



3590 W. 18th Ave, Eugene, OR 97402 541-686-1223 www.wellspringsfriends.org

Wellsprings Friends School

Record Enrollment!

by Dennis Hoerner, School Head

We have for the first time ever full enrollment at Wellsprings. In fact, we have gone right past our hypothetical limit of “fifty” and welcomed 60 students to our community—reaching the very real physical limit of our facilities. Faced with the continuing stream of applications, the staff and the students themselves were not willing to say “no” but opened their arms

to the newcomers, making room in our cramped quarters and integrating everyone into the daily life of the school. What does this amazing number say about Wellsprings? Two main points, I think. One, we have now in our eleventh year become widely known and well-respected. Two, we are serving an important community need.

Over and over this year, I have been told by parents that they heard about us by word of mouth, and what they heard is that we do a very good job of providing an “alternative” for young people, particularly those who are desperate for a different school environment. Our current students have come to us for 60 individual reasons. Some have been bullied at other schools, some were bored by rote learning approaches, some felt out of place, some just “didn’t like school” and didn’t attend, some felt ignored—or targeted—by teachers, some felt overwhelmed by huge school buildings and large classes, and on and on. The single common thread among our students: the one-size-fits-all approach to education did not meet their needs, did not fit them.

Sadly, that’s not news: it has been well documented at least since the ‘60s that many of our youngsters do not thrive in conventional school settings. As I write, the school shooting in Red Lake, Minnesota, is the latest in a string of such extreme tragedies, including the Thurston High killings in 1998 that shocked our local community. To me, that is the tip of an iceberg. How many young lives, not brought to that extreme, nonetheless are quietly wasted and stunted and damaged? How can we help turn things around? One small answer is being



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provided by Wellsprings, with our culture of affirmation that respects and nurtures each individual, and our small, safe, supportive community where everyone is known, nonviolent conflict resolution is practiced, and the joys of being together are celebrated daily.

Wellsprings is not a panacea for social ills. It is not the right school for every youngster. But it is a school where the heart and soul are as important as the head. It is a learning community where each person is treated as a whole person, where relationships matter more than math. Some call what we do “holistic education.” I prefer the poignant phrase used by Marshall Rosenberg: life-enhancing education. That is what Wellsprings is all about. We are proud of what we do. And it is always gratifying to have your work reflected back to you, to confirm that you are on the right path and to buoy your spirits. Here are a few words from someone else, excerpted from a letter written to the staff by the mother of a recent graduate: “By honoring the good and the Light in kids without trying to change them, Wellsprings accomplishes the miraculous on a daily basis. You walk the talk.... Thank you for giving [my son] a sense of place and a community to come of age in. Thank you for holding that space for all the kids there.” Wellsprings with our burgeoning community of students will do our best to continue on that path.



Bob

by Hannah Finegold ('06)

What do you get when you cross a good teacher with a bad comedian? Bob Schlichting.

Bob has been teaching (and telling bad jokes) at Wellsprings for four years. He teaches math, art, music, human sexuality, and psychology. One of the four full-time teachers, Bob is always there to offer help to those who need it, cheer up those who are down, and most importantly, teach those who are eager to learn.

Students in Bob's math classes love the last ten minutes when they get to respond to the “Question of the Day” – for example, “If you could ask anyone out to dinner, past, present or future, who would it be?”

When Bob isn't at Wellsprings, he is most likely doing one of two things: spending time with his wife Nicole and his sons Kieran and Keenan, or playing the bass with his band, Fuzz.

“Healing the World from the Inside Out”



5th Annual Peace Festival

April 30th from 1:00-4:00 p.m. the “Big Room” at Wellsprings will once again be filled with students and community members celebrating the multifarious aspects of Peace. This year's program will include: music by students, Bob's band Fuzz, the Eugene Peace Choir, and others; presentations on Non-Violent Communication, spiritual traditions of peace, Compassionate Listening, the student-initiated Department of Peace for the City Eugene; “Tea: A Cup of Humanity”; Urgent Carnival street theater; an open mic; plus information tables and (mostly organic) refreshments.

The Beach Trip

By Anna Scheri ('08)

We started by stuffing fourteen kids into the Wellsprings van. We were headed for an adventure at the beach. Helena was taking the Positive Solutions class to create art and the science class to observe the tide pools. As we drove out of the Wellsprings driveway, the music was blaring and everyone was ready to go. And so it stayed for the whole drive.



