



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

AWS Bulletin

SY 2015-2016 – Issue No. 9 (January 2016)

MESSAGE FROM THE COLLEGE OF TEACHERS

January 16, 2016

Dear Acacia Community,

A Happy 2016 to one and all! We are now in observance of the Feast of the Epiphany whose spirit continues to shine over the first few weeks of the New Year.

"We have seen His star in the east and have come to bring Him gifts."
- From the Gospel of Matthew

The Gospel tells about the journey of The Three Kings or Wise Men who leave the comforts of their kingdom to travel to foreign lands and follow a Star. It is prophesied that this Star is to lead them to the Messiah, the Savior. On their journey, they meet King Herod who is also in search of the Messiah but is out to destroy Him. Herod all the while believes the Messiah to be a grown up, but the Wise Men reveal to him that the Savior is in fact a Child. The promise of salvation is in a Child. As the story unfolds, The Wise Men find the Savior, give Him their gifts and pay Him homage. In their return home, they do not go back the same way they came but choose to take another path lest Herod find them and find his way to The Child.

Where would we find this Guiding Star today? And would we dare to leave the comforts of what is familiar to us and follow it to pay homage to The Savior, The Child, who is in need of protection?

Last weekend, we held a **Gathering for Acacia's Future**. Thirty members of AWS, teachers, parents (pioneers and new), and staff alike got together in school to reflect on where we had begun as a School Community and how to move forward in the following years. Where would we find the "Guiding Star" that would lead us to meet the needs and demands of a future we have never visited? And in those two days, we did find our Guiding Star, not by looking outside of ourselves, but by looking within. We came to realize that Acacia's Guiding Star is the shared Core Values of its community members, personal values we have in common that guide us in our daily lives, that mold our principles, that we would try never to compromise, those we wish to pass on to our children and to the generations to come, essential values that are innate in every child, values that led us all to Acacia Community in the first place.

As for the gifts, they were overflowing that weekend. Everyone offered gifts of their time, presence, wisdom, ideas, dreams, hopes, desires, questions, doubts, trust, openness, their positive attitude and ultimately their Love and willingness to serve.

Our heartfelt thanks to all those who participated in this special gathering, and to all of you whose children you entrust to our daily care and guidance.

Our guiding Star is indeed in each of us, and so is the Savior. May we continue to follow our Star with courage and recognize, honor and protect The Child within.

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

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

<u>January</u>	2016 Happy New Year!	<u>February</u>	
5	US Classes Resume	2-3	"Demeter and Persephone", Camia Class 5 Play, 11AM, AWS Michael Hall
6	PS/GS Classes Resume	5	Annual Summer Outing (Kinder Classes)
9-10	A Gathering for Acacia's Future (a planning weekend)	6	Kalachuchi Class 12, Senior Project Presentations
12	Market Day (PC)	8	Chinese New Year Holiday
15-17	International GK Summit	13	New Parents' Orientation (9-11AM)
15-19	Integrative Music Education	15-19	Visiting Mentor, David Simpson
18	Sikhayan Festival (Sta. Rosa)	19	Music Festival
20	Class Picture Taking	21-27	Mirasol Class 8 Camping/Class Trip
22	"Whisperings of Twilight", A Poetry Night by Class 10	22-24	Camia Class 5 Camping
27-28	Santan Class 3 Camping	24-26	GS/US Practical Project Week
28	"Where There's A Will... Shakespeare That Is", Mirasol Class 8 Play, Finster Hall, 7PM (AUP)	25	Edsa Day (National Holiday)
29	Medieval Fair		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Whisperings of Twilight" A Poetry Night by Kaimito Class 10

"Whisperings of Twilight" A Poetry Night by Kaimito Class 10. Jan.22, Friday, 6 p.m. Michael Hall, AWS (a class fund raiser, food sale).

