



## **Tamarack Talk**

*A publication of*  
**Tamarack Waldorf School**

**Tuesday, July 6, 2010**

**Tamarack Waldorf School**  
 1150 E. Brady St., Milwaukee, WI 53202  
 277-0009; fax 277-7799; email: [office@tamarackwaldorf.org](mailto:office@tamarackwaldorf.org)  
*Tamarack Talk* is a publication of Tamarack Waldorf School. It is available for announcements and communications of interest to the school community. We will gladly print any community items upon approval of content. Next edition will be Tuesday, Aug. 10. The deadline for submitting articles is by noon on Friday, Aug. 6. Please submit your copy-ready text to the *Tamarack Talk* mailbox in the office, or by email to [tamtalk@tamarackwaldorf.org](mailto:tamtalk@tamarackwaldorf.org)

### **Calendar of Events**

Monday, Aug. 30	New Parent Orientation, 6:30pm
Tuesday, July 6	Site Committee, 4:30pm
Monday, July 19	Board of Trustees, 6:30pm
Tuesday, July 27	Open House, 6:30-8:30pm
<b><u>Wednesday, Sept. 1</u></b>	<b><u>School begins for Grades, 8:00am, ½ day, dismissal at 12:30pm</u></b>
<b><u>Thursday, Sept. 2</u></b>	<b><u>Early dismissal at 2pm (Thursdays through the school year)</u></b>
<b><u>Thursday, Sept. 9</u></b>	<b><u>School Begins for Kindergarten, 8am, dismissal at 2pm (Thursdays through the year)</u></b> see article*
<b><u>Friday, Sept. 10</u></b>	<b><u>Smoothie Social, 3:30pm</u></b>
<b><u>Monday, Sept. 13</u></b>	<b><u>School begins for 2-day Early Childhood students</u></b> see article*
<b><u>Monday, Sept. 27</u></b>	<b><u>All-School Meeting, 6:30pm (for parents/childcare available)</u></b>

### **Summer Office Hours**

Our summer office hours are 9am-1pm, Monday through Wednesday. Phone voice mail will be checked during other daytime hours.

### **\*Important Schedule Change**

As we are working with our new school schedule and the changes it will bring, there has been continued discussion among the faculty, with Safety Committee members and with the Finance Committee. The two changes distributed in late May were a change to

longer days and a longer school year. These were implemented in response to new MPCP requirements for the grades.

**In consideration of the youngest children in our building and to allow them a quieter dismissal time, the full kindergarten day will end at 3pm while the grades will end at 3:30pm (Thursday 2pm for everyone).** Those students without grade siblings will be able to be on their way home before the grades dismiss, relieving congestion in the halls for little children and around the building for cars.

Having two separate dismissal times will be a change from previous years, and we realize that it will take an adjustment from all who are impacted. Those who have both kindergarteners and grade students, looking at it positively, will have an opportunity to spend more time in the building waiting for the second dismissal. The Aftercare will begin at 3:15pm for Kindergarten children (3:45pm for grades).

The other change for these same families, helping the budget and lengthening the summer, is that the first day of school, for 5-day and 3-day kindergarteners and early childhood students, is Thursday, September 9. For 2-day early childhood students it is Monday, September 13. Families' flexibility with this new change is appreciated.

### **Jean's Journal\***

Much happens on a daily basis here in the office at Tamarack during the summer, even though there is limited activity of children in the building. It does give me the chance to pause and reflect on the accomplishments of the 2009-10 school year. Tamarack Waldorf School is a unique school, with faculty committed to awakening the capacities in your children, meeting them in age-appropriate, lively and artistic ways.

We are grateful to you as parents for entrusting to us your children and are humbled by the confidence you have placed in us. We welcome the partnership inherent in the relationship between a family and its school, and also recognize that we have an enormous responsibility in caring for your children.

Thank you for choosing Tamarack, for your pledge of involvement and support, and for the many ways in which you as individuals make our school strong.

### **End of Year Grade Reports**

Your child's end-of-year student report is scheduled to be mailed July 1 with this newsletter. (Families with

whom we have a current email address should be receiving the Tamarack Talk through our SchoolReach system; see below for more information.) Please note that parents who have outstanding accounts with Tamarack – including Before/Aftercare balances, tuition, and instrument fees – must clear those up before your child's reports will be mailed or available for pick up.

### ***Electronically-distributed Newsletter***

Most of you will begin receiving the *Tamarack Talk* and, in the fall, the *Calendar and Notes*, through email. This is part of our effort to reduce the use of paper at the school, as well as to make it more convenient for parents to stay updated. This July newsletter will be our flagship electronically-distributed newsletter. Parents who do not have email will continue to receive this information in paper form. Since this is a new system, there may be “bugs” to be worked out. Please contact the office if you have any questions or concerns about receiving the *Tamarack Talk* electronically.

### ***Transportation Checks***

Transportation checks for families who signed contracts last year that have not yet been picked up will be included in this mailing. If you signed a contract but your check is not in this mailing, it is because you have an outstanding charge due to the school. We ask that families pay any outstanding charges (aftercare, tuition, etc.) before receiving their checks. Contact Sandra at the office with any questions.

