

Radius

May 2014

Issue 98

A newsletter for Camphill Special School families

"Receive the children with reverence, educate them with love, send them forth in freedom" - Rudolf Steiner

The Sacred Flame

by Peggy Hirt

The senior class provided the content for our Holy Week celebration this year by performing one scene from our play, *The Sacred Flame* by Selma Lagerlöfs each morning. As the story unfolded, we witnessed the transformation of Raniero through the overcoming of obstacles and gaining of self-knowledge. We learned about love and forgiveness and how through the ashes of death, light and life can begin again.



Each student practiced and worked with diligence in his or her own special way, to make this story come alive, and allow the glow of the Sacred Flame to warm the hearts of our parents, relatives, friends and our entire school community.



Photo credit: Marc Bryan-Brown



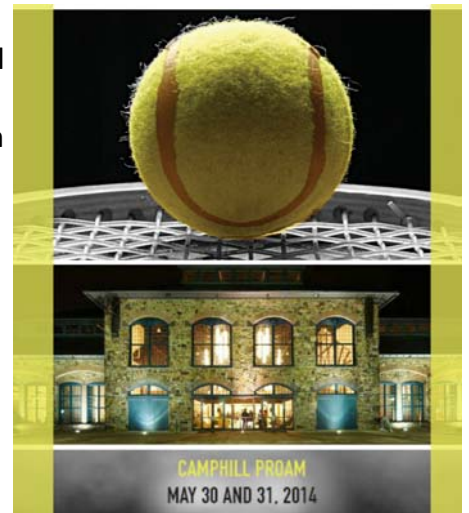
Calendar of events

- May 9 Picture Day at Beaver Run
- May 10-11 Elsbeth's Piano Recital
- May 11 Mothers' Day
- May 13 Picture Day at Beaver Farm
- May 14 Admissions Open House
Beaver Run, 9:00 am
- May 21-22 Robin Kaip's play
- May 26 Memorial Day
- May 30 ProAm Gala
- May 31 ProAm Tennis Tournament
and Clinics

Thursday Concerts are at 3:00 PM in the Blue Room, all are welcome

We would LOVE to see you at the ProAm!

May 30 is a BIG night for Camphill Special School— it is the culmination of our 50th anniversary year! The Phoenixville Foundry will be filled with jubilant attendees at our ProAm Gala, so be sure that you are one of them.



You can purchase admission to the Gala through your invitation, online, or by calling the office. Sponsorships are still available and will guarantee you a table for the evening. *(Continued on page 4...)*

Honor your child's teacher

By Amy McHugh

We are nearing the annual ProAm Gala and Tennis Tournament. There are many ways to contribute to this exciting weekend including **contributing towards an ad in the Gala program honoring your child's teacher.** If you are looking to contribute, please send your donation to the school or donate online (enter "ad" in the comment box).

Larry Bissonette inspires at Beaver Run

By Emma Peabody

One of the highlights of last month's autism symposium at Camphill Special School was an evening presentation by artist and advocate Larry Bissonette. With deep insight and mischievous wit, Larry shared some of his life's journey from a non-speaking child with little chance for self-expression growing up in an institution ("better for growing vegetables than people," he writes) to who he is now – an eloquent artist, writer and subject of documentary films, and sought-after presenter on autism, communication, and art.

Like quite a few of our students at Beaver Run, Larry has little verbal speech and communicates primarily with a voice-generating iPad app. Letter by letter, Larry crafted his message to share with us, answering many questions from the rapt audience in Rainbow Hall.

Larry spent the first decades of his life being largely discounted and disrespected. People around him could not see past his unusual behavior and his diagnostic labels to who he was on a deeper level. He has written that "Typing let the person I really was out." Learning to speak through typing profoundly changed his life. In his powerful presentation, Larry urged us to give the children, students, and friends we work with and love the means to share who they really are through language and through art. It was an honor to hear Larry's words.

