



Wellsprings Friends School

Spring, 2009

Newsletter

3590 West 18th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon 97402

541-686-1223

www.wellspringsfriends.org

Congratulations Class of 2009

Abeni Ryo Loe Ruiz
Alexander R. Kellis
Alexander Anthony Chilton



Aniela Parys Willman
Autumn Rain Sirota
Ayashe Chumani Ruby Ruiz
Brigid Anne Johns



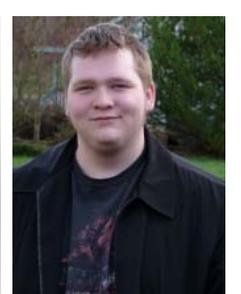
Carlye Anne Cannon
Erin Kimberly Wullschluger
Flynn Jordan Ryan
Ian Gregory Axe
Jennafer Lea McSween



Jessica Ellen Campbell
Jordan T. Valadez
Katherine Elizabeth Doherty Erwin
Moriah River Hertzbach



Nicholas Ivan Vergara-Smith
Nicole Elizabeth Bargaard
Rachel Marie Down
Robert J. Sanders
Will Taylor Branscomb



Writer and Hip-Hop Teacher

by Brigid Johns ('09)



Dante Zuniga-West is our newest teacher. Although he has only been here six months, his passion for teaching has already made a huge impact on our community.

Dante has a bachelor's degree in Creative Writing from Evergreen State College and completed his Masters degree at the California Institute of the Arts. He is originally from Los Angeles, California.

For his young age, Dante has a very expansive history in teaching. He has done everything from teaching kids how to read to teaching undergraduate classes at the California Institute of the Arts. Dante has also taught workshops in juvenile detention centers. His biggest passion is writing, which is reflected in both his teaching and his life.

At Wellsprings, Dante teaches a Hip-Hop class, encouraging students to write their own lyrics (or poetry) and find the courage to perform their work. Dante himself has been performing for 10 years, and is currently in a local hip-hop duo called "Resident Anti-Heroes" (which he has been a part of for six years). He also teaches language arts classes, such as his "Nightmares of the Future" class about dystopia/utopia works of fiction.

5th Annual Free 'Sale' Saturday, April 18 9am-1pm

Please join us for the day of sharing!

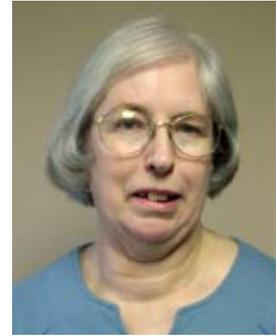
If you have items to donate, please drop them by the school or call 686-1223 to arrange pick up.

3590 W. 18th Ave

The Fine Art of Foreign Language

by Carlye Cannon ('09)

"My favorite thing about working here is the intimacy in the classrooms, how we can focus on meeting individuals' needs," says Hanya Etter, a foreign language teacher at Wellsprings who really enjoys her job.



Teaching here for the past seven years, Hanya really appreciates how the students and teachers can interact on a more personal level.

Looking back to her first year of teaching, Hanya describes how students showed her support during a difficult time in her life. "When the teachers can ask for some space or support, and the students freely give it to them, it's a really great thing," she said.

Teaching part-time as a German instructor, Hanya has also helped students learn French, Italian, Norwegian, and even Armenian! But her heart embraces German; having lived in Germany for 15 years she's fluent in the language. "I loved it there," she says, "but I just fell out of love with my first husband."

Hanya has many other exciting interests that include music and traveling. She originally moved to Germany to instruct music education, and you could say that her love for music is what brought her to us. Hanya is a violist in the Eugene Symphony, a private instructor, and spends the other half of her days as a music librarian. She hopes to travel more in the future, to learn more about other cultures and bring it back home. For now though, Hanya is enjoying time spent with her students.

Why Wellsprings?



by Rebecca Meyers ('12)

Why I go to Wellsprings is that I wouldn't make it socially or academically in a public school. In middle school I only passed math because my teacher was standing over me helping me with every problem and forcing me to do homework in

class. A lot of times I felt like an outcast and that I didn't belong anywhere except when I was alone in my room.