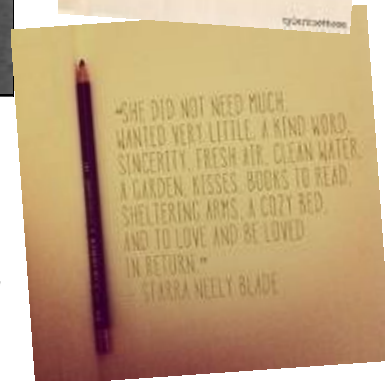
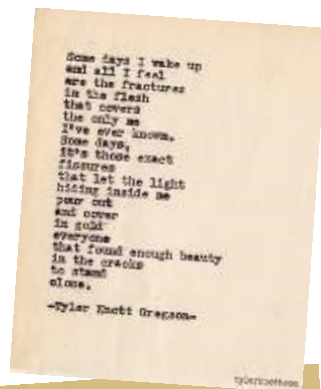
Listen to original poems, share your favourite poems, be touched by the music of Poetry. Class 7 and up, friends, parents, teachers are invited to come.

We hope to see you all.



"There are three good things in this world. One is to read poetry, another is to write poetry, and the best of all is to live poetry."

— Rupert Brooke



HIGHLIGHTS

A Joyful Gathering for Acacia's Future (May the force be with you!)

"Thank you for allowing us to dream!" This was a statement joyfully made by the faculty group during the Acacia Waldorf School Planning Weekend held at Acacia Michael Hall last January 9 and 10, 2015.

The weekend was facilitated by Acacia parents and seminar specialists Kokoy Reonisto and Nen Sandoval, and were inspired by the presence and active participation of Gippy Tantoco (our school BOT chairman), Trina Galvez (our COT chairperson), Jim Sharman (our Waldorf mentor, consultant and founder of Gamot Cogon Waldorf Institute in Iloilo (GCI), and various members of our parent council, faculty and administration office.

Our school cafeteria prepared light snacks and special Japanese and Italian themed lunches.



Everyone gave generously and joyfully of their time as they put their heads, hearts and hands together to define a "renewed" vision for the school and open and strengthen more avenues for nurturing, building and growing the school and its community.

Among other things, the participants had fun with communication and support games, identifying and working on core values, creating a renewed vision statement, overcoming the tyranny of the "but", allowing the empowerment of the "and", and "dreaming big"!

This workshop surely gave hope and renewed our vision, commitment and resolve to work hand in hand to strengthen and continue to build our school community together for many more years to come!



EVENTS

Upper School Students Attend GK International Summit

Upper School Class 12 students Mirea Suarez, Beatriz Galvez and Isabelle Galvez attended the Gawad Kalinga (GK) Summit with the theme "The Business of Kindness" held last January 15-17, 2015, together with Acacia Teacher Michi Suarez (Mirea's mother).

Our Upper School students are familiar with GK as they have given community service work to build homes and distribute food and relief goods to nearby GK communities together with the Upper School students in the past years. They had also met with GK entrepreneurs who gave a talk to our Upper School students last year.

This time, our small group of students stayed at the GK Enchanted Farm in Bulacan, made new friends and connected with other students and business, religious and government leaders, volunteers, entrepreneurs, partners and beneficiaries of GK projects from all over the Philippines, Asia, Australia, USA and France.



Our students saw the strength and healing power of love, forgiveness and compassion present in each member and beneficiary of the GK communities as they strive to transform their lives, guided with the mottos "Kindness with excellence" and "Compassion with competence".

Each person is my brother or sister. "Walang Iwanan". No one gets left behind. They saw the fruits of this vision multiplied in a new framework of modern social entrepreneurship, wherein both the entrepreneur and the workers benefit from an endeavour.

They saw the awesome power and hope of the shared vision of GK to reach out and do meaningful work together with people of different spheres to sustainably uplift the dignity and plight of the poor and the oppressed.

They heard the wonderful and inspiring stories of the volunteers, workers, business partners, entrepreneurs and beneficiaries.

Our students bring with them their awesome GK Summit experience, and are inspired to share these stories and create their own dreams, visions and endeavours.

