

Radius

Summer 2014

Issue 100

A newsletter for Camphill Special School families

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

Radius reaches 100th issue, grows to all digital format!

We are excited to announce that in the coming school year *Radius* will be sent exclusively by email.

We'll be saving resources! During the last school year we printed over 6,200 pages of *Radius* which were then collated, folded, stuffed, and mailed all over the US and internationally. Moving to email will save the school close to \$1,500 a year between paper, ink, postage, and mailing.

We'll be able to share more with you! Links will be easy to find, so you can learn more and be engaged in the latest updates from the school.

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Calendar of events

August 26	Kindergarten Open House 9:00-12:00
August 31	Residential students return
September 1	Labor Day New residential students arrive
September 2	Classes begin for all students

Mark your calendar and tell your friends!

Campus Tour for prospective parents

October 8	April 29
November 5	May 20
March 25	

Welcome to a new school year– and a renovated main office!

By Courtney Coffman

This summer has been a particularly busy one in the little red house at the bottom of the hill. Shortly after classes ended the banging, pounding, booming, and other construction noises began in the office.

The entrance with the steps is now an exit-only emergency egress. The back is now our handicap accessible entrance. Upon entering visitors will be greeted by "farm fresh green" paint, a new mailroom, flooring, and, of course, Cass' ever-welcoming smile in her new office! Just across the way is a formal waiting area for our visitors.



The new front entrance of the office faces up the hill

On the first floor, our Development team is in new digs, too. Guy is now in the office Cara and I shared and we occupy the former conference room. The main reception area is now our conference room. Bernie and Margo have stayed put on our main floor and Paula, Becca, Sonja, and Andrea remain in their lower level offices. *Continued on page 3...*

Kindergarten Open House

Tuesday, August 26

9:00am-noon

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 Kindergarten Open House, which takes place on Tuesday, August 26, at 9:00 am. This is a great opportunity to see our programs in action!

Our program is fully inclusive, meaning some of our students are typically developing and some have special needs. Some are full day, some are half day. No matter their level of ability, all of the students care about and appreciate one another for who they are.

Children at this age model the behavior of the adults and others around them through imitation. We learn social skills such as patience, kindness, respect for others, and sharing. We have fun learning to wash napkins on a wash board, hanging them in the sun to dry. We bake and cook learning how ingredients come together to make the food we eat.

We encourage children to do things on their own and in their own way. They help prepare meals, clean up, hang up their belongings, and take turns. All of these activities are a part of growing up. We have a rhythm of building good habits. We learn to button our jackets, slip on our rain boots, and tie a knot.

The Kindergarten at Beaver Run is a magical place for learning about others, for learning about us, and for beginning the practice of our life. For more information, email information@camphillspecialschool.org.

A poem to be shared

Guy Alma and Courtney Coffman recently visited one of our incredible donors (who is 98 years old). They brought flowers on behalf of everyone at the school to him and his wife who recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. As a thank you he sent this poem:

They brought us flowers which you did send
To cheer our home from end to end

They are red and yellow and a touch of blue
Our favorite color and they are from you

Now it is time for us to sing
Of the handsome flowers they did bring

This "thank you" tells you how very much
We enjoyed the flowers – the entire bunch

So laugh and love and have great fun
'Cause we love you – EVERYONE!!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to teacher Joe Harris, and houseparent Anna Schmidt! The couple were married at Beaver Farm in a lovely ceremony in front of family and friends. Baby Albert looked on happily.



Summer happenings

By Sarah Schreck

The **Whitestone ESY group** was lucky enough to spend the last week of our ESY program in a house in the Catskill mountains. We tie-dyed t-shirts in Whitestone and then we wore them on our way to the mountains. We discovered lots of different wonderful state parks in the area, spent a day at Zoom-Floom Waterpark and explored and enjoyed the local ice cream place, Sprinkles.

On our last evening in the Catskills, Tobi and David made a campfire for us. Jared, Matt and Jeremiah gathered long sticks for us and we baked our own "stick bread" and hot dogs! Alasdair wrapped potatoes and once they were baked in the fire we were able to enjoy them as well. Of course our traditional and well loved dessert, s'mores, was part of this evening and enjoyed by everyone.

It was very special for us to spend the last two weeks with Alasdair, Jared and Mada who graduated and will join Triform Camphill Community and Beaver Farm.

Thank you to all the Whitestonians for making the two weeks so wonderful!



From lower left, clockwise: Mada, Elizabeth, and Miriam hang out in the Catskills, the Whitestone group makes s'mores, Ursel visits her great-grandsons in Norway, Meg and Eva try counter service on a trip to Longacre's Dairy



Main office, continued from page 1...

Upstairs has undergone quite a change. Helen, our General Ledger Accountant, and Janet, our bookkeeper are sharing an office. While, Pam, our Finance Administrator, has her own cozy office right next to Finance Director Claus' office.

Our former deck space has been converted into two lovely, light-filled offices for the Camphill Academy (formerly the Camphill School of Curative Education and Social Therapy). Jan, the Academy Director, and Dana, the new Coordinator of Academic Affairs, will work in this space.

It has been a lesson in patience and fortitude for all of us as we were temporarily displaced and even shut down for a couple days, but as the old adage says, a change is as good as a rest!

Help Wanted

Are you looking for a way to be more involved in your child's school community? We encourage you to **volunteer!**

The school has needs that conform to most any schedule including one-time event or office assistance, weekly classroom help, monthly committee meetings held in the evening, or weekend group activities. Opportunities available are as follows:

- **Camphill ProAm Committee** members help fundraise for and plan our signature annual event. Meetings are held monthly in the evenings and members are asked to help acquire sponsorships, program advertisements, auction items, and attendees. You can also help with event related projects as part of an ad-hoc ProAm Committee group.
- **On-call office volunteers** assist with mailings and other clerical projects on an as needed basis.
- **Classroom volunteers** are asked to commit to help at least one time per week for at least an hour. Typically, volunteers are most needed in handwork, woodwork, eurythmy, and one-on-one help with students, however there are a variety of activities, days, and times from which to choose.
- Other **events** throughout the year also need volunteers. As these needs arise and specific roles are outlined the staff will share needs via an email, the *Radius*, or on our Facebook page.
- With over eighty acres at Beaver Run and fifty at Beaver Farm, land maintenance is a big job! Camphill welcomes groups to help with a variety of outdoor projects. **Corporate, church, school, civic, scout, and family groups** are welcome to volunteer throughout the year.

To learn more about volunteering at Camphill Special School, please contact Cara Schmidt, at 610.469.9236 x133 or cschmidt@camphillspecialschool.org.

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You'll be able to share more with them! Invite friends to participate in the ProAm Raffle. Notify them of volunteer opportunities for which they might be a great fit. Show them the picture of your child knitting in handwork. Share content with friends and family with the click of a button. This is a great way to encourage participation or inform a friend about the school.

For those who like to display Camphill Special School on your coffee table, *Reflections*, our biannual magazine, will still be sent by mail in the fall and spring.

If you have received this issue by mail, send your email address to cschmidt@camphillspecialschool.org. If you've received this by email, no action is required on your part.



Jack, Eva, and Ellie keep cool on a hot July day



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 next issue of *Radius* must be submitted by the third Monday of the month. 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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