Editor's note: In last month's issue we neglected to include a link to Kim Kupfer's blog, from which the article "The Explorer's Club: Raising A Son With Special Needs" was reprinted. It can be found online at: whoishetoday.blogspot.com. We apologize for this oversight.

Third Grade visits the farm

By Ginny Thimme

Farming is part of the third grade curriculum and at the beginning of April, the third grade went over to Beaver Farm each morning, for a week, to learn about farm life. We had set chores each day: collecting the eggs from the chickens, feeding the pigs and giving them water, bottle feeding the baby lambs and an extra job each day, like brushing the big Momma pig.

It was a wonderful time to be at the farm with the warm, spring weather and all the baby animals and we learned a lot. Thank you, Ani.



Alana holds a soft little chick.



Stephanie bonds with a lamb.



Eva shows one of many eggs gathered during the week.

Happenings from the classrooms



The children in **Kindergarten** have been playing outside in the beautiful spring weather. Freya and Leon, above, go “fishing” with sticks in the creek!

Grade Five finished our studies of North American Geography with a field trip to Hawk Mountain on a beautiful spring day this month. Everyone enjoyed hiking the mountain trail and seeing some amazing views! We've now begun our main lesson block on Ancient Egypt, studying the River Nile and hieroglyphs.



Seventh grade is studying physiology, learning all about our bodies and how to stay healthy. We had a visit from Glenn’s father, John, who taught us about digestion and showed us some medical instruments. We also went to the Franklin Institute.



Grade Eight has been studying anatomy but took time out to make a giant "hot cross bun" and to enjoy a special snack together.



Beaver Farm had a wonderful Holy Week focusing on the theme of “Water.” Every day we started with an assembly in the barn and heard about all the different sources of water on our farm -- from the wells of our geothermal heating and cooling, to the beauty of French and Center Creeks. Our group project was to clear around Center Creek, make paths, and help stop the erosion. We celebrated on Easter Sunday by inviting all of our parents for brunch in our dining hall. We all enjoyed the week and the true arrival of Spring at last!

Admissions Open House to take place Wednesday, May 14, 9:00 am

As someone who is already a part of the Camphill Special School family, your testimonial is *instrumental* to our growth. If you know a family who could benefit from our school, please let them know about our upcoming Admissions Open House, which takes place on Wednesday, May 14, at 9:00 am at Beaver Run. This is a great opportunity to see our programs in action! Direct questions by email to information@camphillspecialschool.org or phone 610.469.9236.

Picture Day reminder

Picture Day at Beaver Run is Friday, May 9, and picture day for the Transition Program, at Beaver Farm, will be Tuesday, May 13. If you are interested in purchasing a "picture package," please make your check payable to Showstopper Photography, and mail it to Cass in the office (please do not date the check any later than May 9, 2014). If you have misplaced your official form from Showstopper Photography, call Cass in the office. She will be able to e-mail a photocopy of the photographer's form to you.

ProAm, *continued from page one...*

We will once again be using the BidPal system for the live and silent auctions. Visit our site to register in advance, get familiar with the available items, and even bid early or take advantage of the buy-it-now feature. Those unable to attend can bid online from anywhere!

May 31 will be a fun-filled day, too. Be sure to bring the children and yourselves to the tennis clinics at Whitford Country Club (no experience needed!); they start at 12 noon. Then you can stay and take in some incredible tennis from local pros and amateurs, including tenth grade teacher Andreas!

If you have questions or need further details, please contact Courtney at 610.469.9236 x132 or ccoffman@camphillspecialschool.org.



Maxine and Ellie, students in grade eight, enjoyed their time on the swing.



A group heads to lunch, all bundled up due to the unexpected cold weather earlier this spring (from left: Annika, Michelle, Haley, Ziora, Jad, Bobby, Emma, and Rachel).



Our mission is to create wholeness for children and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities through education and therapy in extended family living.

