



[www.cobbmeadowsschool.org](http://www.cobbmeadowsschool.org)

November 2006

## What's New

### SPIRAL WALK

**Monday, December 4th  
at 5:00pm**

Our next festival is right around the corner. We will have our spiral walk on Monday evening, at Reynolds Hall of the Episcopal Church in Peterborough on Concord Street. Please plan again on feeding your child a settling snack before hand, and arriving in a quiet car as close to five as possible. The mood of the spiral walk is one of reverence. I do not even want to interrupt the walk to let in latecomers, so your promptness is desired and oh so helpful.

Jackie will be organizing the Spiral walk, and will post a sign asking for help. There will be no snack, so Spiral walk night is a good opportunity for a crock pot.

*"In December, we help draw our thoughts ever inward with an Advent Garden — a special time of reflection in silence and light. We are celebrating and honoring the light within each of us. In the cold and dim of our northern winter, it is all the more clear to us the warmth and light that the people in our lives bring us."*

# The Cobbler

a newsletter of the Cobb Meadow School

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Dear Parents

*I wish you could have all seen your children helping prepare for the lantern walk. We were so busy on Wednesday clearing the circle and setting up most of the benches. On Thursday morning, so warm and clear, we carried firewood, carried the lanterns here and there, and set up the path. Children were leaping about to help carry the wood, making many trips with logs big and heavy. The oldest children worked with me the longest on setting up the path way, and they only had to take a couple breaks to rest on the soft, soft moss.*

*Jackie went out with four children early on Thursday, and when I went to speak with her about the walk, and felt how warm and gentle the day was shaping up, I wanted to bring everyone out. But your children are so very busy during indoor play, that I could not break them off from it abruptly. We kept to our accustomed schedule: we stayed in through snack and once we went outside we did not come back in. Many days this year we have stayed out for story.*

*Many thanks to all the hands that made for light work, the fire wood bringers and our fire tender, the bakers and lighters. Thanks for the great help in coordinating and fetching of the fire permit. Thanks to Jim for some high impact high tree trimming, and also for warming up the clean up crew with delicious stew and bread after the children left that night. Thanks to Ivy for telling the story beautifully with very little advance notice: my voice seems to be getting stronger slowly. I enjoyed being able to listen to the story. I enjoyed the whole festival. Usually the night air is so cold that families prepare to leave as soon as they have eaten their yummies. Our night out was so warm and delicious. I thought we might be there till midnight. Libby said that just before I started singing my invented good bye song, a child had turned to her parents and asked when they could go home- and it did feel to me that the children had had enough of the beautiful night, and needed to be on their way.*

*Thank you all for a lovely night,  
Anne*



## Simplicity Parenting

I have enjoyed two evenings and a day of presentations by people studying children and childhood very closely. Several Cobb Meadow parents and grandparents, and a great grandmother heard Kim Payne give his talk on simplicity parenting. Various points he made have stuck with me, and I take them into consideration here at home especially. Most thought provoking is the idea that children need fewer choices than our society tends to offer them. The will work of childhood, and the imitation that teaches them how to be social, how to be with people in the world, does not take place in the head, where choices are made. They are not geared for the effort and intellectual strain it takes to make one decision after another in a day. Kim goes so far as to clear away almost all the toys that a child has to choose from- not to necessarily throw them out- but only offer a few at a time, in an effort to simplify.

## Joy Through Movement

Helle Heckman is a strong voice in Waldorf childcare. Helle is a tall strong woman who founded and runs Nokken, a child care center in Copenhagen. She accepts children from when they can walk, until 7 years of age. The youngest ones sleep in cradles cozy and warm that are outdoors under a sheltering roof. When parents ask how the children can sleep out of doors, Helle responds "How can they sleep indoors?" I have now heard Helle say, with my ears, "There is no such thing as bad weather, just bad dressing." She spends about 3 hours outside every day, regardless of the weather, with the 28 children enrolled at Nokken. Helle looks at children to see what they need in their life: her city students get plenty of indoor cozy time at home, so when she has them, she keeps them outside nearly the entire time, 8:30-2:30. They do go indoors for snack, and I think the older ones have story indoors. The teachers have work tables out doors, and there are plenty of real tools, while there are very few toys to be seen. When she visited childcare centers in Hawaii, she advised those caregivers to take the children indoors! Helle has very strong opinions on many sensitive subjects. Jackie and I enjoyed Friday night and Saturday morning with childcare providers from all over New England. We loved seeing the kindergarten at Hartsbrook School in Hadley, Mass.

## Painting Paper

This year I bought wonderful watercolor paper for our children. This paper is what we used to make our lanterns, and it is so much fun. At our first parent night of 2007 we will paint so that you can experience the color in the way your children do.

## Almonds For Sale

Our crispy almonds have been moving very well- and we have many repeat purchasers, so I assume you like them. On the days when you need a good snack for the car, these almonds are very handy. Today a would-have-been-customer was lamenting that they meant to buy some that morning, but that now the basket was empty. Please ask one of the teachers to bag you 4 or 8 ounces, especially if you were counting on the almonds as a needed snack. Bagging up almonds for an eager customer is no trouble.

## Indoor Shoes

Our indoor shoe shelf is over flowing. If you would like to keep a second set of indoor shoes, hanging them from a bag, backpack, etc at your child's hook would be a good place.

You can check: [www.cobbmeadowschool.org](http://www.cobbmeadowschool.org) for info and downloads.

## Wish List

*Winter greens and berries*

*Someone to stitch up some pillow cases*

*Embroidery floss, various colors*

*1 or 2 large stainless bowls*

*Multi felting-needle holder*

*Thank You for the: medium sized hanging planter-I have the plant*

## Pecan-Fundraiser

I know many people love to have pecans around for holiday baking, so I will order a big box of shelled pecans, and sell them to you raw, for a reasonable price. I do not yet know what that price will be, but look for pecans at the beginning of December. I will sell some as crispy pecans- yum!!!