



ACACIA WALDORF SCHOOL
Educating the Child: Head ~ Heart ~ Hands

AWS Bulletin

SY 2016-2017 – Issue No. 1 (June 2016)

MESSAGE FROM THE COLLEGE OF TEACHERS

June 22, 2016

Dear Acacia Community,

Welcome to School Year 2016 – 2017! We are so happy to see all the students back in school filling the classrooms and school grounds with their vibrant energy and eager faces. “What will I learn this school year? What will I learn today?” Self-development is the essence of a school community, the desire of every individual “to grow and become.” When we as adults remain open and humbly ask these questions of ourselves constantly, we can be sure the children we surround will follow suit.

There are many aspects to the life of a school community. Celebrating festivals play an integral role in its spiritual life. On the one hand, it brings rhythm, regularity, and thus a sense of security in one’s life. On the other hand, as we look forward to these joyful celebrations, it creates a sense of anticipation, excitement, and expectation. It also gives us reason to pause during our busy everyday lives and reflect on the essential, on that part of us that is eternal.

The significance of festivals is often reflected in the movements of nature. Having crossed the summer solstice (June 21) we celebrate a very important festival of the year, The Feast of St. John the Baptist on June 24, also known as St. John’s Tide Day. We recall his cry in the wilderness, “Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him” (Mark 1:3). As the earth gradually journeys towards shorter days and longer nights, this festival inspires us towards introspection, an inward spiraling to meet the self, and a commitment to the transformation and renewal of mind and heart. How appropriate that the rains have slowly but clearly made their presence felt with sudden, brief, heavy afternoon downpours, just enough to cool the air and gently wash away the grime and cleanse the grounds and pathways.

Wishing you all a meaningful and blessed St. John’s Festival!

With our warmest regards,
Trina Galvez
For the College of Teachers

“Essentially, there is no education other than self- education, whatever the level may be.”

- Rudolf Steiner

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

June

4	New Parent Orientation (9-11AM)
8	Rose Ceremony (8:30AM) General Assembly/Parent Orientation
9	GS Opening of Classes (Half-day) US Opening of Classes (Whole day)
12	Independence Day
13	GS/US Regular Classes
15	Kinder Opening of Classes Kinder Class Orientation (11 A.M.)
20	Pre-Kinder Opening of Classes
24	St. John's Festival
27	Adult-Toddler Parent's Orientation

July

4	Adult-Toddler Opening of Classes
6	Eidl Fitr (Holiday/TBC)
7	ID Picture-Taking (New Students Only)
	St John's Tide Conversation with Raph Lazo (9-11AM)
12	Parent Council Carrier General Assembly (10-1PM)
19	Kinder Household Orientation
26	Parent Education
27-29	Pre-School Health Break
28-29	Grade School/Upper School Health Break

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We encourage everyone to be part of our [Parents' Participation Program](#) by rendering a minimum of 10 hours of service or participation to any of the school activities indicated below including talks, book studies and other community work. Kindly fill-out the form given to you by your Main Teachers and signify your interest in one or more of the following committees:

The Special Needs Committee aims to provide support for parents/guardians/caregivers of differently-abled students. We will work with the faculty, and other parent groups to ensure that the school's infrastructure, curriculum, food provisions, and medical aid are all inclusive of the needs of these students. Supplementary lessons will also be explored to ensure holistic education for their present and future needs as young adults.

The Food Committee is a team of parents who strives towards creating a school canteen that focuses on serving a variety of nutritious and inclusive Filipino food at affordable prices.

The School Farm Group will develop a K-12 farming curriculum consistent with holistic agriculture and Waldorf education. We will work closely with the farming teacher to train faculty, educate and inspire students, and provide the farm venue appropriate to the lessons.

The Design Group will create and transmit a cohesive aesthetic identity for AWS that is Waldorf-inspired, developmentally-appropriate for children of all ages, and infused with our Filipino heritage.

The Events Group will help organize community events regularly in support of the different groups. Our purpose is to raise awareness, bring community together, raise funds, develop event goals, objectives and ideas, organize teams, set dates, event branding, marketing (plan with a design group, develop the website and social media) logistics, get sponsors.

The Store will be developed as a community service to provide parents and visitors with unique, beautifully crafted items, craft materials, handmade toys, gifts and school supplies at a reasonable price. Parent volunteers operate the school store.

The Science Lab Parent Group will improve science teaching and learning at AWS by supporting science teachers in organizing the upcoming Science Week ; by identifying funding sources for upgrading the currently existing infrastructure; by exploring international quality science education and 21st century science skills and how to incorporate them into the AWS Science curriculum; by supporting Science teacher training activities;

The Library Group will work on making the library an efficient, well organized friendly place where users can study, read, browse, obtain information of all kinds and borrow books.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Rose Ceremony



Welcoming our Grade One Class Maya with 22 cheerful learners together with their Main Teacher Roa Bondoc.

In the morning of June 8, the Acacia Waldorf School officially opened the new School Year 2016-2017 by warmly welcoming both the old and new students with the Rose Ceremony.