In 8th grade I started reading books so I could escape. Everything in my life sucked even if it was for a little while.

But since coming to Wellsprings I have mostly A's. I want to come to school which is weird for me. My math is doing better than it ever has for the first time in my life. I feel like I have a place where I belong now and get along with people.

I actually like and get along with my teachers. I'm happier than I've been in a long time.

And I learned that I can get along with people if they want to get along with me; that if they don't, I don't even try to get along with them.

My life has really turned around since I started going to Wellsprings Friends School.

“Everyday I am learning important life lessons. How to treat others and how saying something jokingly can be offensive to someone else.”

by Geoffrey Marcus ('10)

For me, Wellsprings is not an escape from public school, but a safe-haven from the stress of being in a high school that pushes its students so hard. My everyday life in public school was not so bad. I had great teachers and even better friends. But the stress was too much for me. Everyday I would be assigned hours of homework, on top of the difficult classes I attended everyday. I had no life outside of school.

After a while, the stress built up, and I broke. I dealt with a variety of illnesses, from migraines to horrible coughs. My constant illness caused me to miss months of school. And every year seemed to get worse. Multiple hospitalizations and surgeries convinced me I need to escape the terrible cycle I was in.

So I went on an adventure to find a new school, and discovered Wellsprings. Wellsprings stood out from the other schools. The people at Wellsprings were all kind to me, probably because everyone had also had some sort of bad experience that leads them to Wellsprings. The tight-knit community offered new ideas to me that enticed me. So I found myself going to Wellsprings.

Wellsprings still offers me much to learn. Everyday, I learn the basic knowledge needed for life, like math and literature, while at the same time enjoying myself.

I learn other things. Everyday I am learning important life lessons. How to treat others and how saying something jokingly can be offensive to someone else.

I also learned new things about myself all the time. I have learned that when I accept who I am, others will be more respectful of me, even if I am a nerdy, video game playing teenage boy.

So Wellsprings draws me back everyday, offering me a safe-haven from stress, and new things for me to learn everyday.



PEACE AND JUSTICE



The Wellsprings “Peace and Justice Festival” evolved out of a fall, 2000 class called “Social Problems and Peacemaking” offered by part-time teacher Angie Chisholm. Emphasizing the engagement of young people in matters of peace and social justice, the handful of students in that class organized the first Peace and Justice Festival held in December that year. There were presentations by community members and a panel discussion that included Wellsprings students.



As part of that first Festival, the students had organized an essay-writing contest for middle-school students and then presented an award at the Festival. Also part of the Festival was lots of music, provided by Wellsprings students as well as a local folksinger, and lots of organic food.



Thus a tradition was started, and every Peace and Justice Festival since has included some mix of those elements along with new things. One year, a giant papier-mache peace dove was constructed at the Festival and subsequently shipped to the White House. (Mr. Bush’s staff declined delivery.)



The class had studied a wide range of topics—such as poverty in Appalachia, women in prisons, the School of the Americas, the origins of violence—with an emphasis on personal responses to injustice. One example of the latter is that the class members corresponded with a young mother in prison, whose case was complicated but strongly suggestive of her actual innocence or, at least, inappropriate sentencing.



A similar class has been frequently offered by school head Dennis Hoerner, and usually a half-dozen or so students have been the core group working to organize the Festival. Every time, the whole school gets behind the core group as the date approaches, and dozens of students volunteer to help out with the logistics required to make it happen.

Every year, a hundred or more people from the community come to Wellsprings to attend the Festival. It is a time to learn about injustices and nonviolent solutions; a time to act; a time to come together and celebrate the inner light in everyone; a time to assert our individual and collective commitments to bringing about a better world.

