



back to school

B U L L E T I N

Welcome New Employees!

We are excited to welcome this year's new faces to our hallways, including a lively and inspiring group of faculty and staff. We are also lucky to have several familiar faces stepping into new positions.

Please join us in welcoming our newcomers and congratulating our friends on their latest roles in our community. To learn more about our faculty and staff, say hello in the hallway or visit: www.portlandwaldorf.org/faculty-staff.

Marie Duvall

Community Development Director

Kelly Hogan

Living Lab Director

Emily Palmer

Rose Kindergarten Lead

Michelle Yorn

Parent Education & Parent/Child Class

Catie Garbinsky

Huckleberry Prekindergarten Assistant

Amanda Leonard

Early Childhood After Care Assistant

Bene Foley

1st Grade - Class of 2027

Pamela Williams-Gifford

Grades After Care Assistant

Jeremy Bates

MS & HS Math Specialist

Valerie Pufahl

Movement

Bec Blanchard

HS Humanities

Wibke Fretz

HS Humanities & HS German

Jamina Shupack

HS Math

Samuel Wasko '08

HS Math/Life Sciences

Mauricio Prado

HS Math/Earth Sciences

Meghan Hof

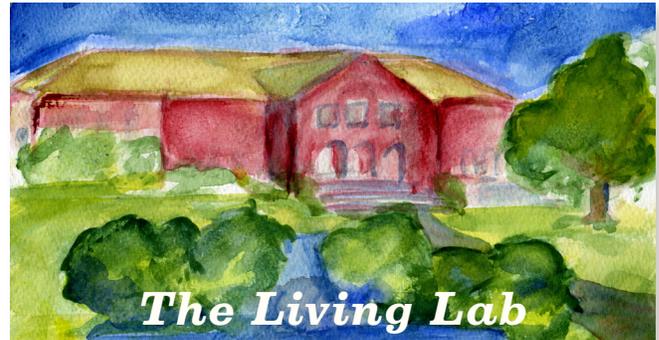
ESL

Jack Hoiland '07

HS Outdoor Program Coordinator

Robbie Laws

HS Guitar



BY KELLY HOGAN, LIVING LAB DIRECTOR

Warm greetings to the PWS community!

As a new school year approaches and we enter into a time of rich tradition and simultaneous renewal, it is with great pleasure that I step into a leadership role with the Living Laboratory initiative. This is a journey we are taking together along a path that has already been visioned and tended by many committed faculty, staff and parents who recognize the alignment of sustainability, natural systems and Waldorf education.

I will be coordinating the many talents, efforts, curiosities, skills and ideas of our community as they relate to sustainability. Simply put, sustainability is about connection and diverse relationships. The Living Laboratory program provides a venue for conscious design, inviting and interacting with natural systems on the land that specifically reinforce the curriculum and needs of the community. Transitioning our campus into a living lab will facilitate consistent opportunities for the students and teachers to engage their curriculum experientially, enhancing learning through connection.

There will be many occasions for parents to apply their skills and passions in order to support this initiative, both on-site and by strengthening individual and household habits. Our service to the continued transformation of the school grounds is a gesture that acknowledges our profound privilege to cultivate this acreage. When the entire school



Living Lab, continued

community is engaging with the land in meaningful ways, the land becomes a reflection of our commitment to and gratitude for the wisdom of nature as teacher.

Some of the goals for this year include:

- expanding the current garden area
- creating outdoor learning spaces
- reducing the ecological “footprint” of the school
- building connections with the broader community
- integrating more homesteading skills into the curriculum (K-12)

I look forward to getting to know how this initiative inspires the parent body! As we settle into the school year, please look for me at community events and feel free to join me on Tuesday mornings after drop off to dig into some hands-on projects! Please also reach out to me with any ideas, questions or concerns at any time. My email address is kelly.hogan@portlandwaldorf.org.

“I only went out for a walk, and finally concluded to stay out... for going out, I found, was really going in.” -John Muir

MS Homework Support

If your child could use some quiet time and space for homework after school, this year there will be an opportunity for middle school students to have a daily after-school homework time/study hall. This homework time will be offered five days per week, for 90 minute sessions ending at 4:30pm (or 3pm on Thursdays). The purpose of the program is to offer students a support structure, and a quiet place to work with a teacher present to help answer questions. Jill Jordan, who has been a substitute teacher and private tutor at our school for several years, will be there to assist the students; however, the program is not intended to replace individual or group tutoring for students who are struggling. As in any study hall setting, the expectation is that students are there to work silently and not distract others. Parents may sign up for this program with Dionne at the front desk, just as they sign up younger children for aftercare.

School Blessing

SEPTEMBER 8 @2PM

GATHERING IN THE COURTYARD

All of our school families are warmly welcome to join us on Tuesday, September 8 for our School Blessing.

This event is a simple and significant gesture, honoring the relationship between the land outside of the school and all that happens within the building.

We will gather in the courtyard between the Grade School and High School beginning at 2pm (plan to stay for about an hour).

From there, songs and stories will carry our offerings to very special places...

High School Renovation

BY DAVE RENZEMA, PARENT COUNCIL CO-CHAIR

In September 2014, Parent Council began raising money through the sale of Scrip with 50% of the Scrip program profits being retained by Parent Council. This effort has been put to good use over the summer through the funding of some significant aesthetic upgrades in the High School. Approximately \$3500 has been spent on the following:

- paint for the north wall of the music room, science room cabinets, Fibonacci Room, main hall ceiling
- removal of old cabinets and sink in Fibonacci
- removal of damaged carpet on main level of music room and installation of replacement vinyl tiles as needed
- new cabinet hardware in science room
- removal of ceiling grid in main hall and replacement of existing fluorescent lighting with highly efficient LED lighting

If you have any questions about getting involved in Parent Council, the Scrip Program or if you have ideas for visible small projects we could tackle next, please email parentcouncil@portlandwaldorf.org!