"In Waldorf schools effort is made to observe significant moments in childhood and to celebrate these with rituals that have meaning for children. The Rose Ceremony in Waldorf schools around the world has a long tradition reaching back to the very first Waldorf school.

The ceremony at the school's beginning is designed for the oldest students in the school (8th grade or 12th grade) to welcome in the youngest children. Leaving kindergarten and entering first grade is an enormous shift for children. Watching the exchange between the older students and the youngest students in the school is always very touching, very intimate. Little ones look up to these bigger students with real awe and admiration. The older students remember their own first days at school and see in the rose the complex and beautiful living thing they have become in their years at school." (<http://www.waldorfpublishations.org/blogs/book-news/29067713-the-rose-ceremony-in-waldorf-schools>).

The day continued to be so remarkable with the introduction of the teachers and staff, followed by the General Assembly and class orientation. Mr. Gippy Tantoco, the President of the Board of Trustees encouraged the parents to fully set their vision and commit themselves to the growth of the school community.



Our talented and gifted teachers and staff who welcomed everyone with their angelic voices as they rendered the songs



Our dynamic Parent Council Carriers introduced themselves and set ablaze the fire of enthusiasm as they shared how the parents can take part in supporting the children and the school hand-in-hand.

EVENTS

New Parents' Orientation

Thirteen years ago, pioneering parents planted the seeds and paved the way to bring Waldorf Education to our Filipino families in the South of Manila. The courage and commitment to serve the children kept the mission alive and clear. On June 4, a few days before the opening of classes, the new members of the community gathered together to understand and share this same impulse.



Our School Administrator, Ma. Clarita D. Nuevo introduced the members of the community and discussed important matters pertaining to school policies.

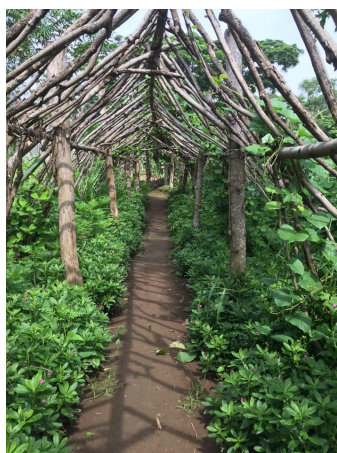


The Farm Shed Café - A Place to Gather

Come and treat yourself to a delicious, healthy, freshly roasted and brewed Americano (black, please, no sugar), have a healthy snack, try the kiwi juice, enjoy the art, maybe do a little art or handwork yourself, or just spend time to relax and catch short and meaningful conversations with like minds and kindred spirits, all happening at the new Farm Shed Café right in our school farm. Be inspired!



Meet our friendly Farm Shed Café' staff



FEATURED ARTICLE

The Festival of the Human Being (2007, By Panjee Tapales)

If there's something that truly gets my goat, it's the fairly recent expression, "sorry po, tao lang!" (sorry, I'm only human) said in a most irritating, flippant and dismissive manner. I can't stand it because it exemplifies such a backward consciousness that so grossly undervalues humanity. It is such a monumental cop-out that implies a spiritual untruth: that being human is an excuse for failure.

I write about this today as we celebrate The Festival of St. John, which is also known as The Festival of the Human Being because it is the only Christian festival that honors a human being—an extraordinary one but a human being just the same—John the Baptist.

I have been reading stories of St. John to the children and one of them tells how he could see the true being of everyone before him. If a man spoke lies, he would see toads slipping out of his mouth. If he saw someone of virtue, he would see light emanating from him. His message to humanity was simple: change. He knew the Christ was coming and that every human being had to change to be able to recognize and be saved by him. The relevance of this message has not dimmed.

From my readings, I gathered that St. John's Tide is also a time for renewing the human conscience, though not so much the kind of everyday conscience that plays itself out in our personal lives. It has more to do with the collective conscience of humanity. Who are we and what are we to each other, the world, the universe, and the spiritual world? What does all this mean in relation to the quality and essence of our lives today?

When one thinks in these terms, our personal battles take on a different hue. Of course, we must make every effort to forgive, let go of anger, purify our thinking, learn to bring more warmth and love into our lives, bring our deeds out into the world towards the transformation of the earth—but for a purpose far greater than our own, individual evolution. St. John's Tide is a good opportunity to take stock of the lives we have made today. It is also a special time to examine why being baptized by John the Baptist allowed Jesus Christ to fulfill his task of becoming Son of Man. Son of Man. What a profound term to ponder!

As I read up on this particular festival this year, the nagging question of the seasons surfaced again. In almost all the reading material I have come across, St. John's Tide is spoken of as a festival that happens during the summer solstice; hence it is also a celebration



FEATURED ARTICLE



of harvest and the blossoming of nature, and everything that takes place in the human soul during this time of year. If you look around, summer is no longer happening to us, so I asked my partner if, perhaps, it is different for us who live in the opposite side of the world for which summer is already past. His answer was simple: It is happening in other parts of the world and is surely affecting our part of the world. Why think we are excluded?

