



The Window

Seasonal newsletter of The Hartsbrook School

Spring/Summer 2007

Magical Gifts to Conjure a Fairy Tale Prom

On Saturday, May 5th, the high school prom took place. For those who haven't heard about the many gifts that helped make this a truly magical event, read on...

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Once upon a time, there were eight senioritas who had always dreamed of having a fairy tale prom. One day, they summoned their junior knights in shining armor and sent them on a quest: to create an enchanted forest for their prom.

The knights didn't know what to do, so they called upon Connie Gerwin, their fairy godmother, who said: Trust that you will fulfill your quest because you will be helped by all the goodhearted people of the kingdom.

One knight came across a wizard. Some call him ... Tim. Sorry for his plight, Tim Holcomb summoned his power over drills and paints and created an enchanted castle out of wood. The castle's sparkling stonework was created by Tim's assistant, Erika Hollister.

One knight came across a lovely forest of evergreens and birches which was about to be cleared. These trees were bestowed upon the knight by the forest masters, Richard and Jean Yarrow.

Two great giants—Mr. Smith and Mr. Smith II (a.k.a. Kevin LaCroix)—were harnessed to clear and move the forest. The giants had just ordered a great pile of woodchips, which they allowed the knights to use for the prom. *(Continued on page 5)*



The Hartsbrook School

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Seniors Climb Mountains of Hope By Martha Byrne and Connie Gerwin



Last year we watched with pride as our senior class of '06 picked up brushes, shovels, and hammers to spend the end of its Hartsbrook career in New Orleans tackling post-Katrina clean up. This year the senior class of Hartsbrook High has chosen an equally admirable and beautiful way to finish. On May 22nd these remarkable students- accompanied by Connie Gerwin, Juan Carlos Carpio and Martha Byrne- will travel to Pimampiro, Ecuador, where they will spend ten days working with the Mountains of Hope model initiative. They will be putting their positive energy and immense good will into a cultural exchange and service program in a small community located in the Northern Andes.

Mountains of Hope is a non-profit initiative directed by Paul Murtha and Sue Brown, both acquaintances of John Perkins, author and last year's graduation speaker. The organization promotes creative community development and global educational aims. Their three primary initiatives include Inteligencia, an educational and arts enrichment program; IntiDesigns, an export enterprise employing local artisans; and EcoAction, a program designed to promote ecological conservation and organic agriculture.

Pimampiro, a town of 4,500, is located in Pimampiro Canton, an important agricultural region in northern Ecuador. Our seniors will be working with the Inteligencia and EcoAction programs painting and stocking classrooms and a library, planting organic family gardens, and interacting directly with children through art projects, music, and puppetry.

In addition to reaping the rewards of work, our students will participate in a musical exchange with the villagers. Along with sharing favorites from Hartsbrook's repertoire, the seniors are learning the Pimampiro children's favorite songs, while Juan Carlos Carpio, our World Music and

Spanish teacher, will be leading percussion jam sessions with the larger community. Our students will also have a chance to meet with local teenage girls and visit homes to learn more about the regional culture and their way of life. We will travel to other villages in the region, as well, to witness traditional indigenous dances.

The Hartsbrook contingent will be the first American service group to visit Pimampiro and the surrounding region. As part of our work, we will take with us clothing, arts supplies, musical instruments, Spanish childrens' and reference books, as well as universally appreciated picture books. The senior class is also raising funds to sponsor one or more girls from Pimampiro to attend the Colegio Artesanal, a local trade school. (Yearly tuition, including required books, uniform, trade tools, and accessories is only \$225.) We will be packing extra large suitcases to accommodate these items for distribution throughout local schools in the region.

Though such gifts from America will be very much appreciated, our senior class will be coming home, no doubt, with greater riches.

Our eight wonderful Seniors have aptly named themselves the Senioritas. This class of young women will be leaving our campus soon to join the growing ranks of Hartsbrook Alumni. Their plans for the future are varied, some are off to college right away, and some are deferring for a year. The seniors received 28 college acceptances, from Washington State, Oregon, Ohio, Wisconsin, Indiana and all of New England, making the process of deciding where to attend difficult. Final decisions for the '07 - '08 school year had to be made by May 1st. Here are their plans:

Rebecca Abuza – *College of the Atlantic - Bar Harbor, Maine*

Gaea Campe – *Bennington College – Bennington, Vermont*

Marisa Douglas – *Rhode Island School of Design – Providence, Rhode Island*

Anastasia Heron-Duranti – *University of Massachusetts – Amherst, Massachusetts*

Sayre Herrick – *Deferring for a year*

Kiara Ana Perico – *Boston University (Music Performance) – Boston, Massachusetts*

Saras Yerlig – *College of the Atlantic – Bar Harbor, Maine*

Melanie Zacek – *Greenfield Community College (Mass. College of Art Program) – Greenfield, Massachusetts*

We wish all of our Seniors the best of luck as they continue on their journey. Leslie Kellogg, College Guidance

Hartsbrook High School's Senior Play

As it is in Heaven, By Arlene Hutton

Congratulations to the senior class for this fabulous performance. Thanks to Christine Stevens, Director; Tim Holcomb, set design and lights; Laurie Zacek, assisted by Mardi Abuza, costumes; and to Evan Pratt and Eben Herrick, light run crew.



