

THE GLOBE

Small School. Big World.

Student Newsletter of Berkshire Waldorf High School

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Loss and Living: Beth Robbin's *A Grief Sublime*

Chelsea Mathieu, 2023

A GRIEF SUBLIME by English and drama teacher Beth Robbins is a beautiful tragedy that is both heartwarming and tear-dropping. The story is of her loss of her husband in an automobile accident on the first day of school four years ago. It describes how she is living and going on without him while still holding him dear. The story includes poems that Ms. Robbins loves, and the etymologies and meanings of words that are essential to the context of the story. You should definitely buy and read this amazing piece of literature. I cried when I read it. Then my mom read it, and she cried, too. ★



Left to right: Karen Allen, Beth Robbins, and Alison Larkin, at the launch party for *A Grief Sublime*. Karen Allen recorded the audiobook, and Alison Larkin hosted the party, held at Shakespeare & Company in December 2019.

I was in Munich and Austria for three weeks. It was very nice to learn the language and culture. Here is what happened. For my class trip, we traveled by plane to Munich. We arrived on a Saturday and went directly to our guest families. The next week, we took a train to Austria. In Austria, we went to several art museums, churches, and castles in Salzburg and Vienna. Back in Munich, we attended the Steiner school there. We learned a lot, including, among other things, the history of the Second World War. In the city of Munich, I visited several places and enjoyed all of them. Many thanks for the opportunity and I hope I can visit again soon.

I look forward to hearing all the stories that come out of this year's trip! Best wishes to all the travelers. ★



Deutsche Reise Nach München (German Trip to Munich!)

Talia Pott, 2020

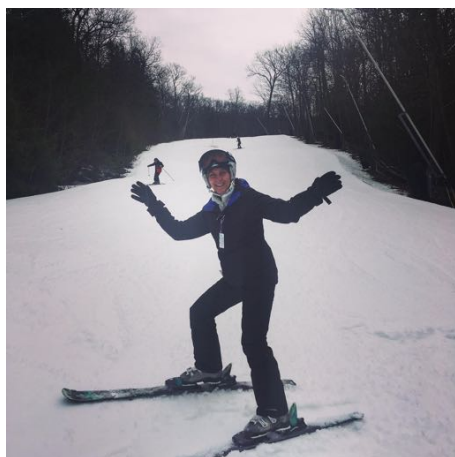
IN APRIL 2020, tenth and eleventh grade German students will travel to Munich, Germany, and to Salzburg and Vienna, Austria, for a three-week cultural exchange. There, they will study at the München-Schwabing Rudolf Steiner Schule, tour the ancient cities, and scale the stone castles that litter the European countryside. In October 2020, students from the Munich school will visit us in Stockbridge for three weeks. Our schools are sister schools, and we have been trading visits every two years since 2004.

This impending trip allows current seniors, who were on that trip two years ago, to reflect. What follows is part of my report on the experience, translated from German.

Tuesday Afternoons are Going Downhill Fast... at SkiButternut

Liam R. Nelson, 2023

IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, each Tuesday at noon, teachers load us onto the school's buses and drive us to SkiButternut. This is great partly because we don't have to be at our desks for the afternoon. It's also great because we're outdoors, skiing or snowboarding, instead. When we get to Butternut, we get off the bus with the ski gear we packed from home. Some of us then head to the rental shop to get and put on our skis and ski boots. Some of us go to the big slopes and ski or snowboard. Since this winter is the first winter that I ever skied, I took some ski lessons on the bunny hill with a trusty instructor from the ski program. The staff members at the ski resort are kind and respectful, and my instructor says that I have pretty good balance. So far, I have learned how to ski, but I don't yet have the courage to go down a large hill by myself. I also tried the food at the lodge. The fries were tasty but expensive. I do enjoy skiing, but I still have a lot to learn. ★



We practically have the mountain to ourselves (top). Ms. Bilodeau enjoys the ride (bottom left), and Jem Taylor, Class of 2021, mid-360. Yes, he landed it.

Self-Portraits with Ms. Inglis



Self-Portraits by Jacob Baumgart (top) and Chloe Whyte from Ms. Inglis's 9th grade art class in January.

College Admissions Update

Talia Pott, 2020

ADD CORA RYDINGSWORD and Lou Finston-Fox to the list of the college-bound. Cora has been admitted to Central Connecticut State University, Southern Connecticut State University, and La Salle University. And Lou has been admitted to MCLA (Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts). With others in the class, they will now wait until early April to learn about further admissions. ★

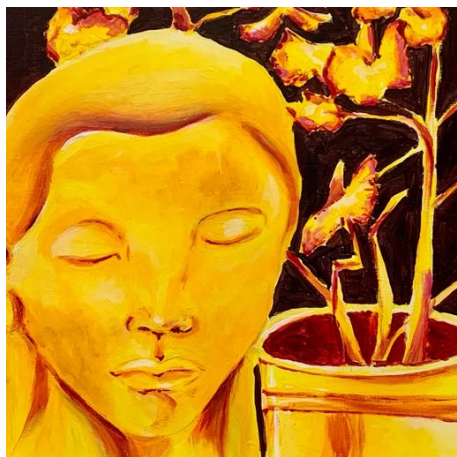
Berkshire Waldorf TONE Program at Berkshire South