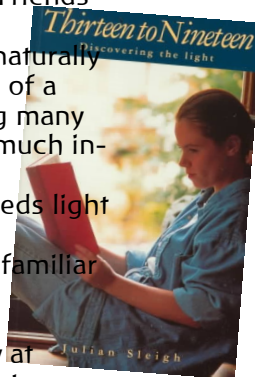
Market Tuesday



For AWS Parents,
Teachers, Friends

Adolescence naturally enters the life of a child, bringing many changes and much inner conflict. The author sheds light on common concerns and familiar problems.

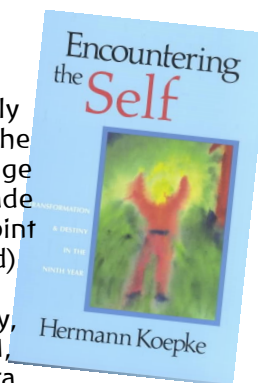
Every Tuesday at
10:30AM, Admin
Conference room



Parents' Book Study

Lily Class 2
Parents' Weekly
Book Study re the
9-year old change
in the Third Grade
(The Turning Point
of Childhood)

Every Thursday,
9:00-11:00AM,
Hacienda Santa
Elena Clubhouse



FEATURED ARTICLE

Educating Children For The Journey (by Jack Petrash at TEDxRockCreekPark)

Published on May 8, 2013

"Thanks to the Honolulu Waldorf School for sharing this featured article."



Our world is changing at a rapid and dramatic pace. Every decade brings technological advances and unforeseen social change. So how can we prepare our children for a world we can't envision? The best way to do that is to educate our children to develop three essential capacities: a capacity for vibrant and vigorous activity, a capacity for a sensitive and yet resilient emotional life, and a capacity for clear, focused, original, thinking.

In order to develop these three capacities, we must educate our children in a multidimensional way in school. The place to begin is through self-directed play with the young child. Play is the wonderfully creative work of early childhood. When young children play, they are focused, attentive, and completely involved in what they are doing. This is a characteristic of genius and innovative individuals often keep this playful nature intact throughout their lives.

The second way to educate children for the future is through art. In the grade school it is possible to teach all of the academic subjects in a manner that integrates art. In doing so we create an educational program that addresses a child's need to be engaged imaginatively and emotionally in each lesson.

When we teach children through a foundation of active play and a solid framework of artistic experiences, we help them develop the third essential ability, a capacity for dynamic, curious, and original thinking, a thinking that enables our children to ask the questions that are still waiting to be asked.

No Child Left Behind and Race to the Top have created a standard driven educational system that only asks our children to use half of their human intelligence, just the left side of their brains. And sadly, fifty percent is a failing grade by any standard. Our children deserve more, much more.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imaW-TabxOE&feature=youtu.be&list=PL5r7OcSNnVnMlFwv8UVIHIM0GJeQ9Rhmt>

OTHER EVENTS



Surrender To LOVE

A Celebration hosted by
Yvette L. Manotoc
(yvesdelareeves)

The CRUCIBLE Gallery
4th floor SM Megamall A
Ortigas Center

We Hope You Can Join Us!!!

with

Ryan Villamor on Harp and Keyboard
Fernando Anonas on Keyboard and Guitar
Bobby Anonas on Guitar
Elias Romualdez on Violin
Joy Romualdez Kawpeng on Keyboard

27 January 2016
Wednesday at 4 p.m

All proceeds will be donated to:
Ms. Mary Joan Fajardo
and The Acacia Waldorf School

**15-DAY INTENSIVE BEGINNER'S COURSE
IN WALDORF/STEINER
EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION 2016**

For parents, teachers
& individuals seeking
self-development

Where:
2888 Del Monte Ave.
Quezon City

Dates:
January
28, 29, 30
February
4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13,
18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27

Time:
(9am - 4:30pm)

Fees (non-refundable):
Early bird fee* - Php 13,000
(*paid on or before November 27)
Regular fee - Php 15,000