A Window on 11th Grade

Wow! On April 13th, 2007, the 11th graders put on a show that amazed their audience. Entirely out of their own initiative, these students researched, chose, directed, and acted in a series of seven short plays that showcased their many talents. The high quality of the students' work captivated the audience. The performances encompassed pathos, passion, humor, wit, and a great sense of timing. The audience was left in awe.



Dinner and a Few Short Plays

By Margaret Evans

In addition, the 11th graders prepared and served dinner before the show and refreshments during intermission.

Above: Alan Berman and Zack Shelton in "The Philadelphia."; right: Amber Dahlin in "Funeral Parlor."



This event, a self-directed fundraiser for the 11th grade, was the culmination of weeks of disciplined meeting, planning, and rehearsing, completely under their own steam; the work resulted in an extraordinarily satisfying evening for all concerned.

What a testament to the students' journey together and to the support and encouragement provided by the High School faculty to enable them to pursue and realize a dream! Kudos all the way!



Rhys Evans and Tess Harrison in "Sure Thing."

Alan Berman, Gabe Isman and Max Shelton in a scene from "This is Spinal Tap."



Alexandra Mahoney and Gabe Isman in "Recklessness."

Senior Prom, continued from front page

One knight met the world-renowned seamstress JoAnn, who responded to his need by allowing him to purchase her fabric at a 40% discount.

A huge package of asparagus magically appeared on the fairy godmother's doorstep, sent by her sister, the good witch of the west, Kathy Collins.

Sir Harrison's fairy tale house was relocated to the prom hall for the duration of the celebrations.

At the very end of the preparations, the hall was filled with a whirlwind created by Roberto Trostli to help the trees stand tall.

On the night of the prom, the senioritas were surprised to find carriages drawn by worthy steeds waiting at their door, gifted by Kathy and Barry Roberts of Muddy Brook Farm.

As the senioritas came up the drive they were heralded by two handsome trumpeters, Colten & Dylan. When they stepped out of their carriage, a regal red carpet, tailored and presented as a gift by Paul Rouillard of Summerlin Floors, magically unfurled at their feet.

The senioritas strode down the path to the hall, their dream fulfilled at last.

-The Junior Class



Barry Roberts, of Muddy Brook Farm, escorts the senioritas to the prom.

Mrs. Gerwin and The Junior Class especially thank Muddy Brook Farm and Summerlin Floors for their generous donations. May magic surround you evermore.

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The Beauty of Cleaning Out

By Beth Volkmann

Volunteer store manager at Seven Sisters

Recently I began the big undertaking of purging my house of clutter. I have boxes of toys and books that no longer have purpose in our home as my children age and have different interests. While I could take pages to list all of the items that are donation-ready and boxed, it's easier for me to list what is *not* contained in those boxes – our wooden toys, our cloth dolls, our knitted animals. From items as small as a wooden suitcase sized just right for a dollhouse doll's hand to a large wooden washing machine – I have boxes of heirloom toys that I cannot part with! I have invested money, dreams, time and thought into these gifts. They are meant to last for the next generation. Upon reflection after my de-cluttering, I realized that if I could turn back the clock, one aspect of my young-child parenting years that I would change would be to NOT have succumbed to the small-trinket, guilt-ridden buying that sometimes happens when we are out shopping with our children. The small toy that they just “have” to have for a bargain! The art kits that promise great creativity and fantastic gift-giving. The board games that were going to guarantee wonderful nights of cooperation and time well-spent. I am the first to admit that most pre-made Waldorf toys are costly. They are truly a financial investment but they are meant to add so much more to the playlife of a child than just being yet another truck on the shelf among many. I am so grateful that the majority of the toys my children played with are stored away in nooks and crannies for the future or placed around the house as decoration. They are not broken bits of plastic, dirty beyond cleaning, missing pieces and headed for the landfill. I am heart-sick at the number of garbage bags I had to fill when I undertook my de-cluttering project. What a waste of money and a heartache for the earth to bear. The toys we sell at your school store are priced to reflect the work, the skill, the materials and the value of play within each toy. While the initial investment may seem high, overall it is a wonderful investment for your child, the environment and your wallet. While having a house full of Waldorf toys is not the answer, having fewer toys with more possibilities for play may be. It may seem a deprivation to say NO to our children to purchase many “affordable” toys on impulse, but the opposite may be true. I could wax poetic about the beauty of Waldorf toys but I will speak practically and say – the environment needs you! Part of being a steward of this great earth may be not only found in preservation or organic, non-polluting choices but also in what we provide for our children to play with. By developing a relationship to natural materials and coming to expect such fine quality and beauty put before them, our children may crave such experiences later on; and the loads we will keep out of the landfill are icing on the cake! I offer this reflection to you with great respect for your own parenting journey as an aging parent who may have made other choices if I knew then what I know now! Look for our birthday gift, party-favor and gift-buying selection guide in the Seven Sisters School Store next September! We would like to assist you in making simple gift choices and offer a better understanding of our mission to serve the community.