That simple statement says it all. St. John's Tide is a season for celebrating humanity as a whole and what it means to be a human being who straddles both the earthly and spiritual realms, no matter where one is in the world. Of course! Why be excluded, indeed? Why focus on the separation and not the integration? What truly needs focus is what we must work on – in ourselves – so that we can find and walk the path towards integration. The message of St. John echoes: change your ways and begin the inner journey towards becoming truly human, truly Christ-like—a fully integrated human being.

May we never again use our humanity as an excuse for not being the best we can be. Being truly human is something we must all consciously strive for. We are definitely not there yet, but making an effort to understand ourselves through the Christian festivals brings much needed clarity to every step. A fruitful journey to all!

From the Author:

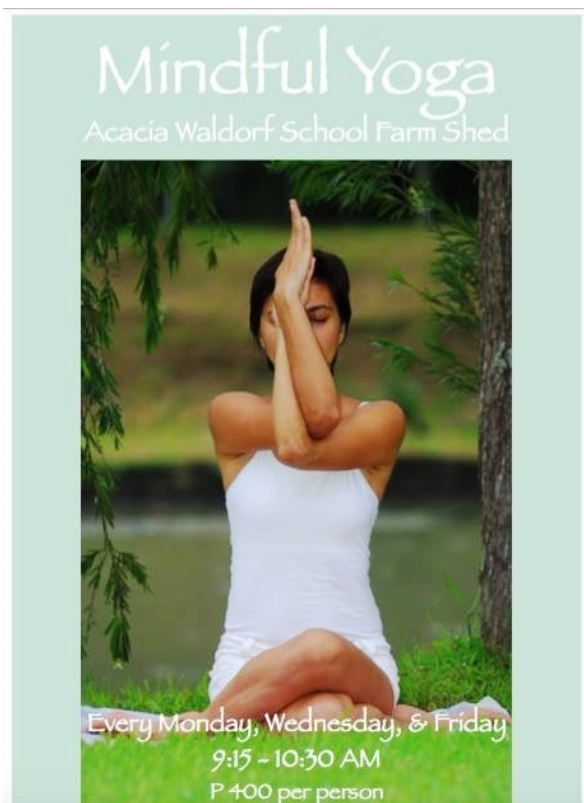
"Hello! I am a Waldorf mom in the Philippines. I'm hoping this site will help you as you discover Steiner Education and what it means for your children and your family. It has been a learning and life-changing experience for me and I hope that my 18 years of conscious parenting can help you wade through everything coming your way. I will be publishing articles I've written since I began the journey. Everything written by me on these pages reflect my opinion only. I do not represent the Waldorf Community in general. I am a parent sharing my personal thoughts and experiences. This is what the blog is about. Welcome and thank you for your patience and support! Blessings! ---Panjee Tapales"

(<https://waldorfmom.net/festivals/inner-bounty/>)

Some Waldorf Education resources by parents: <https://theparentingpassageway.com/2009/06/09/midsummers-day-st-johns-tide-day/> or <http://threefoldwaldorf.blogspot.com/2011/06/st-johns-tide-question-of-balance.html>

The Four Sacrifices of Christ: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/st-johns-tide-and-the-four-sacrifices-of-christ_us_576644e9e4b034ff3eef932a

OTHERS



THE INSTITUTE for Steiner's Ideas in Practice (ISIP) Philippines and Prado Farms present **The Transformative Power of Art with Van James** featuring a series of art theory classes. These are The Origins of Art: Drawing from Prehistory and Ancient Artistic Traditions on Sept. 23 to 25; and Spirit and Art: From the Renaissance to Today from Sept. 30 to Oct. 2. The workshop is to be held at Prado Farms, Lubao, Pampanga. Van James is a Hawaii-based artist, author, and teacher. He has been an art instructor at the Honolulu Waldorf School for 30 years and is a guest teacher at Taruna College in New Zealand, Rudolf Steiner College in California. For details,

contact isip.philippines@gmail.com.

Join us for a **Flea Market on July 1 and 2!** Take the chance to shed your old things, and find people who may be in need of them, and vice versa.

We will start with a free Hatha Yoga class by Acacia parent Imee Contreras, and will be on the whole day with healthy eats and refreshments. Alumni Bea and Isa Galvez will be playing live acoustic music in the afternoon.

Anyone is free to come and join - parents, students, teachers, friends, school & farm staff, yayas and drivers are all invited. We are open to merchants - It's free to join, we just ask for a donation of 15% from your profit that goes to the The School Farm & Shed fund. About 8 more slots are available - text or call Marina at [09285051683](tel:09285051683) to reserve.

One man's trash is another one's treasure! See you there.

9am - Flea Market opens
9.15am to 10.30am - Hatha Yoga by Imee Contreras



THE FARM SHED

at acacia waldorf school



ERRATUM From AWS Bulletin Issue #12 (April–May 2016): ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY (Spain) in lieu of American University.