

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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As Princeton Waldorf School Turns 25, it Cuts the Ribbon on an Addition and Affirms its Commitment to the Environment

On the evening of Saturday September 13, the Waldorf School of Princeton held a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the completion of a new addition to its historic main building. The addition adds an entryway, a formal reception area and a community room to the "Golden House," the farmhouse built in 1830 that is the centerpiece of the campus. Every aspect of the renovation was done with a concern for the environment and sustainable building practices while at the same time preserving the character of the original building. Design elements of the renovation include fiber cement siding, the use of low or no VOC paints, and soy-based expanding foam insulation.

Peter Wasem, the school's architect said, "The original classroom building, the "Golden House" has become somewhat of an icon in the 25 year history of the school. In designing the addition we strove to accommodate the need for expansion while still retaining the overall character of the old house. The new 'porch' draws in visitors, the kindergarten children now have their dedicated outside entries into their newly renovated classrooms and generous wooden porches shelter each new entry. The school is looking forward to completing the 'extensive' green roof that will feature specially selected plant species to grow in 4 inches of soil over the addition."

This renovation is the second one undertaken by the school over the past 4 years. In 2004, when the school added a first grade classroom to the Golden House it received a commendation from the Montgomery Township Planning Board for being "a model within the community for striving to preserve, adapt and reuse."

School Board Chairman Jeffrey Olkin of Princeton said, "This renovation accomplished two wonderful goals for the school. First, the new entryway allows us to properly welcome the community into our school. Second, by adding a kindergarten room, we have been able to consolidate all classes onto this campus. Overall, the new space reflects the school's continued growth. It not only improves the experience of those who attend the school, it is also symbolic of our commitment to forging a strong connection to the broader community."

The public is invited to come and see the new addition when the Waldorf School holds its next open house on Saturday, October 25.

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The Waldorf School of Princeton has been practicing sustainability and environmental awareness since it was founded 25 years ago. The following is information about some of the sustainable and energy-saving elements within the school building:

- A storm water mitigation system was implemented that collects rainwater in underground seepage tanks, which can be used to water our biodynamic gardens.
- A fence completely made of cedar was installed; no pressure treated lumber or petrochemicals were used.
- A copper roof with an expected life span of over 100 years. Today, at least 90% of copper scrap is re-used and about 55% of copper used in architecture comes from recycled sources.
- The non-combustible low maintenance fiber-cement siding that was selected is an economical green material with an expected life span of greater than 50 years.
- Exterior wood doors were selected not for their durability, but to enhance the children's tactile experience.
- Non-toxic VOC free paints, low VOC paints, and finishes were used throughout.
- An acoustical ceiling manufactured using only renewable wood and other sustainable raw materials, was installed in the first grade classroom. The ceiling is installed tight to the bottom of the rafters, therefore capturing the space that is often wasted in modern construction.
- An in-floor radiant heating system was selected to support better health and increased comfort during the long winter months and importantly, it consumes less energy than most alternatives.
- A cork flooring material that is long-lasting, does not require stripping or waxing with chemicals and is made by harvesting the bark from oak trees which grow back in a few years time.
- The design of classrooms ensures plenty of daylight allowing the teachers to turn off lights on bright days.