A Reflection on Grandparents & Special Friends Day

Dear Anne,

I am so happy that I had the chance to participate in the Grandparents and Special Friends Day celebration at The Hartsbrook School. When I observed Mrs. Perico and her fourth grade class, I was really surprised to see the teaching of an academic subject (arithmetic) blended with rhythm, music and song, as well as with a sustained mental concentration and heartfelt connection between teacher and student. There was never a moment when the children were not beautifully engaged in learning.

The whole day was idyllic. The student presentations at the Assembly were more than I would have expected small children to be able to do. And all the children were happy and poised as they performed. The events at the family picnic were such wholesome fun – a cupcake walk!

I'd like to thank you, the teachers and the students for introducing me to Waldorf education. Now I know why the senior class girls said at the Presentation that they loved their time at Hartsbrook.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Lewis

Grandparent of Casper L'Esperance, Grade 4



Visiting at Grandparents and Special Friends Day, 2007

Life-ing and the Deutsches Theaterfest

By Frau Caemmerer

Life lives. Each one of us lives right along. We are born on the magical mysteries of what is becoming. Once in awhile we arrive at a moment when we can stand freed. Unbound as it were from the culmination of what has come before and are not yet reharnessed. So was for me the experience as I crouched down and beheld the 3rd grade children.

Let me set the stage for you. On April 26, 2007, Mount Holyoke College's Department of German Studies hosted the 30th Annual German Theater Festival and Competition at Chapin Auditorium. Eighteen groups performed. Many from Massachusetts, with others from Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York., including the Waldorf School of Garden City and Meadowbrook Waldorf School. Fourteen different schools performed in elementary, middle, high school and college level categories. Between 9:00am and 4:00pm each group had 5 minutes to set up, a maximum of 15 minutes to perform and another 5 minutes to strike their set. Everything from fairytales, novel adaptations, student created works, classic literature and plays to opera and Lieder was presented. What a rich experience it must have been for the eleven judges amongst whom were German teachers and professors, the Vice Consul of the German Consulate in Boston, and a representative of the Goethe Institute, as well as theater arts professionals. Small college town but not small scale. Given this ammunition you may think you know why I was crouching.



Hartsbrook High School German students outside Chapin Auditorium.

My stance though, took its origins elsewhere. Karin Winter, one of our school's German teachers, has long taken classes from our school to participate in the festival and competition. As she would have taken them again this year, one of her wishes was that in her absence someone might be found who would be able to arrange this... My guard was not up fast enough – that's when it hit me... "A-ha," you say. "Nope," say I, "still not crouching."

As director of the 3rd grade German play, *The Bremen Town Musicians*, I carried as security the many hours of preparation and rehearsal that twenty-two children and I had wrought. So, on the morning of the festival, the students and I would together present our play. Well yes, there before them I crouched, prepared to cue and guide and ultimately...no. This was to be "the moment" I stood "released" (ok, crouched) before them. As the children walked the road to Bremen across the stage they were not doing the rehearsed movements rather they were living the intricacies of their characters. Sounds high falut'in? Maybe so. Yet no greater life was ever breathed into those parts than at that moment. They were life-ing.

Mr. Saltet and the German students of the 9th and 11th grades lifted. Within one hour from fairytale through Goethe's Faust to Schubert's Erlkönig, a brief yet beautiful part of a successful German landscape at our school was opened on the stage in South Hadley for those who were there to glimpse it.

Now reharnessed and continuing to culminate, I am grateful to all fellow lifers for their supportive efforts in creating beautiful vistas. For results of the competition and further info "Google" Deutsches Theaterfest.

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John Rollinson
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John Rollinson has trained and been certified through the highest levels with Dr. John Upledger, founder of the Upledger Institute for Cranio-sacral Therapy, where he is a certified teaching assistant and study group leader. He works in a school clinic as well as with adults. John earned a 5-year diploma in Eurythmy in 1993 before working as a performer in the London College of Eurythmy Ensemble and for 12 years as a Waldorf teacher.

