



Edge Hill Country School

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519-369-3195

www.edgehill-school.com

Newsletter: May 2011



Edge Hill students greet the spring!

SPRING CLEANING

There will be a work bee over three days – please plan to come for one.

Friday, May 13: 9am – 3pm

Saturday, May 14: 9am – 3pm

Sunday, May 15: 9am – 1pm

(just before the architecture workshop of the Seven Liberal Arts series)

Tasks : gardening, painting, deep cleaning, and odd-jobs

CLASS AND STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHS

Marc will be taking individual and group photos on Tuesday, May 10 (there will be a second day in case of absentees on Thursday, May 19). All will receive 4x6 proofs of their child and of their class; extra prints can be ordered.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Monday, May 23

Long-weekend Monday

Thursday-Friday, May 26-27

Grade 5 participates in the Greek Olympiad

Saturday, May 28

May Fair

THANK YOU

Thank you to all for participating in our Contra Dance in April. Mike McKelvey put together a great team to provide a most yummy meal and, as always, the generosity of May Tettero and Scatter The Cats was appreciated. It was a great fundraiser and, just as importantly, a wonderful night for Edge Hill and contra-dancers alike.

PARENT AND CHILD

Imitation, Movement, and Pictures

The spring Parent and Child classes are in session. They 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 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:

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**

\$15 per Sunday, including materials

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

given the opportunity for our older Kindergarten children to take up more responsibility at snack time and snack clean-up and they have taken it up with pride.

*Spring is coming, spring is coming
Birdies build your nest
Weave together straw and feather
Doing each your best.*

Some favourite springtime songs are back along with the greening of the lawn and the return of the robins. What a renewing and invigorating time of year this is, with tender growth and new life. It is wonderful to observe this in nature as well as in our children. We are looking forward to our gardening field trips scheduled throughout May at the CSA and living even more closely with our verses and blessings:

*Mother Earth, Mother Earth,
take our seed and give it birth
Father Sun, gleam and glow
'til the roots begin to grow
Sister Rain, Sister Rain
shed thy tears to swell the grain
Brother Wind, breeze and blow
that our blade all green will grow
Earth and Sun, Wind and Rain,
turn to gold our living grain.*

Lavender Class

Leigh Mellor



*There piped a piper in the wood.
Strange music - soft and sweet.
And all the little wild things came hurrying
to her feet.
They sat around her on the grass,
Enchanted, unafraid.
And listened, as with shining eyes, sweet melodies
she made.*

Class News

Linden Kindergarten

Marie-Eve Perreault



From March to April we have lived through some shifts with the Grade 1 Lavender Class weaving less into the Kindergarten. This has

*The wood grew green, and flowers sprang up.
The birds began to sing.
For the music it was magic and the piper's name
was – Spring!*

Spring has certainly sprung in the Lavender Class and the nature table is bursting with colour and life. The root children are waking up and getting everything ready for spring. Bugs are all polished up and flowers are peeping out to share the beauty of their colours.

Circle time is filled with spring songs for singing and recorder playing in addition to various springtime verses. We are unfurling from bud to blossom and stretching out our branches as we sing songs of growth and bloom. In addition to clapping and counting by ones, twos, threes, fours, fives and tens in circle we are bringing our counting practice into skipping. Rain or shine we have been skipping every day since March break and loving it! The class is having fun learning songs that not only work on counting but on the days of the week and months of the year. The class is getting better and advancing using turns and motions while jumping rope. When the ground gets nice and dry the hope is to get pairs in together and work on running in and out.

During main lesson the Lavender Class has been focusing on the story Satchkin Patchkin. This is a delightful story about a little green magic man who lives like a leaf in the apple tree. He befriends Mother Farthing and together they outwit the farmer who is a lean man, a mean man, a man without a smile. In the process Mother Farthing transforms her house and her life and everything is brought into rightful order. The blackboard drawing changes as the story of Satchkin Patchkin progresses. This block is a longer block that is combining mathematics and language arts. Both are weaving together nicely and the class is deepening both subjects during extra skills classes.

