



# Edge Hill Country School

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[www.edgehill-school.com](http://www.edgehill-school.com)

*Newsletter: March 2011*



*A form painting in the Larkspur Class.*

## *News from the Board*

*Diane Ferguson*

*Chair, Board of Directors*

I'd like to wish everyone a happy and healthy March break and I am hoping we can enjoy some spring weather!

The board and faculty met on February 6<sup>th</sup> for a five-hour visioning and planning meeting. We spent the greater part of the meeting visioning toward a three to five-year plan. It was great to get both board and faculty together for a shared vision of Edge Hill's future. Kimm Culkin volunteered to help us in re-imagining our mission statement.

The last part of the meeting was directed towards next year. We decided to raise the base tuition \$100. We felt that incremental yearly increases were better for sustainability

than large increases at a later date. The base tuition is now \$6,100. If you agree to volunteer for the school, there is a \$1000 deduction off the base tuition. (All sibling discounts are calculated off the base tuition.)

However, if you sign up by June 1<sup>st</sup> with a one-month deposit and at least one post-dated cheque (September 1), there will be a \$100 discount off the base tuition. Effectively, you will get next year's tuition at this year's rate.

Example for a parent who pays early and volunteers:

\$6,100 base tuition

-(1,000) volunteer credit

- ( 100) early sign-up credit

\$5,000 base tuition for the first child attending.

Sibling discounts to be calculated against this amount.

The Kindergarten supply fee will be \$75 next year. All other supply fees remain the same.

If you haven't done so already, please submit your intention forms for next year. It really helps make it easier to plan.

Elisa Vanderhout has decided to take on a Waldorf bookstore. Many thanks for providing this service! Please see Elisa if you're looking for books for yourself or your children.

Thanks to May Tettero and Marcia Cunningham and the many volunteers who put on a great contra dance in February! And thanks to the band, Scatter the Cats, for providing the entertainment.

Thanks to Jennifer Clark and David Sugarman and family for preparing and supplying the food for the Tyler Yarema show.

And thanks to all the others working behind the scenes that keep Edge Hill humming along. And many thanks to the faculty who put so much of themselves into our school.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

### March 14

First week of March break begins

### March 21

Second week of March break begins

### April 15-16

Gateways conference for parents and educators of young children. At the Toronto Waldorf School, this conference is an enlivening and inspiration-filled event with keynote speaker Sharifa Oppenheimer on "Love's Other Name: Discipline. There is also a variety of workshops. Brochures are at the school.

## DANCING . . .

The February contra dance succeeded in bringing out many new and experienced folk to gather in community, music and movement. Thank you to all who helped and to May Tettero for organizing.

Tyler Yarema and his rhythm orchestra . . . what a swinging band! Thank you to Barney Barningham and Mark Mariash for involving the school in this event.

## PARENT AND CHILD

### *Imitation, Movement, and Pictures*

Please finalize your plans with Millie Johne if you wish to attend the spring Parent and Child classes.

Sessions include free play and social time, circle and story, crafts, snack, articles and discussion about Waldorf education.

The cost is \$8 a session. Contact the school at [info@edgehill-school.com](mailto:info@edgehill-school.com) or 519-369-3195 or Millie Johne at 519-922-3168.

## Art as a Spiritual Activity

Facilitated by Leigh Mellor  
with guest artists

*An exploration of The Seven Liberal Arts  
through artistic expression and contemplation*

Remaining workshops include:

April 10

**Acting** "The Mystery Dramas" Kimm Culkin

May 15

**Architecture** "Sacred Space" Mike McKelvey

June 12

**Dance** "Inspired Movement" Janice Fisher

**Artistic workshops to be held the main building  
at Edge Hill Country School**

1:00pm-4:00pm

1:00-2:00 Conversation about art in Waldorf  
Education      2:00-4:00 Artistic Activity

**\$15 per Sunday, including materials**

Call Leigh Mellor at 519 369-1654 or 519 369-3195  
to register

(Please note that one does not have to take all eight  
classes to participate)

## Class News

### Linden Kindergarten

Marie-Eve Perreault



February's shifty weather has made it challenging to live into the wintery woodcutting circle play with softly falling snow. The thaws and deep freezes have inspired a breathing quality that already permeates our days and gives us the opportunity to be in the moment. On very cold days (or very rainy days) when we spend a shorter time outdoors in the morning, we have time to play zoo exercise games inside. These

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are helpful for body mapping and working out those early movement patterns and reflexes.