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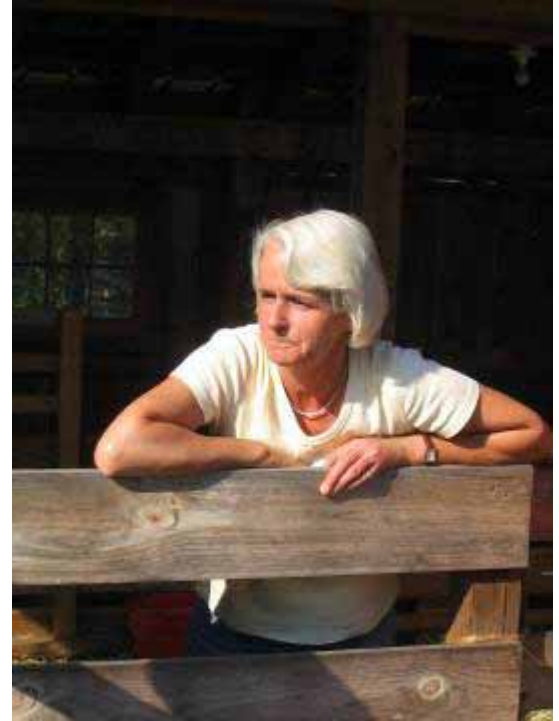
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A Window on Agricultural Arts

Nicki Robb – Director of the Agricultural Arts Program at Hartsbrook

While you may assume that having an Agricultural Arts program at a Waldorf school, such as we have at Hartsbrook, is commonplace – think again! We are extremely fortunate to have a strong Agricultural Arts program that incorporates farm animal care, gardening, composting, bee keeping and access to the fields and farmers that help support our endeavors; and we are fortunate, yet again, to have as Program Director, Nicki Robb, at its heart and soul. Nicki has been part of the Hartsbrook community from its inception. Her eldest son was part of our first graduating class so many years ago. In honor and in gratitude of her work and commitment, the Agricultural Arts Committee would like to take this space to acquaint you with the breadth of experience and knowledge that Nicki's life has afforded up to now, and to shed light on her amazing accomplishments.

Many of you know Nicki as “Ms. Robb” - the quiet-spoken, gentle woman that guides our children through classes of planting seeds, harvesting crops, and introducing our children to the world of farm animal care. And while her magical way with children, animals and the earth may come naturally, it is enhanced and informed by her work that has led her across continents, and finally to us.



Hailing from the Channel Islands in Great Britain, Nicki worked in the 1970's in Curative Education in England and Scotland where she received her Diploma in Curative Education from Camphill Rudolph Steiner School. (For more information about Camphill's work, please visit www.camphill.org). Her experience in Scotland led to an opportunity to live and work in Botswana where she worked with children with special needs, guided teacher training in academic and therapeutic works and created programs for the children that incorporated work with soil, plants and animals. It is worth noting that this program has since been endorsed by the government of Botswana as being the leader of special education initiatives in that country.

In the early 1980's, Nicki found herself in the Pioneer Valley where she became co-founder of the beloved Brookfield Farm. Once abandoned land, Brookfield Farm was nurtured using bio-dynamic agricultural practices and a great deal of muscle, sweat and love to become one of the country's first CSA initiatives. This love of the earth and of farming allowed Nicki to become a valuable member of CISA, and the Bio-Dynamic Farmland Conservation Trust and its programs over many years. Within these programs, Nicki was able to build bridges between public school children and the Farm, often focusing on children with special needs, who would not otherwise have the opportunity to be in touch with the surrounding land.

After nurturing Brookfield Farm towards a 300+ member CSA and passing it on to the capable hands of another Hartsbrook family, Dan Kaplan and Karen Romanowski, Nicki became Program Director for the School-to-Farm Program at Hampshire College. By and within this time, Nicki went on to earn her B.A. in Agriculture, Education and Special Needs Youth, and a M.Ed. in Special Education from the University of Massachusetts. At Hampshire, Nicki created the Holyoke Youth Farm Program, the Special Education Summer Program and the Transition Program which is still on-going. These programs specialized in bringing inner city youth and challenged children directly in touch with the therapeutic and nurturing work of farming and gardening. The Transition Program, in particular, has been successful in providing remedial and academic support, vocational

Nicki Robb, continued

instruction and functional life skills education that allows middle and high school children identified with learning needs to transition from South Hadley public schools into the wider community. Included in her work at Hampshire is also the highly sought-after summer Farm Camp that brings elementary school-aged children from across the Valley to partake in a hands-on experience of working with livestock and agricultural craft activities.

And while all of this is breath-taking enough, Nicki has help us establish a wide-ranging curriculum at Hartsbrook that spans the grades and is responsible for bringing us, and maintaining, our livestock of goats, sheep and chickens. She also works directly with our school gardens and planting schedule, building our apiary and conducting beekeeping classes, and has extended her work into the High School to be sure that all levels of Agricultural Arts are developed and embraced by the students here who are fortunate enough to have this important practical experience.

It is not a wonder that our Agricultural Arts Program has grown to become so extensive and such a very solid piece of our school community. Nicki's commitment, experience, love for animals and belief in the crucial work of finding connection with the land lives and breathes in this Program. Her work with children, especially her work with challenged or special needs children, speaks to her kind nature, as well as to her innate intelligence that there is something very therapeutic and nourishing to the soul that only getting our hands dirty and having the grand opportunity of the warm breath of a baby goat by our side can provide. It seems as though we have only tapped the surface of what wonderful opportunities for growth having Nick Robb in our midst can bring our beloved Hartsbrook School. And while she may demur at such acclaim, we would not be the same school without what she has so generously offered to us. Her vision, her commitment and her vast skill and intelligence has brought us to what is an enormous part of why we call Hartsbrook "home" for our children.