### ***Assistants Needed***

The faculty have clarified which positions are open for the next school year. At this point, we may have 4 part-time class assistant positions open: early childhood and kindergarten, lower grades classroom and lower grades handwork. An overview of the responsibilities and specific information needed to apply is available on our website at [www.tamarackwaldorf.org](http://www.tamarackwaldorf.org). Applications submitted at this time may be used for any future openings needing similar qualifications through this school year.

### ***Back to School Paperwork***

Look for 2010-11 back-to-school materials in August. Emergency contact, health history, immunization records, custody information, walking field trip and student modes of transportation information **all need to be turned in by the first day of school**. It is our intention to provide pre-printed forms for returning students this year, in order to facilitate the completion of this paperwork. **However, these forms still need annual review and updating and have sections**

**which need parent signatures.** Please **carefully** review all materials and read the Parent Handbook. Each returning family will receive updated policies to add to the current handbook. Parents and children are expected to know and honor the material contained in the handbook.

### ***Beforecare and Aftercare***

For those who need these services, the form reserving your child's spot on either a regular basis or drop-in basis is very important. As our policy states, it is both the specific reservation *and* pre-paying that provides this service at a lower rate. The higher rate applies when *one or both* of these things is not in place. Look for this very important form in your August mailing and return it by August 27. The first day of Beforecare is September 1 and the first day of Aftercare is September 2. Drop-in use must be pre-reserved for Beforecare by 3:30 p.m. of the day *before* it is needed, and for Aftercare by noon of the day that it is needed.

### ***Immunization Records***

This is a reminder for parents to check your child's immunization records. Make appointments during the summer months to have all immunizations brought up to date. The state now requires all students from K-12 to be vaccinated against chicken pox. If your child has not had chicken pox or a vaccine, a signed waiver is required. If a child's immunizations are not current by the 30<sup>th</sup> day of school, the student will be excluded from school until they are up to date.

### ***Dress Code Policy***

Before doing back-to-school clothes shopping, please review the dress code policy in the family handbook. Parents and children are expected to know and honor this policy as it helps set the tone for focusing on our true purpose as a school from the very first day. TPA-CC will be sponsoring a clothing exchange in the fall to help families stretch their clothing budgets.

### ***Indoor and Outdoor Shoes***

As part of our dress code policy, all students are required to have indoor and outdoor shoes at school. Teachers require indoor shoes to be rubber soled and appropriate for a great deal of movement, as they are also used for indoor gym time. Indoor shoes must be worn within the building at all times. This is important for keeping our school, especially the classrooms, clean from dirt, and also for safety reasons. Outdoor shoes, for running and playing, need to be kept in the student's coat area. Please keep this in mind when making shoe purchases for the upcoming school year.

### ***Smoothie Social coming up!***

The Tamarack Parent Association – Community Circle (TPA-CC) will again sponsor a back-to-school celebration at the beginning of September. The Smoothie Social features fresh fruit, juice a/o yogurt smoothies, and will be held in the cafeteria.

Volunteers are always welcome at this friendly event. Please call TPA-CC Chair Liz Roepke at 588-8972 [mancubsmommies@yahoo.com](mailto:mancubsmommies@yahoo.com) if you can help out.

### ***Enrollment Events***

#### ***Summer Open House***

Our summer open house will be held Tuesday, July 27, from 6:30-8:30pm. Do you know anyone who may be interested in our school? Bring them to our open house and share your excitement about our school.

### ***Fundraising***

#### ***Tamarack T-Shirts have arrived***

If you ordered a Tamarack t-shirt, it is available for pick up in the office during office hours.

#### ***Fundraising***

Like all private schools, fundraising is a big part of what we do to support Tamarack. Summertime is a great opportunity to collect contributions to our ongoing “painless” fundraisers:

- **Box Tops for Education** This General Mills foods program allows you to clip box tops and earn money for the school.
- **Golden Guernsey/Kemps Milk Caps** Both dairies are offering 5¢ per milk cap. Kemps also has 5¢ coupons on some foods.
- **Injet Recycling** Please collect all your used inkjets and printer cartridges for recycling.
- **Pick ‘n Save’s We Care Program** If you shop at Pick ‘n Save, Tamarack can earn a percentage of your purchases. Sign-up for the Pick ‘n Save Advantage Card and enter Tamarack’s number, **830450**, in the We Care donation area.
- **Target’s Red Card** If you shop at Target with the Target Red Card, you can sign up our school to receive up to 1% of your total purchase amount. Sign up online or at the customer service desk.
- **Office Depot** If you shop at Office Depot, please sign up for their *5% Back to Schools* program. **Tamarack’s school ID number is 70121683.**
- **Schoolpop** If you like to shop online, you can earn money for Tamarack with a few quick clicks. First, go to [www.schoolpop.com](http://www.schoolpop.com). Next, register as an individual and indicate that you want Tamarack to benefit. **Tamarack’s school ID number is 128933.**

Then, choose from more than 500 merchants to do your shopping, including Amazon, Target, Apple iTunes, and more. It’s as simple as that!