The plan was for the Positive Solutions class to look at the art of Andy Glodworthy, which is all created from nature, and then to make our own art inspired by his work. One person gathered big stones and made a huge spiral. Another carved designs in the sand and then placed sand dollars in them. The science class never really got around to the tide pools because we were all so busy with creating our art and running around, swimming in the ocean and exploring the hobbit trail. It was the best field trip ever.



Stretching your mind and body

By Amelia Kimball ('07)

YOGA

Continuing with the theme of alternative education, the yoga class promotes the power of the connections of the body and the mind. Taught by Miya Shimada and offered as a P.E. class, the yoga class is a popular one. When the weather gets nicer, you can find the group out on the front lawn, stretching and practicing breathing exercises on bright purple mats. It is a refreshing moment of serenity during an energetic school day.



GOVERNMENT

In Paul Schroder's second period government class, the level of class involvement is high. "It's a good class because everyone always has something to say," says Hannah Finegold, a junior. Paul often brings in things he finds interesting from the previous evening's news, or the newspaper, and this sparks heated, thought-provoking discussions on subjects often controversial, such as war, abortion, Social Security benefits, and the like. Independently, the students must complete three "issue assignments" on a subject they find compelling and impactful to our society, due at the end of the term. Paul has clearly made a commitment to keeping his class in the know.

Graduation: An Ending and a Beginning

Eighty students have graduated from Wellsprings Friends School since our first Commencement in 1996. Every one of those graduates is someone who has had personal challenges to meet in reaching their goal of completing high school. We are proud of each one of them. We know and appreciate how much they grew—academically, socially, and spiritually—in their days at Wellsprings. This year eleven people have reached that transition point and are ready to move on as adults... Young adults, to be sure, but now nurtured and matured enough to step out to a more independent phase of life.

Congratulations and our very best wishes to:



Rochelle Trivett



Thomas Sweely



Cory Dvorak



Jesse Levine



Nic Townsend



Cody Bridges



Ben Gerlach



Brandon Cook-Sever



Brad Kimber



Rudy Gargioni



Sarah Beechinor

UPCOMING EVENTS - Spring, 2005

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| April 21 | Compassionate Listening Workshop – led by Peter Hwosch |
| April 25 | Family Night, 6:30-8:30 p.m. |
| April 28 | Antonio Rocha, Brazilian storyteller and mime – 1:00-2:00 p.m. |
| April 30 | Fifth Annual PEACE FESTIVAL, 1:00-4:00 p.m. |
| May 4 | Overnight camping – Silver Falls State Park |
| May 14 | Free “Sale” (a mega yard sale – but everything will be free!) |
| May 21 | WFS Prom – at EWEB |
| May 26 | Encore Theater, 1:00-3:00 p.m. – performance and workshop |
| June 3 | Japanese Garden Field Trip - Portland |
| June 7 | Seniors Dinner with Staff – place TBA |
| June 10 | Benefit Dinner at Morning Glory Café |
| June 16 | Last day of school—All School Picnic at Armitage Park |
| June 18 | Graduation – starting at 1:30... |

Mission Statement

Wellsprings Friends School provides alternative learning approaches, supportive community, and a culture of individual affirmation, in which teenagers are mentored and assisted towards meeting the challenges of adolescence and adulthood.

Ways to Support Wellsprings....

- ✓ *Volunteers* provide much needed assistance around the school. Contact Yancey if you have some time to offer and would like to find out how you can help.
- ✓ *Financial Contributions* are welcome anytime, but in particular twice a year, fall and spring, we appeal to the friends and supporters of Wellsprings to open their wallets as well as their hearts. General fund financial support from the community is *essential* for the continuation of our work.
- ✓ *Stock Transfers*. Several contributors to Wellsprings find this to be one of the most attractive ways to give to the school. We have a DTC account whereby we can receive any amount of stock, small or large. If you risk a large capital gains tax by selling stock, it may be an advantage to donate your stock to Wellsprings, a non-profit organization, for the tax deduction. Contact Trustee and Treasurer, Hanna Still, at 541-345-5588 for details.
- ✓ *The Mani Shimada Memorial Fund* was set up to honor a well-loved student who died suddenly in 2003 from bacterial meningitis. A designated portion of the fund is available each year to support on-going Wellsprings projects. To contribute this way, your check should be made out to the school with "Shimada Memorial Fund" in the memo line.
- ✓ *Automatic Monthly Payments*. You can easily arrange for a regular payment of a specified sum to be made to Wellsprings on the day of your choice. Just contact your financial institution.
- ✓ *Donated Items* from pens and pencils to couches to sports equipment, etc., are always appreciated. Call the office if you have something to give that you think we might be able to use.