Written by Beth Volkmann on behalf of the Agricultural Arts Working Group: Heather Damon, Catherine Hopkins, Nicki Robb, Jessica Stark, Beth Volkmann, and Heide Zajonc

Thank you Heather Damon

What a delight it has been for me to have had the company of Heather Damon as our Agricultural Arts Assistant, helping us grow the program into all the richness and complexity we see today!

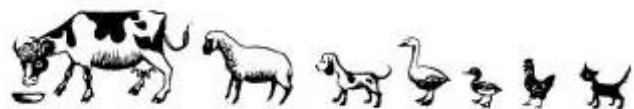
What an odd assortment of responsibilities she has tackled (and with such gleeful energy)! Whether helping to muck out our animal pens or assist-

ing our 8th graders as they secure their bee suits before going into the beehives; supporting the 3rd and 4th grade as they carry out their daily animal care responsibilities, or helping wrestle some reluctant sheep to have their hooves trimmed!

The list goes on and on..... and points to the huge array and diversity of responsibilities involved to ensure the smooth operation of our Agricultural Arts program. Most importantly, she has tirelessly and faithfully made sure that the 3rd and 4th grade families have felt integral in the care of the animals over the weekends and vacations. Heather has an energy and enthusiasm that is infectious! At the crack of dawn or at the end of a long hot day, you can be assured that she will greet the task in hand with the same beaming smile and warm creative energy we have come to expect of her.

It has been an honor to have worked together with Heather over these years and our Agricultural Arts program could not have become what it is today without her care and support. While I know that she will be busy with her new responsibilities as our first grade teacher, I feel sure that she will continue in whatever way she can to share her creative energy with our Agricultural Arts program as it continues to grow. Thank you Heather!

Nicki Robb for the children, parents and most especially the animals!



Ultimate Frisbee: A Revolution in Sports



We had supposedly come to the end of our final and most challenging game at the Amherst Ultimate Tournament. It was 4:15 and we had been playing since 10:00 that morning and the players were tired and dragging. At least that is what we thought. We were playing to 13 and the score was 13-2, but the players on both teams unanimously decided they wanted to play more and the coaches agreed. The outcome of the game certainly was not

going to change, but winning and losing was not the goal for this game. This was competition at its highest form. They were playing for the love of game.

There are not many sports where this type of thing happens. Play stops when a winner is declared, both teams exit the field and that is what it is all about. However, this is not the case in Ultimate. Players and teams love to win games of course, but that is not the real reason they play the game and Ultimate is structured in such a way that there is room for more than just winning. Play is governed by 'the spirit of the game' which is a mutual agreement between players that sportsmanship, fair play, respect between players and joy of play, are never compromised by competitive play.

When our last game of the tournament was finally over, we asked the other team if they wanted to do cheers for one another. Cheers are another ultimate tradition in which teams compose a song, poem or chant to share with the other team that highlights the other team's strengths on the field that day. However, our opponents asked if we would rather play a game together. We agreed and both teams came into a circle to play a cooperative circle game followed by an enthusiastic game of duck, duck goose. There was a lot of great play that day, by our team and the teams we played, but for me the highlight of the day was to see all of the players continue playing with the same joy and compassion after the final game had been lost as they did at the beginning of the day.

Beauty, Truth and Strength:
The Fifth Grade Olympiad

Every year in late May, Hartsbrook's fifth grade travels to The Great Barrington Steiner School to participate in the annual Greek Olympics. The students spend much of the year training for the five events that make up the Pentathlon; discuss, javelin, long jump, wrestling and running. However, the Olympics is not just an athletic event but rather a combination of arts and athletics, celebrating beauty in its many forms. The emphasis is on achieving both beauty and strength in all of the five disciplines. It is not enough to simply throw the farthest or jump the farthest, but an athlete's form in each discipline must also be pleasing to the gods. Thus, each event is judged on both form and strength (distance), with the goal being to balance the two. The festival emphasizes each athlete achieving his or her personal best rather than competing with others, which occurs when we create an environment of support and recognition for all. The Olympics also provide the students with an experience of ancient Greece, which is part of their study of classical civilizations during main lesson.

The event opens with the athletes processing to the fields of play, where they gather in a circle to await the arrival of the Olympic torch. When the torch bearers arrive, they light the



flame and they all join in the singing of 'Glorious Apollo.' Each fifth grade class then comes into the center of the circle to share an artistic offering they have prepared in advance. All of the athletes then jog

together around the running course, after which the games begin with the students going to each event with their city state. The games conclude with the grand relay, in which each city state of about 20-25 athletes forms a relay team to run against the other city states. This moment brings all of the athletes together, and although only one city state is able to cross the finish line first, they all recognize the effort of every individual and cheer in celebration for all of the participants.