Faye Ross, 2022

FOR THOSE WHO DON'T SKI or snowboard, what is the next best way to get our students out of their chairs, moving and exercising, in January and February? Well, every Tuesday, those students get on a bus and go to Berkshire South Regional Community Center for the TONE (Teen Outreach Nutrition and Exercise) program. This is a program that focuses on a student's nutrition and wellbeing. According to the Tone Fitness Program, "Each teen receives a program orientation, a 30-minute personal training session, and exclusive nutrition and aquatics classes. They can take part in the treadmill, weightlifting, sauna, and exercise bikes. There is a wide range of activities for students to partake in." This is a great chance for students to learn how to stay fit and healthy without the risks of outdoor sports, which include freezing and deliberately slipping and sliding on snow and ice. A heated pool in the winter is just right for some of us. For others, the treadmill or the weight room offer good solutions. ★



12th Grade Foundation Color Theory with Dr. Brossard



Paintings from Dr. Brossard's Foundation Color Theory course; the assignment was to paint an analogous color still life from observation. Cora Rydingsword, 2020, left, and Dara Miller, 2020

To Vax or Not to Vax? That is the Question... Or is it?

Katie Rumin, 2021, & Globe Staff

WE ARE WELL INTO the flu season, and one thing that many people do to protect themselves is to go get vaccinated against it. (Or against other diseases, for that matter.) When it comes to current events, vaccinations are a controversial topic. Some say that everyone must get recommended vaccinations, all of them, on schedule, and that is it. Others say that vaccines block healthy immune system development, that the government should not force people to get them, that they may have toxic chemicals in them...

Even, or especially, in our small school, vaccination is a hot topic. Waldorf schools are famous? Or infamous? for representing different points of view on vaccines, although unvaccinated Waldorf school students represent at most 2% of unvaccinated children in the U.S. Also, most children who are called unvaccinated are actually "partly vaccinated," usually because of parent inertia, not because of a deliberate decision.



Officially, vaccines are required in order for any student under 18 to attend school or daycare. Most states, however, offer religious exemptions to these vaccination laws. In Massachusetts, the religious exemption is allowed, but our neighboring state, New York, recently removed its religious exemption, prompting our school's population of unvaccinated students to rise, according to Stephen Sagarin, Faculty Chair and Executive Director.

"It's good for the school's enrollment, of course, but these families are here in part because parents' decisions conflict with the law, and not because they necessarily chose us for who we are," said Dr. Sagarin. "So we may have some work to do to integrate these families into the culture of our school. Also, to be clear, as a school we do not take a position on vaccinations, other than to follow the law." ★

Wish for a Swish: Basketball at Berkshire Waldorf

Talia Pott, 2020

BASKETBALL SEASON HAS RETURNED. Although at our school the sport is currently ranked last in both participation and student spectators, this season's turnout of new and returning players is promising. The team is led by Coach Dick Syriac, returning for his third year, and Captains Cora Rydingsword and Talia Pott, 2020. Members include Kenneth Bellamy, 2021, Zenith Kent-Limon, 2022, and Kendra Bellamy, Gabe Lassar, and Wyeth Curtis, 2023.



From left, rear: Wyeth Curtis, Gabe Lassar, Kendra Bellamy, Kenneth Bellamy, Oliver Berkowitz, Ella Rydingsword, Coach Syriac. Front: Cora Rydingsword, Talia Pott. Absent: Zenith Kent-Limon. (Oliver and Ella are 8th graders playing with the high school for some games.)

This is the first year that the team is officially co-ed. After the glorious, almost undefeated reign of our girls' team in the 2016-2017 season, both the girls' and boys' basketball teams have struggled to gain traction again. Graduation of talented players and the drop of athletic numbers have especially wounded our teams' potentials. But Coach Dick Syriac is not worried about the past. He wishes only that we, his players, work together to improve our game, and, to him, most importantly, have fun.

"Well, the goals for the season, compared to last, are pretty simple. We want to have enough players to be competitive, and a good bunch of kids, which we have, and we'll just work hard and try to get better."

Syriac is an experienced coach. This is his third year at Waldorf, and, before that, he coached for the Lenox youth basketball program. He watched that team grow up and improve just as he has seen the Waldorf players grow up and improve. When he's not coaching Waldorf, he looks forward to seeing the Lenox boys he coached become leaders on their own school teams.

**"We'll just work hard and try to get better."
—Coach Syriac**

And Waldorf's problem isn't cohesiveness, he adds. But he is hopeful that this year's senior captains can lead a relatively young team to achieve its goals.

"I don't think chemistry is a problem. I think all the kids, and I've noticed this for the last two years, seem to get along very well, and the other kids will look up to the seniors and their good examples of leadership. And the seniors work at their game. If they work hard in practice, the others will work hard in practice, too."

Sarah Blexrud, Athletic Director, agrees. "I hope we have an enthusiastic bench of players who are dedicated to staying with the team this year and in the years forward and who will bring more players. We have a lot of grit but we need numbers." So, with that, let us cheer for a successful season. Go, Waldorf! ★



Cora and Kendra at practice.

★★★

Globe Staff

- ★ Chelsea Mathieu, 2023
- ★ Liam Nelson, 2023
- ★ Talia Pott, 2020
- ★ Faye Ross, 2022
- ★ Katie Rumin, 2021

Advisor: Stephen Sagarin



Berkshire Waldorf
High School

berkshirewaldorf.com