In addition, did you know that you can automatically have contributions sent to us when you shop?! It's all done electronically, and *there is no cost to you*. The following programs are easy to use, and once you are registered, can be forgotten about. Each month or quarter, Wellsprings receives money from these programs. Currently, that amounts to around \$1,200.00 a year, but we could earn two or three times that if registrations increased.

eScrip: After registering your credit, debit or store cards with eScrip, each time you use those cards at participating merchants, Wellsprings will receive a percentage of your spending. All transactions are confidential and card numbers are completely secure. You can register at www.escrip.com.

Albertsons sponsors local schools through their Community Partnership program. A Partnership card barcoded for Wellsprings is enclosed. For those of you who have a Preferred Savings Card, you can simply register the school code at www.albertsons.com.

Washington Mutual has a program called WaMoola for Schools. Please contact a representative of Washington Mutual if you are a member to sign up for this program.

I would like to support Wellsprings Friends School right now! Please accept my tax-deductible check for the amount of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail donations to:

Wellsprings Friends School
3590 W. 18th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97402

Wellsprings Friends School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; contributions are tax-deductible.

Thank You

The following people have contributed to Wellsprings this year with gifts, time, and financial support.
If anyone's name has inadvertently been omitted, please let us know.

A heartfelt thank you to each one of you!

Guy & Nancy Ames	Anthony Hale	Lisa Miachire	Anita Stelling
Dawn Baby	Vicki Hale	Anne Michalski	Doug Still
Lois Barton	June Harris	Candace Moffett	Hanna Still
Rudy Berg	Sylvia Hart	Vicki Morgan	Marlene Strickland
Katya Blissenbach	Karl Hinkle	Peg Morton	Brian Thomas
Sandra Boynton	Ann Hubbird	John Mowat	Stan & Milena Thompson
Nelda Bridges	Bruce Huffman	Nathaniel Nordin-	Mary Velthoven
Ann Brown	Beth Hunt &	Tuininga	James Whittier
Constance Brown	John Allcott	Chris & Mary	Yvonne Young
Gail Brown	Greg Hunt	Steinberg-Pichey	Burrito Boy
Bill Cadbury	David Kal	Janine Pichey	Chambers Construction
John Clay	Peter Kenmore	Jennifer Richter	Corvallis Friends Meeting
Marcia Clinger	Lee Kersten	Ellen Rifkin	End Results
Gerald Copeland	Jeanne & Charles	Darlene Robertson	Eugene Friends Meeting
Craig Costello	Kimball	Phil Robertson	Fire Mountain
Teresa Damron	Elizabeth King	Julie Rogers	Friendly Street Market
Janice DeMocker	Anna Lankutis	Sally Ruxton	Harlequin Beads and Jewelry
Susan Dimitroff	Jenya Lemeshow	Reynold Rydberg	The Hult Center for the
Edith Eisler	Ashanti Li	John Saemann	Performing Arts
Hanya Etter	Floyd & Ardith	Hanna Scholz	Mani Shimada Memorial Fund
John Etter	Mackler	Barbara Shaw	The McDonald Theater
Orval Etter	Jeanine Malito	Gayle Sheller	Morning Glory Cafe
Margot Fetz	Sabra Marcroft	Miya Shimada	Oregon Festival of American Music
Amanda Finegold	Diane Maria	Kit Sibert	Pizza Pipeline
James Fox	Marleen Marshall	John & Catherine	Rainbow Optics
Shirley Froyd	Ronald Marson	Smith	Rings and Things
Don Gabriel	David Mason	Sam Smith	The Saturday Market
Joe & Nancy Gabriel	Laurie McCloskey	Scott Spettel	Sweet Potato Pie
Jon Garlinghouse	Ken Meyer	Tom Spettel	Walla Walla Friends Meeting
			Wilcox Family Farms

NEWS FLASH: MATCHING FUNDS OPPORTUNITY!

On Saturday, April 23rd--literally just two days before taking this newsletter to the printer's--we learned that an anonymous donor has offered to match dollar for dollar up to \$5,000 any contributions received between now and Graduation on June 18th!! This unexpected announcement was made at the conclusion of a warm and inspiring appreciation dinner at the home of Beth Hunt and John Allcott. Our gracious hosts had felt called to create this lovely event upon becoming aware of the many individuals who, each in their own way, have significantly contributed to Wellsprings over the years.

The matching grant is an extraordinarily generous gift, and we are deeply grateful to whomever has made the offer. If you can help us maximize it, please send your check soon, and write "Matching Grant" in the memo line. Thank you.