Items for the June issue of *Radius* must be submitted by May 19, 2014. Materials should be submitted to cschmidt@camphillspecialschool.org

All material submitted is subject to editing and is included on a space available basis.

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Plan ahead to make the most of the ProAm Live Auction!

You will want to spend the evening of **May 30** with friends: enjoying the delicious offerings from Robert Ryan Catering, refreshing with drinks from Berkshire Mountain Distillery and Hunterdon Brewing, and dancing to Carrie Evangeline and the HythaFam Band.

So that you can have as much fun as possible, we are providing a list of the Live Auction items in advance. Share it with your friends and family and pick the trips that look like the best fit for you. Coordinate your calendars and develop a strategy. Show your competitive side, while getting a great deal, and supporting Camphill Special School!



Looking for the most incredible family vacation you can imagine? Look no further than this **Big Sky ranch in Montana**! Stay in a beautiful log home with five bedrooms that easily sleeps two families. An attached studio guest house also is included. With picturesque view of a state park, just one hour from Yellowstone, and ten minutes to the base of Big Sky ski resort it is ideal for a winter or summer vacation you will never forget. (Available for mutually convenient week).

How does a week in **Jamaica** for up to ten people sound? Good? Well, just wait it gets better!

The Villa at Lookout Cove is a luxurious oceanfront estate comprised of secluded lagoons, tropical gardens, and unspoiled ocean views and cliffs. This 5,000 square-foot villa reveals pure oceanfront luxury within three levels of magnificent living areas. Wait- there's more!

The Cottage at Lookout Cove is a quaint cliff-side cottage, located on the same wonderful estate as the villa, overlooking the ocean. The cottage is unadulterated comfort, complete with private swimming lagoons, tropical gardens and miles of unspoiled beaches.

You will also find ideal snorkeling reefs, spectacular sunsets, all with a friendly staff that caters to your wishes!!!

Meals are included, but transportation, tips, and alcohol are not. Trip may be taken May 1 through September 30 for a week (Saturday to Saturday).



Live Auction items, continued

Said to be one the "1,000 Places to See before You Die," **Beaver Creek, Colorado** is one of the most beautiful places on earth. Make next summer one to remember by spending a week in this Rocky Mountain paradise with hiking, rafting, horseback riding, art galleries, shopping, and more. Accommodations are for up to six people to stay seven nights at the Prestigious **St. James Place** in the heart of Beaver Creek Village. This condo includes two bedrooms (one king and two twin beds), three baths, and a queen sleeper sofa, and also has a balcony to soak in the mountain air. The St. James property has a gym, indoor pool, sauna, indoor and outdoor hot tubs and steam rooms, and on-property concierge. This trip is for next summer - July 11th through 18th, 2015. Transportation is not included.



Enjoy a week long trip to paradise: **Puerta Plata in the Dominican Republic**. Choose a villa with three to seven bedrooms. Without journeying far, you can take advantage of numerous on-site attractions designed to excite or relax—depending on your preferences and mood. There's something for every member of your group, from childrens' daytime activities to adult nightlife. While there enjoy your own private pool, 24-hour food and beverage from 20 restaurants and 28 bars, and choose from five beaches. Winner is responsible for travel costs and all-inclusive fee of \$85 per person per day. Blackout dates are December 23-January 2.

Seeking fabulous Live Auction items

Last year our Live Auction broke records as we were fortunate to feature beach vacations, mountain getaways and one-of-a-kind experiences. We offered exciting trips to New York— with a red carpet makeover— and Washington D.C.—for a V.I.P. tour. Once again, we would love to outdo ourselves.

Do you have a fantastic vacation home or time-share you would like to donate for a week?

Are you able to help us coordinate an incredible once-in-a-lifetime experience?

Can you offer an incredible service that many don't realize they need?

If you have an offer, a lead, or an idea you'd like to help us make a reality, please contact Courtney at 610.469.9236 x 132 or ccoffman@camphillspecialschool.org.