Now that the Kindergarten children are taking responsibility for snack preparation, it is time for the Lavender Class to extend a warm thank you to Marie-Eve and the Linden Class for graciously having us at the snack table this year: we miss the wonderful snacks!

Sewing continues to be something that the Lavender Class students enjoy. They completed their mathematical gnomes in time to bring home for Easter and are getting ready to start crowns for the May Fair. In painting we have been bursting with the rainbow colours and will be starting a colour story that will unfold for the next six weeks. This story will be about the red and golden sun fairies, the blue rain fairies and the green plant children. It will progress in such a way that the students will be able to live into the play of colour relationships.

The Lavender Class had a marvelous time preparing for Easter and the 'wake up spring' walk.

Larkspur Class

Christina Schwarz



Spring has certainly energized our Larkspur students. Most seem to be in extra good spirits these days. We have finished with learning all about grains that fuel the world's populace and sometimes even the cars they drive. The block involved baking and cooking, using the grains of course. We even cooked up some modeling clay. The recipes were a great lead-in to the next block on measurement. For each grain there was a fable or folktale as well as a mathematics exercise. It was doubling grains of rice each subsequent day for thirty days that was the favorite.

Measurement has been a fun block with many hands-on activities. We measured various items in the classroom with the cubit rulers students made using their own body's dimensions. We went in pairs to measure outside under quite blustery conditions using a more standard 6-inch ruler and still the results varied substantially. We have just finished measuring ourselves to have outfits made at both Illy's Imperial Inn and Marty's Metric Manor. The Larkspur Kingdom's fair princess is to be married and we needed something new to wear to the royal ball.

The class has memorized a poem that they will recite at Edge Hill's upcoming talent show. They are also diligently working on getting those times tables memorized. We took round discs of wood, hammered in ten nails in a circle and have been creating number pattern designs with string.

We made nests as close as possible to how birds would make theirs. What a mess in the classroom! Then we used our homemade clay to sculpt robin's eggs. Next we painted them robin's egg blue. Somewhere in between we painted big fat robins during painting class. For homework, we observed robins to see how they behaved and now we are learning a poem that seems to describe a robin very well. We also have a real robin visitor that has been repeatedly throwing itself at our window for the past three days!

For Thursday paragraph we inspected and measured our own plants for changes. Wow, have they grown! We wrote about and illustrated what we observed.

Everyone is looking forward to drama. We will be working on the year-end performance as our final block this year. It seems there are quite a few students in the Larkspur Class who like to be in the spotlight, so I'm sure most will relish the opportunity to shine onstage.

Thanks again to all my parents for supporting me. Rosemary and P.J. are busy with the Grade

3 building project. P.J. has been coming in all year to teach recorder. Christine teaches French once a week. Aiyana helped us form and eat sinfully delicious chocolate for Easter. Allison is helping in the class and has donated yardsticks. Mark repaired our door. Jennifer is helping with our ant visitors. Elisa will plant grains with the class soon. Marie-Eve helps by lending us pots and rolling pins from her Kindergarten. Thank you!

Lotus Class

Lise Gunby



The months after March break seem to overflow with events. After a winter of indoor order, we come to a season of burgeoning activity. In April the Lotus Class enjoyed three weeks with student teacher Leah Herman, who brought beautiful songs, movement, and main lesson assistance. We also enjoyed a half-day with Mr. Meccano, who brought his enormous collection of meccano and a lesson in levers and simple machines. Thank you to all of those who donated items for our "foyer fundraiser," which raised enough to cover the cost of Mr. Meccano's visit (not to mention a pizza lunch).

We have finished the Kalevala (that was a pun, you know, as the Kalevala is a Finnish epic - sorry), and it is with regret we leave behind its triumvirate of heroes as well as the witch and the maiden of Pohja and the magic of the northlands. Our main lesson is taken up by Norse mythology (Grade 4) and Ancient Greece (Grade 5). Despite the rigours of a double-grade classroom, we also can enjoy the doubleness of our studies, and find the similarities and differences in the pantheons and stories of two very different cultures. We see that human beings aspire to much the same ideals and share many of the same fears, though often in different guises and in ways

that reflect the uniqueness of their respective landscapes and natural environments. Thank you to Josh Thornton for sharing his knowledge of the Norse runes with the class, and thank you to Marc Fortin for slicing a branch into a collection of wooden “coins” which we transformed into rune pendants.