The training for the Olympics requires perseverance and focus as each event requires a particular quality of movement

Games, continued

that the students must experience, especially with the throwing disciplines of javelin and discuss. At first the students want to just throw the two, but they soon find out it is not quite as simple as it looks. Through the training they slowly experience the gesture and quality of movement that is required of each discipline. With the javelin there is a particular form and gesture that is independent of the javelin. When they find that form the javelin is simply added to the gesture and the thrower and the javelin now move together to achieve the beautiful flight of the javelin. The movement gesture carries the javelin and thrower through space rather than the will of the athlete alone forcing the javelin through space. The students recognize when this is achieved and I hear many 'ooooohs' and 'aaaaahs' when a javelin or discuss flies with that kind of beauty.

The fifth grade Olympics has also been used to bring children from communities in conflict around the globe together. These festivals called 'Hands in Peace' combine art and non-competitive athletics that emphasize grace, beauty and cooperation. The 'Hands in Peace' festivals are inspired by the truce that was struck between warring ancient Greek city-states that allowed for the first Olympic games. These festivals have brought children together from warring communities including Israel and Palestine, Kosovo and Serbia, North and South Cypress and Ireland. There has also been a Pan-American festival that brought together indigenous children in Ecuador and neighboring countries.

So this May, as our children travel to the Greek Olympics, we will not only be celebrating beauty, truth and strength, we will also be joining a larger movement that is using this same model to celebrate and promote peace on a global scale.

Nancy Swyers travels in Serbia and Rwanda

Do you want to have a way to get a lot of strange looks from people? Well, tell them you are going to two areas of the world that most people avoid, two areas that in the last decade have been torn by political conflict of the worst kind. The two areas I am referring to are Serbia and Rwanda. My favorite response by far was from a fellow Hartsbrook parent who said, "Boy, you really know how to pick your vacations spots!"



Quite unromantically my trip was part of a Masters program I am doing at the School for International Training in Brattleboro, VT. It is a degree in Conflict Transformation and we were traveling to Rwanda to experience firsthand what Rwandan society is like now, ten years after the genocide that had killed about 500,000 Rwandans in three months. My trip to the Balkans was mainly to visit a couple of friends, one in Croatia and another in Belgrade, Serbia.

Walking the streets of downtown Belgrade, I encountered a series of bombed out buildings. As I had never encountered anything like this before, with the exception of the World Trade Center in New York, I was quite overwhelmed. They were not related to the mid 1990's wars, as I originally thought, but to the 1999 NATO bombing relating to Serbia's actions in Kosovo.

Africa itself is an overwhelming experience. We met a variety of people, both victims and perpetrators of the genocide, government officials, heads of local civil and relief organizations working in the area. The landscape was so beautiful and green that you could hardly believe the horrendous acts that happened here.

So what did I learn? I learned that people are people all over the world, they have the same hopes and dreams for a better life that we do. They live their lives, worry about their children, complain about the things that annoy them, and hope that tomorrow will be better than today. I learned that is mostly governments who are the culprits in involving people in deeds that they would never think of doing otherwise. I learned that people are capable of an incredible amount of patience and resilience even under the most horrific of circumstances. I learned that people do recover from terrible experiences. Anyone who expects people who have lived through a genocide to be dour individuals, with not much hope, scarred forever by the trauma, with lingering PTSD symptoms, would be very disappointed to know that the people I met were among the most friendly, open and welcoming people I have ever met in my life. I learned that it is possible for people to bridge what seems to be almost insurmountable gaps at times, be they societal, political or those related to ethnicity. I would say that we as individuals and especially as a community have much to learn about forgiveness and reconciliation from those who have seen the worst that humanity can offer. I, for one, hope that I have the opportunity to return again soon to both countries, to continue my education. I hope that you will join me.

For more information

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WINDOW ON DEVELOPMENT

Building the Elementary School Campaign

We are nearing the end of our five year capital campaign to raise the funds needed to build a new Elementary School on the Piening Hall campus, and thus to unite all grades 1-12 on the same campus. With an end date of June 30, 2007, it is wonderful to see the first floor of the Elementary School active with grades 3-6.

'BUY A BRICK'

Supporting the Challenge, this year we also had a very successful 'Buy a Brick' campaign. Bricks in the patio underneath the canopy of the new Elementary School may be purchased for \$100 and engraved with the inscription of your choice. Over 100 bricks have been purchased, contributing over \$10,000 to the Challenge!! Bricks must be purchased by June 30th, 2007, so don't miss out on this opportunity to create a lasting imprint on Hartsbrook!