On one particularly crisp February morning we had our winter farm visit at the Saugeen River CSA, home of Cory and Tanya, Georgia and Stefano. A horse-drawn sleigh ride was the highlight, allowing us to be with the expansive blue sky, sparkling snow and a view of the sunflower stalks that the children planted last year. Thank you Farmer Cory! Looking ahead to spring which is around the March-break corner, we're planning to get back into the gardens and connect with the growing life forces, both at school and at the CSA.

Story time has matured into a four-week rhythm. I tell the story for two weeks, there is a puppet play for the third week, and children act the story while I tell it for the fourth week. The children would have been happy to keep it going the following week. Repetition helps them build imaginative living pictures which resonate with them. The drama week seems to be a favourite, and the children often choose to play it again and again at free-play time.

We have enjoyed playing circle transition games after quiet time in the afternoon, mostly traditional seeking games the children love playing over and over again. These games lead us into our closing circle and verse. "We thank the earth, we thank the sun and sky. The warmth of our hearts we share with everyone."

## Lavender Class

*Leigh Mellor*



*I'm the little Ricky Douse  
Living in a little house  
doing doo-dle-dee dee doo  
doing rom bom bom!  
Here comes Ricky Douse along!*

The Lavender class has been working very hard at their recorder so that Ricky Douse will come closer to their window and enjoy listening to their playing. Ricky Douse is a friend of the Lavender gnome who lives in a little house across the field. He has very sensitive ears and only comes close to the school when he hears recorder music that is played softly and beautifully. The Lavender Class is doing very well with the pentatonic recorder and is happy to have the Grade 2 class join them once a week. I am certain that Ricky Douse has spent some happy moments listening by the window.

The class is just completing a language arts block where fairytales have been the focus. We have a fairytale table that comes alive with each tale told. The scene changes on the table to capture a moment in the story. The students live deeply into the stories and love to recall, retell and re-enact the story in various ways. They colourfully depict the story and describe it in their main lesson books. Punctuation has been the grammatical focus of this block and I am pleased to hear the students say "Let's go outside exclamation mark or what time is it question mark." We continue to work on letter and word recognition, rhyming, tongue twisters, and verse.

In the week before March break the class is focussing on form drawing, especially running and mirroring forms. We will be sure to walk various forms in the snow before it is gone.

The Lavender Class has also completed a second mathematics block on the four processes and will start a third block after March break. The focus will be on number sentences and becoming more fluid in the four processes on paper. They will also sew their own mathematical gnomes to represent the four processes. Oral math games and movement will be important aspects of this block.

It has been a wonderful second term in the Lavender Class and we wish everyone a joyful March break.

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## Larkspur Class

Christina Schwarz



*'Tis the blessing of the sun that has warmed the fields  
And brought forth the golden grain.  
Now the fields stand reaped of their gift of gold  
And we give thanks again.*

During February the Larkspur students have spent their morning main lesson time divided into the two grades. The Grade 2s were with myself learning all about selflessness and service to others as we explored the Saints and their Friendly Beasts. The friendly beasts ranged from spiders to wolves and performed some miraculous feats. We learned about not compromising what you believe in and the power good deeds can have. The students were quite engaged in the drawings for this block, especially some beautiful renderings of the face of Saint Felix that they were invited to show to the Lotus Class.

The Grade 3s seemed just as interested in their Hebrew studies, drawing, for example, a two-page spread of Noah's Ark. Clay animals were sculpted in pairs. They also wove cloth of many colors together, honoring Joseph and his cloak of many colors. A verse was learned in Hebrew!

We are now all together again for main lesson and are learning about the seven grains and how they feed the world's people. We have begun with corn. The fun part of this subject is baking and sampling the results. So far we've made corn cakes and Larkspur Class scones. As we bake we are getting an introduction to measurement, the main lesson block coming after March break. The class heard the legend of the Corn Goddess and how she helped bring corn and fire to the native peoples. Everyone



painted beautiful Corn Goddesses floating in the blue sky leading Two Feather along. We also practiced some corn math, multiplying and dividing to find out just how many corn kernels were in a row of corn and how many corn plants would be in those extra fields.

Our novel, *The Birch Bark House*, was completed. I provided each student with two new pieces of modelling wax that they used to make many wonderful representations relating to the book. We are also working on bead work pendants, imitating the native women in the novel who beaded as they gathered around the fire telling stories during the long winter months. We will continue learning cursive writing during skills classes. We will also continue modelling.

