored by computers. And many boys seem more interested in violence and video games than educational software.

Must five-year-olds be trained on computers today to get the high-paying jobs of tomorrow?

For a relatively small number of children with certain disabilities, technology offers benefits. But for the majority, computers pose health hazards and potentially serious developmental problems. Of particular concern is the growing incidence of disabling repetitive stress injuries among students who began using computers in childhood.

The technology in schools today will be obsolete long before five-year-

olds graduate. Creativity and imagination are prerequisites for innovative thinking, which will never be obsolete in the workplace. Yet a heavy diet of ready-made computer images and programmed toys appears to stunt imaginative thinking. Teachers report that children in our electronic society are becoming alarmingly deficient in generating their own images and ideas.

Do computers really "connect" children to the world?

Too often, what computers actually connect children to are trivial games, inappropriate adult material, and aggressive advertising. They can also isolate children, emotionally and physically, from direct experience of the natural world. The "distance" education they promote is the opposite of what all children, and especially children at risk, need most—close relationships with caring adults.

Research shows that strengthening bonds between teachers, students, and families is a powerful remedy for troubled students and struggling schools. Overemphasizing technology can weaken those bonds. The National Science Board reported in 1998 that prolonged exposure to computing environments may create "individuals incapable of dealing with the messiness of reality, the needs of community

building, and the demands of personal commitments."

In the early grades, children need live lessons that engage their hands, hearts, bodies, and minds—not computer simulations. Even in high school, where the benefits of computers are more clear, too few technology classes emphasize the ethics or dangers of online research and communication. Too few help students develop the critical skills to make independent judgments about the potential for the Internet—or any other technology—to have negative as well as positive social consequences.

Those who place their faith in technology to solve the problems of education should look more deeply into the needs of children. The renewal of education requires personal attention to students from good teachers and active parents, strongly supported by their communities. It requires commitment to developmentally appropriate education and attention to the full range of children's real low-tech needs—physical, emotional, and social, as well as cognitive.

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LAURA ASKS



Mrs. Castle, 3rd Grade Class Teacher

She's having a baby! In case you haven't heard, Ms. Castle is expecting a baby in July. We are all thrilled for her, yet will miss her wonderful teaching here at Linden Corner. The good news is that we will never lose her in our community. I appreciate all she has brought to our school. Enjoy the interview with Jen Castle.

LD: I must start off with my congratulations, Mrs. Castle. You are starting your own family now. How are you and Grant feeling about the baby?

JC: I'd say a combination of excitement and trepidation. It's starting to feel more real as I grow bigger and bigger. We're going to let the gender be a surprise... and still haven't figured out any names. Grant thinks it should rhyme with Steiner.

LD: Speaking of family, I know you grew up in a family of 8 children. What was that like?

JC: I'm not sure when I realized our family was out of the norm, but it was probably sometime in my teenage years.. Up until then, fighting for bathroom time and the last piece of pizza on Friday nights was what every kid did. I think it was like a team, we all had our individual roles. I think we all get along better now, especially since we don't have to share such tight quarters. Seriously, we have a blast when we're all together. I can't imagine being an only child.

LD: What drew you to Waldorf education and how did you decide to become a Waldorf teacher?

JC: My nephew was a student here at LCS when I first heard of Waldorf. Whenever I would visit the school, one of the first things I noticed was how happy all the children were. All of the students liked school and liked learning. I knew something about the philosophy had to be right and I wanted to learn more about it.

LD: How is being a Waldorf teacher different from your previous teaching experience?

JC: Before teaching at LCS, I spent six years teaching at the Nashville School of the Arts. The first major adjustment I had to make when I came here was switching from working with teenagers to seven year olds. Aside from that, the greatest difference is learning how a child develops and learning an ever evolving curriculum that grows with them. In a very real sense, I must grow and change as the children do.

LD: What do you like most about Waldorf education?

JC: My favorite thing is watching a student get excited about something in the classroom. Whether it be a new subject block, a project, or a concept, the enthusiasm among the students is very contagious.

LD: I hear you are also quite a competitive athlete— Rugby, mountain & road bike racing, on-and-off road triathlons, running. How did you get involved in these? Do you have a favorite? Why?

JC: I got involved in biking when I moved to Nashville in 1994. I didn't have a car and eventually started working at a local bike shop. I started going on group rides and next thing I knew I was racing. I guess I started playing rugby on a whim. I used to watch my brother play, and although confusing to understand always thought it would be fun. It is one of those games that I feel builds confidence in many different ways. The physical contact can be intimidating at first, but once you have learned the technique it's not nearly as violent as one might think. I like the team aspect of rugby, but being on the trails is my favorite.