Silver Anniversary Auction

A great team of volunteers, headed up by Sheryl Waxler (donations and organization), Katarina Noyes (decorations and food), Amy Freed (editing), Liza Pulsifer (website liaison), Caroline Lederman (set-up of displays) and Mark Roblee (live auction and carnival emcee) created an event that was a lot of fun. Thank you to all—producers, volunteers and guests alike—who made it a wonderfully successful night. With a net income of about \$20,000, all enjoyed both a Fun-raiser as well as a Fund-raiser!

THE AUCTION LIVES ON!

The on-line auction continues... through June 30th, all profits will go to support this year's Annual Fund. Many wonderful items are still available and you also can donate items to be auctioned... It's like our own community e-bay! Just go to www.hartsbrook.org. Check it out, updates will be coming, and we welcome your feedback and suggestions.

MATCHING CHALLENGE GRANT

A group of donors last summer generously agreed to create a \$100,000 Dollar for Dollar Matching Challenge in support of the Building the Elementary School Campaign. For every dollar raised this year, they would match up to \$100,000. Over 200 parents, board members, faculty and staff, grandparents, friends, alumni and alumni parents all pitched in to meet this marvelous challenge! Now, with about 4 weeks to go, the end is in sight—we have raised \$92,000, and feel confident that with your help we will make our goal. Please, make a contribution today.

ANNUAL FUND 2007

Goal=\$75,000, Currently=\$36,500

This year's theme for the Annual Fund used a picture of the foot bridge that is in the field below the school. Our children use it often to get to the Hill Top garden across the way. Without that bridge, the way would be impassable, and our students couldn't get to the garden to plant, tend, and harvest the crops there. So, too, when we fall sort of our Annual Fund goal, we are unable to fully tend our crop of students. The 'bridge' needs tending too! Please, if you have not yet given, make your contribution today. And if you have given, please see if you could give a bit more. We have included an envelope for your convenience, or give on line at www.hartsbrook.org

Alumni Graduation Event

The Alumni of Hartsbrook are coming home! Several enthusiastic alumni are helping the development office to strengthen the binds that tie, and the next get together centers around our June 9 commencement. An inspiring group of young adults, the Hartsbrook Alumni remind us of the value of a Hartsbrook education, clear examples of the lifelong benefits.

Hey Alumni(ae)!

This is your official invitation to join us on June 9th for the Hartsbrook High School Graduation. Prior to there being a Hartsbrook High School, graduation from the eighth grade was an event peopled, for the most part, by friends and families of the graduates themselves, and largely overlooked by the rest of the community. However, if there is one event you should drag your entire family to (willingly or otherwise) it is graduation. This is a great opportunity to revisit Hartsbrook, see old friends, and what better way to send off Hartsbrook's finest, than to clap them into a big white tent a little too early on a Saturday morning, or to stand shoulder to shoulder with parents and faculty belting out what few words you can remember of the school song?

Thus we are hosting the first ever alumni reception in coordination with Graduation. I'm told that extra food and refreshments have already been ordered for the occasion, so meet us there and catch up with teachers, socialize with old classmates, and enjoy the wonderful spring weather we so thoughtfully reserved for the event. In addition, throughout the day there will be an alumni welcome tent set up outside where you can check-in, check up on former classmates, purchase a copy of the 25th Anniversary Yearbook, sign up for the alumni mailing list and overall have a good time! So no excuses, come on out and support the class of '07!

By Ty McCormick (ES '02)

G'day from down under!
Notes on a year abroad

For the past three months I've been "WWOOFing" (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) around New Zealand. I've worked on four different farms on the North Island. The main objective of this trip was to work on horse farms.

My travels have brought me to Wellington, the capitol of NZ, and the most relaxed and eclectic city I've ever seen. My first WWOOFing experience was on a small farm outside the wine village of Martinborough. Every day I rode out over hills, across farms, and through rivers. My next stop was Rotorua where the air smelled of sulfur because of the geothermal activity. Then on to Hamilton to an appaloosa stud farm where I spent a week with an older couple who called me girl and talked about their four cats almost exclusively. On to the world of racing in Whakatane. High strung thoroughbreds are not my cup of tea, but it was a good learning experience. Last

stop, Piano Hill riding school in Hikurangi. I've been helping out with lessons and learning about natural horsemanship.

People have been asking me, "Why NZ?" or "Why WWOOFing?" It all started in 11th grade when I decided to take a year off after graduation. Since then I've stuck with that decision and trusted that everything would work out. Thankfully, it did. This has been an amazing journey and an invaluable learning experience.

By Eleni Dines ('06)

Google's got nothing on Hartsbrook

For anyone who has doubted whether a curriculum rooted in knitting, eurythmy, and animal husbandry could prepare students to excel in a cutting edge technological industry, set your hearts at rest: Hartsbrook is staking its claim in Silicon Valley (well not really, they're staying in Boston) as Noah Smith, Class of '97, prepares to launch an internet startup company. This month Noah will finish his Masters degree in Computer Science at Tufts University and devote himself full-time to his latest brainchild: Common Kitchen. This next-generation interest-based web community hopes to bring everyone who is talking about food online together into one location. "The problem right now," according to Noah, "is that hundreds of thousands of people are writing food reviews, but these reviews are scattered all over the internet." CommonKitchen.com seeks to centralize this information and create a unique search engine powered in large part by thousands of food-loving bloggers. At the same time, non-bloggers will be able to add their opinions while searching for recipes and the best dishes at local restaurants. Ever wonder who has the best barbeque chicken wings in Northampton, or need a better hummus recipe? Within a few months your answers will be at CommonKitchen.com.