Curricula:
• Foundation studies in Anthroposophy
• The philosophical/basis of Steiner Education
• Overview of the processes of childhood in the Waldorf curriculum
• Understanding the development of the child from conception to 7 years
• Preparing yourself & your kindergarten
• Biography work

Activities:
Group singing, pentatonic tone playing, recorder playing, weaving, water-soluble painting, clay modeling, form drawing, storytelling & puppet making

To register, contact Rudolf Steiner Education in the Philippines
steiner@philippines.com.ph • (+632)746324 • (+632)79066115 • rse.ph@gmail.com



Healthy Habit

Pay for a set of
**4 Holy Carabao
Veggie Boxes**
and get special treats +
a HealthyHabit coupon!

Each box contains a variety of veggies based on our daily harvest:

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| PINOY BOX (P150/wk)
veggies for most Filipino dishes | CONTINENTAL BOX (P160/wk)
veggies for most European/American cuisine |
| JAPANESE BOX (P190/wk)
veggies for Japanese-inspired dishes | SALAD BOX (P175/wk)
veggies for wonderful tossed salads |
| CHINESE BOX (P190/wk)
veggies for Chinese-inspired dishes | JUICING BOX (P190/wk)
veggies for juicing and smoothie recipes |

Choose 4 of the same box or mix-and-match, 1 box set is good for 2-4 ppl for about 1 week (depending on consumption).
*Maximum of 1 HealthyHabit coupon per customer.

EST. 2000
HOLY CARABAO
holistic farms

10TH WORLD TEACHERS' CONFERENCE Overcoming Resistance: Courage for an Independent Spiritual Life 10. WELT-LEHRER- UND ERZIEHERTAGUNG Gewinnen am Widerstand: Mut zu freiem Geistleben

The Waldorf school movement has achieved much since its foundation almost a hundred years ago. Its main concern is to help young people find their inner goals and create the preconditions they need to realize their dreams in adequate ways.

This endeavor is shared every day anew in kindergartens and schools around the globe. From the very beginning, the aims of the Waldorf school were social as well as educational.

The 10th World Teachers' and Educators' Conference will focus on this theme to encourage schools to stand up for their ideal of an independent spiritual life. A free spiritual life needs people who strive in freedom.

We each of us have the possibility today to keep a part of our soul free from external influences. This enhances individualization.

New social forces will emerge if we manage to defend the soul's intrinsic future-impulses against the resistance and anti-social trends of our time.

We are looking forward to working with you at the 10th Teachers' and Educators' Conference in finding the courage to tackle the tasks that lie ahead.

Die Schulbewegung hat in ihrem fast 100-jährigen Dasein viel geleistet. Ihr Herzanliegen ist es, heranwachsenden Menschen den Weg zu ihrer inneren Aufgabe zu öffnen und in ihnen die Voraussetzungen aufzubauen, ihre Ideale dem Leben angemessen zu verwirklichen.

Dieses Anliegen wird täglich neu in Kindergärten und Schulen rund um die Erde umgesetzt. Von ersten Schritten an leben in der Waldorfschule das Ideal, dass ihre Gründung nicht nur eine pädagogische, sondern auch eine soziale Aufgabe ist.

In jedem von uns ist heute die Möglichkeit vorhanden, einen Teil seiner Seele frei von jedem Einfluss der Außenwelt zu halten. Dies fördert die Individualisierung. Gelingt es uns, die in der gegenwärtigen Zeit auftretenden Widerstände und antisozialen Tendenzen durchzusetzen, entstehen neue Kräfte für das soziale Leben.

Wir freuen uns auf die gemeinsame Arbeit mit Ihnen an der 10. Welt-Lehrer- und Erzieher-tagung. Sie wird Mut für die anstehenden Aufgaben schenken.

P.F. Crumboltz C. R. Roth

28 MARCH - 2 APRIL 2016 GOETHEANUM
Pädagogische Sektion am Goetheanum

MARCH 28 - APRIL 2 Goetheanum