Everyone enjoyed the Valentine's teddy bear picnic. We were introduced to cute stuffies and cute pajamas. The class had memorized a poem about the fated romance of Antonio and recited it with much drama to the other classes.

Math skills are improving steadily and each student now has a math workbook in which to



Board drawing: Larkspur Class

practice column math with plenty of carrying and borrowing. Multiplication time tables are being recited and practised in a variety of ways. Following the patterns of our rhythm sticks during morning circle is fun for the class as they repeat the increasingly complicated patterns I present.

At recess students are snowboarding, making forts, and flying over their ramps on the blue saucers. On this recreational note, I hope that everyone enjoys March break immensely.

## Lotus Class

Lise Gunby



Having just returned from the musical section of the Seven Liberal Arts Workshops at the school, I write this summary of Lotus Class experiences with song very much in mind. At

present we are reading aloud *The Kalevala*, the great Finnish epic with the ancient (historical and aged!) hero, Vainamoinen, at its centre. Vainamoinen sings the world into being. He “battles” with other heroes to establish who is the most powerful at creating through song.



*Pohja, the northern land of cold and mist, in the Kalevala – a Grade 5 watercolour.*

Students have also heard Finnish folk music (which sounds to my untrained ear, at least, like Inuit throat singing). I wish we had more time to lavish on our explorations of creation and this unique myth. Rudolf Steiner once said that the Kalevala will be as important for our future as the ancient stories of Greece have been in our past. Certainly the stories contain an unusual magic.

Our main lesson block has been “Home and Native Land,” a study of Ontario and then Canadian geography. We began with the story of *Paddle to the Sea*, which follows a little carved Native in a canoe from Nipissing country through the Great Lakes system and out the St. Lawrence to the sea. Many of the students have completed their modeling and painting of a little canoe and “paddle person.” Now we are conducting a study of the provinces (thirteen students and thirteen provinces and territories): a very apt arrangement!

Concurrently, the Lotus students have been finishing their study of form drawing and geometry, which included explorations of Euclidean geometry as well as beautifully

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rendered designs, both freehand and using “straightedge and compass” to explore themes of “straight and curved.” Students also formed three-dimensional models in clay of spheres, cubes, and tetrahedrons. In math skills classes, we have been practising fractions and learning about decimals. A host of computation skills, from divisibility rules to prime numbers, complements these two major conceptual and practical areas of study.



*The canoe and “big sky”: Canadian icons. Watercolour by Nicholas Mustapha, Grade 5.*

Congratulations to those students- Malcolm Bainborough, Tessie Bainborough, Lyjah Mellor, and Gabriel Sugarman - and to Jaimie Bainborough from the Laurel Class for writing heartfelt and intelligent speeches which they had the courage to share at the Legion speech competition.

Please watch for our “foyer fundraiser” at the end of March. We will be practising our math skills while raising money to pay for a visit from Mr. Meccano, who has made a mission of bringing construction with meccano to school children. Expect odd prices such as \$1.37 so we can practice making change! Any donations of quality items that someone in the immediate community might enjoy would be appreciated.

Our skiing and snowboarding trips to Talisman were experiences of growth and personal-best challenges. Many thanks to the parents who made the time and sacrificed the gas money to drive to the hills.

## Laurel Class

Liza McIntosh



Well, spring is almost here already! The Laurel Class has had a busy winter. We had a “shockingly” good time studying electricity, ending with the children assembling their own robots, which was great fun. We then looked at heat. This block included a number of experiments, some more successful than others! We have now returned to math and are learning about charts and graphs. You may be included in a survey soon!

We have spent more time this winter working on geometrical drawing, including some challenging perspective drawing. Jen has taken us through some painting and drawing exercises including the human form. The Laurel students joined the Lotus Class for circle for a few weeks and enjoyed the chance to be in a larger group. Coming “home” was also appreciated. The children have also enjoyed the contra dancing on Thursdays.

With warmer weather in April we are looking forward to spending more time outside and perhaps some more field trips. We will be looking at the stars and following the explorers across the oceans. Enjoy the March break!

### **REMINDER to parents and visitors**

Edge Hill is a peanut and tree-nut free school. Please be mindful in preparing lunches and take care to come to school with clean hands and face after a nutty breakfast. Please check snacks or crafts.

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**Thank you, school parents, for the nourishing soups! – the faculty**

**Please remember that pick-up time at the end of the school day should be no later than 3:30 p.m.**

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