Although the webpage has not yet been launched publicly, you can get involved by signing up for the site's focus group by visiting the simple page located at commonkitchen.com. Noah and Co. will be sending members of this group questions about what they currently do online (related to food), and how CommonKitchen.com can make this experience better. Eventually Noah hopes to establish similar sites that revolve around sports, politics, fitness, and film, but these will be contingent on the success of his first venture. Perhaps we can convince him to start one on Waldorf education...

By Ty McCormick (ES '02)



Muddy Brook Farm LLP
A multi-service
Equestrian Center

Summer horse programs Birthdays & weddings
Riding & driving lessons Hay & carriage rides
After-school programs Farming with horses

Muddy Brook Farm
646 West St., Amherst

For more information contact:

Kathy Roberts, muddybrookfarm@yahoo.com, 537-7262



Summer Programs 2007
Weekly Programs, Mon-Fri 9-3
\$290/week

Of Special Interest to Hartsbrook Families:
June 11-15 Alana Bolz-Reynolds,
June 18-22 Alana & her mother, Bonnie Bolz!
Sign up for both weeks and get \$100 discount!

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Healing Digestive Illness, the new book by Russell Mariani is now available. For complete details go to www.healingdigestiveillness.com or phone *Maramor Press* at (413) 536-4097.

BABYSITTER/MOTHER'S HELPER: Are you a mom who likes to stay at home during the day but who needs someone to watch your child(ren) while you relax in the sun or work on a painting? Or do you enjoy spending your days with your child(ren) and would love the evenings to go out to dinner and movie with friends or your partner? Either way, I can help out! I'm an experienced babysitter who has taken care of countless children in the school community and who has a Waldorf imagination of my own due to my total immersion in Waldorf education since Kindergarten! For references please call Wendy Pearson (413) 253-1891 or Jessica Stark (413) 586-3771. Please call me with any questions. Kiara Perico (413) 559-1850.

THREE GUYS AND A BLUE GOOSE are back in business for another summer. We are available for work beginning May 1st. Yard work, moving, spring cleaning, and any job you don't want to do give us a call. Contact Ty McCormick: (413) 695-4861

A Window on 3rd and 4th Grade

Earlier this Spring we welcomed the kids and lambs to the world! They ate well and are very healthy. First, Pepper the goat gave birth to two playful kids, Cocoa and Cinnamon. Over our April vacation the sheep gave birth to their lambs. On the first Friday evening, Maggie gave birth to her lambs, unfortunately one of them did not make it, rest in peace. On the second Saturday, Iona gave birth to her two lambs. We named Maggie's two adorable lambs Moonstone and Mini. Iona's gentle lambs we named Ivy and Inky. All the lambs are black and Moonstone has white spots. There are three girls and one boy, Inky. We can tell that only Ivy will stay black by looking at their tongues.

All the new members of our farmstead community are healthy and thriving. Come visit!

The 4th grade



3rd Grader, Natalia Soborski, holds one of the baby chicks that hatched this spring.

A Window on the May Celebration

Clockwise from picture below: 3rd graders dance around the maypole; Nursery and Cricket students dip their wands into the bubble bucket; Kindergarteners watch the maypole dancers; grandparents, parents and students enjoy the day; 2nd graders dance around the maypole.



The Hartsbrook School
End of Year Events
 You are invited

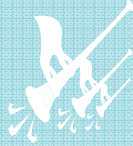
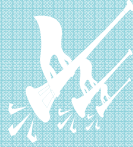
8th Grade Promotion

Friday, June 8, 2007
 Ceremony, 4:30-6:00pm
 Reception, 6:00-6:45

High School Graduation

Saturday, June 9, 2007
 10:00am-12:00noon

193 Bay Road
 Hadley MA, 01035



Calendar of Events

2nd Grade presents *Francis and the Wolf of Gubbio*, May 30, 10:10am (Ben Smith); May 31 and June 1, 10:10am (Piening Hall Assembly Room)

3rd Grade presents *Noah and the Flood*, in the Elementary School Great Room, June 4, 1:15pm; June 5, 9:30am; June 6, 11:00am

June 6: Field Day

June 7: Last day for Early Childhood

June 8: Last day for Grades 1-12, Assembly at 11:00am, outside (Main Campus); 8th Grade Promotion, 4:30 (Main Campus)

June 9: High School Graduation, 10:00am (Main Campus)



The Hartsbrook School

A Waldorf School in the Pioneer Valley

193 Bay Road, Hadley, MA 01035

