



PORTLAND
VILLAGE
SCHOOL

A Waldorf Methods Public Charter

Dear Grandparents, Relatives and Friends of our Portland Village School Students:

Fall has arrived, with its glorious russet tones, and our 2011 school year is launched! We've already held the Harvest Festival, and the dear second graders have charmed us with their play, *George and the Dragon*, at their Celebration of Courage. Our seventh grade just performed their delightful, *public* poetry reading at Posies last week, and our annual Craft Fair is coming up (November 19th, to be exact). As the days have shortened, Portland weather has turned even cooler...so those lovely changing leaves offer some visual warmth, at least, for which we are grateful. It is, in fact, a season of gratitude, as our approaching Thanksgiving holiday reminds us. Perhaps you have enjoyed some of these events, and have even been able to see some of our students' Main Lesson Books, full of the history of the world, with their colorful drawings and inspiring prose. But many of you do not live nearby, and can only occasionally assess our PVS students' grand progress.

As a former Waldorf-parent myself (for thirteen years), I have happily known hundreds of Waldorf graduates. I've seen them blossom into upright citizens, full of imagination, creativity, intelligence, reverence for life, and an utterly wholesome view of the world...so different from many of the disillusioned, even hardened youth of today. For this, I am continually grateful. And those graduates, now adults, tell me they are determined their children will have the blessing of a Waldorf education. Some of them, in fact, have already done so! I imagine that few of us would be prompted to say that about our own grade-school experience.

I hope this will suggest to you some of the results of our remarkable Waldorf-approach to education, and give you hope and assurance that your own relatives and friends will have a similar response to their years at PVS. I hope, too, that you will be prompted to make a contribution to our 2011 *Annual Fund*. Your generosity will enable us to not only pay for the lights, the heat, and our teachers' salaries, but to continue to delight and enchant our charges as we bring them a true picture of the world...all its history, art, drama, music, craft, dance, and more. Our Waldorf curriculum introduces an impressive array of academic subjects, beginning with all four math-processes as early as first grade to botany, chemistry, geology, astronomy, physiology, and physics in the upper grades. And, how many children get to study both Spanish *and* Chinese in elementary school?

It may come as a surprise that we receive less than 80% of what public-schools are granted. This year, that amounts to a shockingly low \$4,692.80 per grade-school student, and only half of that for our kindergarteners! And while public schools receive their sites free of charge, we must pay for ours with those funds. Thus, what PVS has achieved under these limitations is doubly impressive. So, please give what you can. We will be truly grateful for your help.

Sincerely yours,

Grace Sanders

Director of Development

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