LD: And finally, are you craving any certain flavor paleta?

JC: I've only had a couple of flavors, but I'd say I lean toward the tart ones.



—Laura Duke,
LCS Parent and Enrollment Coordinator.

LINDEN SEEDS STORE



Best Little Toy Store in Nashville



Have you ever gone into a toy store

with your children and found yourself captivated by the fun? The Linden Seeds Store is the best little toy store in Nashville, so you'll definitely find yourself captivated, inspired, and delighted with the wonderful toys, games and craft supplies on its shelves. However, to keep it open and make it accessible, we need parent volunteers to staff it. This is a wonderful way to have fun, benefit our school, meet other parents and teachers, and catch up on a little shopping of our own! Please contact **Alex von Hoffmann** at **292.9243** if you are interested in helping keep the Linden Seeds Store open for our school community.

Advertise in the Linden Corner Leaflet!

Put your message in front of the entire Linden Corner Community while helping to support the school's outreach efforts. We accept both classified and display ads. For more information, contact Anna Bridgers, asbridgers@bellsouth.net.

If you are interested in working on the



please contact Ellen Bibb or Anna Bridgers

Ellen: 554-2274 or epbibb@aol.com

Anna: 269-7371 or asbridgers@bellsouth.net

We would **LOVE** to have your help.

Television

The most important thing we've learned,
So far as children are concerned,
Is never, NEVER, NEVER let
Them near your television set—
Or better still, just don't install
The idiotic thing at all.
In almost every house we've been,
We've watched them gaping at the screen.
They loll and slop and lounge about,
And stare until their eyes pop out.
(Last week in someone's place we saw
A dozen eyeballs on the floor.)
They sit and stare and stare and sit
Until they're hypnotised by it,
Until they're absolutely drunk
With all that shocking ghastly junk.
Oh yes, we know it keeps them still,
They don't climb out the window sill,
They never fight or kick or punch,
They leave you free to cook the lunch
And wash the dishes in the sink—
But did you ever stop to think,
To wonder just exactly what
This does to your beloved tot?
IT ROTTS THE SENSE IN THE HEAD!
IT KILLS IMAGINATION DEAD!
IT CLOGS AND CLUTTERS UP THE MIND!
IT MAKES A CHILD SO DULL AND BLIND
HE CAN NO LONGER UNDERSTAND
A FANTASY, A FAIRYLAND!
HIS BRAIN BECOMES AS SOFT AS CHEESE!
HIS POWERS OF THINKING RUST AND FREEZE!
HE CANNOT THINK—HE ONLY SEES!
'All right!' you'll cry. 'All right!' you'll say,
'But if we take the set away,
What shall we do to entertain
Our darling children? Please explain!
We'll answer this by asking you,
'What used the darling ones to do?
'How used they keep themselves contented
Before this monster was invented?
Have you forgotten? Don't you know?
We'll say it very loud and slow:
THEY ... USED ... TO ... READ! They'd READ and READ,
AND READ and READ, and then proceed
To READ some more. Great Scott! Gadzooks!
One half their lives was reading books!

The nursery shelves held books galore!
Books cluttered up the nursery floor!
And in the bedroom, by the bed,
More books were waiting to be read!
Such wondrous, fine, fantastic tales
Of dragons, gypsies, queens, and whales
And treasure isles, and distant shores
Where smugglers rowed with muffled oars,
And pirates wearing purple pants,
And sailing ships and elephants,
And cannibals crouching 'round the pot,
Stirring away at something hot.
(It smells so good, what can it be?
Good gracious, it's Penelope.)
The younger ones had Beatrix Potter
With Mr. Tod, the dirty rotter,
And Squirrel Nutkin, Pigling Bland,
And Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle and—
Just How The Camel Got His Hump,
And How the Monkey Lost His Rump,
And Mr. Toad, and bless my soul,
There's Mr. Rate and Mr. Mole—
Oh, books, what books they used to know,
Those children living long ago!
So please, oh please, we beg, we pray,
Go throw your TV set away,
And in its place you can install
A lovely bookshelf on the wall.
Then fill the shelves with lots of books,
Ignoring all the dirty looks,
The screams and yells, the bites and kicks,
And children hitting you with sticks—
Fear not, because we promise you
That, in about a week or two
Of having nothing else to do,
They'll now begin to feel the need
Of having something good to read.
And once they start—oh boy, oh boy!
You watch the slowly growing joy
That fills their hearts. They'll grow so keen
They'll wonder what they'd ever seen
In that ridiculous machine,
That nauseating, foul, unclean,
Repulsive television screen!
And later, each and every kid
Will love you more for what you did.

Roald Dahl