In conjunction with the Greek study, the Grade 5s are preparing for the Greek Olympiad at the Toronto Waldorf School, where we will meet other Waldorf students from across Ontario and into the U.S. to display “beauty, grace, and form” in five events, including javelin and discus.

Thank you to Simon Mellor for volunteering to come out on Fridays to give the class extra practice time. An extra-special laurel wreath goes to our “sewing goddess,” Gillian Mellor, for stitching all of our tunics and also sewing additional tunics for our class play. We have begun our odyssey of practices for our play (which is about Odysseus), and will be figuring out how to play about forty roles with thirteen students.



Persephone tastes four seeds of the pomegranate, which means she must stay in the underworld for half the year with Hades. Happily, she has recently returned to earth, bringing spring.

We have also been enjoying sessions of drama with Kimm Culkin, who brings not only expertise and a wealth of dramatic exercises and activities, but a marvelous richness of understanding with respect to what drama has to offer young people (and all of us): giving, trusting, sharing, risking, and exploring are just a few of the underlying elements in the alchemy of her classes, which are also simply great fun.

Thanks also to Aiyana Hartan for yoga classes, and to Jennifer Clark for helping to choose the paintings of Lotus and Laurel students which are now in the schools exhibition at the Tom Thomson Gallery in Owen Sound. (Jen also teaches art to the Laurel Class.)

Over Easter week we tried out psyanky wands on our Easter eggs, and gained a new respect for those who master this art form! We also hatched thirty chicks which we had incubated. It was quite a week, with chicks in pockets, on pencils, in hoods, and on heads and shoulders during class time. Somehow, too, the children could tell them apart, and many lucky little chickens were named and very well socialized.

Laurel Class

Liza McIntosh



The Laurel Class has spent the past few weeks working on a language block. We have had several wonderful visitors who spoke to us about writing. Dawna Proudman gave us a fun afternoon of poetry. We had many laughs with Bob Bainborough, who introduced us to comedic writing. Jarmo Jalava sang some of his songs for us and helped us write a song, and Alison Wearing shared her experiences of writing a novel. We are so lucky to have such talented people in our community. Thanks to all: we loved every minute you spent with us.

We are now traveling around the world with the explorers, and hope to spend a bit of time exploring outdoors now that spring has arrived. A birding walk is planned for this month and also some orienteering. Mike McKelvey is going to be doing some woodcarving with us soon. We have been joining the Lotus Class for drama with Kimm Culkin, who will be helping with our end-of-year play. We have plenty to fit in to the last months of school!

MAY FAIR

Crocuses are up, daffodils are blooming and tulips are peeking through, which means that at Edge Hill we are busy planning our annual May Fair. This event, part open house, part spring celebration, will be taking place this year at Edge Hill on May 28 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. As always, the day will be sunny (!) and filled with good food, live music, fantastic vendors selling arts and crafts and handmade items, wonderful activities for the children and, of course, the May Pole dance. There will also be a Silent Auction (donations appreciated; e-mail marcia_cunningham@hotmail.com), and two instructional drumming circles geared towards the kids (or the kid in you!). Please join us as we celebrate spring at Edge Hill - and please bring your friends along!

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

EDGE HILL COUNTRY SCHOOL

1986 25 years 2011

May Fair

28th

Games
May Pole
Arts & Crafts
Story Telling
Live Music
Drumming

11am to 4pm

Vendors
Food
Plants
Toys
Silent Auction

\$5 for children's activities, adults by donation

tel. 519.369.3195
www.edgehill-school.com
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Con. 2 at Con. 6
north east
of Durham

NUT FREE SCHOOL ZONE
WE'RE NUT FREE!

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.

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