2009 PEACE and JUSTICE FESTIVAL
Saturday, May 16th
12:00~4:00



Lots of Music & Fun at Our February Benefit Concert

Cozmic Pizza was packed with people attending our annual Benefit Concert on Friday the 13th to support our music and art programs at Wellsprings. The room came alive with music when teachers Chanci, Bob, Tyler, and Paul (dubbed *Chanci Pants & The Educators*) took the stage.

What followed were nearly four hours of great music — rock & roll, rap, and more — by our students, teachers, and their friends in local bands, *Fortune Cookie* and *Strum Theory*, plus teacher Dante and friend Chris, rappers extraordinaire (*Resident Anti-Hero*). Other students offered their artistic creations for sale to attendees. And throughout the evening lots of pizza slices were consumed by the enthusiastic (and hungry) crowd of teenagers, parents, and friends of Wellsprings.

To see a photo gallery and a sampling of music played during the concert, check out the videos on our blog: www.wellspringsfriends.blogspot.com.

Thanks to all who joined us for the concert, and thanks for your generous donations. The students you saw on stage and in the audience, and all their classmates at Wellsprings, will benefit from your support.



What an artifact America so amateur and assault on ambition and alternative angles
I boast battling belligerent in born boss and am breakin down barriers that ARE BOUNDED BY
BABLING CAUTION THIS
CONTINENT contains crazy content cops create a choreographed civilization catastrophic con-
sciousness creates conversation I contemplate conquering these comatose calvarias confined to concrete and
cars with canopies
domino destruction dreamin deeply during day light dropin dank
doses drink disani while I dominate digest diversity and display devotion
existential energy expands my emotion elevate my etiquette exercise
my expertise through experience earths ending all evil eras extensively explain
my escape from your earthly
foundation forming friendly features that our founded by fathoming feel the
freedom to fulfill all my fantasies focusing my flow towards flight and not fame
and
gasping in the glory of this great grand galaxy gradually grow gaining grip on
this gravity wanna
hear my heartbeat so humble through history just another hippy wanna live
high happily inbred idiots isolate immigrants imbeciles idolize intimate images
how does a
judgmental jury justify jail time for a juvenile cuz he's just another kid kickin it

-from *Artifact America*
by Nico Vergara-Smith



MATCHING GIFT SUCCESS!!



This past fall, an anonymous supporter offered a challenge gift of \$10,000 in matching funds if we could raise that amount by Valentine's Day. It came down to the wire but we did it. The nearly seven-hundred dollar proceeds from the second annual teacher and student Benefit Concert at Cosmic Pizza on February 13th brought us very close to the goal. And the next day a longtime supporter of the school donated more than enough to get us over the ten-thousand dollar threshold!

Despite the recessionary economy, giving to Wellsprings has remained strong, and we are deeply grateful to all our donors. It is said that the economy nationally—and especially here in Oregon and especially Lane County—is going to continue to “get worse before it gets better.” School districts throughout the state are in a spirit of anxiety over looming budget shortfalls, with no one yet knowing what the numbers are going to be.

Because about 80-85% of our annual operating income at Wellsprings comes from referrals by local school districts, we could be significantly impacted by future reductions in referrals and/or the per pupil payments we receive. So we need to keep our contributions and savings strong, even as we try to enhance our program. Your support is crucial in helping Wellsprings be all that it can be—and needs to be for the young people we serve. Thank you.

Can a school and restaurant be drawn to one another like kindred spirits? YES INDEED! Morning Glory Cafe and Wellsprings Friends School are both small, caring and deep through the heart. Just by the nature of their souls, they are filled with warm atmosphere, merriment, live music, healthy food and community.

Morning Glory Benefit Dinner

Friday, April 10

Menu: Lasagna, Salad, Dessert and Beverage

Limited Seating available: 5:30 and 7:30

Reservations Encouraged



Tickets: \$10-\$25, sliding scale

Children (3-10 yrs): \$5-\$12.50



Live Music by Wellsprings Teachers and Students

*Please come support Wellsprings Friends School and
enjoy a delicious dinner at Morning Glory Cafe!*

450 Willamette St.

Call today for Reservations: 686-1223