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CONTACT: June Montanari
609-466-1970 x15

OPENING DAY AT WALDORF SCHOOL INAUGURATES ITS 24th FIRST GRADE CLASS WITH ITS TRADITIONAL FLOWER CEREMONY

On the morning of Wednesday, September 3, 2008 the Waldorf School of Princeton held its opening day assembly in the school's biodynamic garden. The highlight of the event was the traditional flower ceremony, which officially welcomes the first grade students into the grade school. Each first grader walked through a trellis of White Autumn Clematis and was handed a bouquet of school-grown wildflowers by an eighth grader, the eldest of the school's students.

The mood at the event was that of a celebratory community reunion, as each class teacher enthusiastically greeted his or her students with an enticing description of the year's theme. Each class of students were reuniting with their teachers, since at the Waldorf School, a teacher stays with a group of students for multiple years. Julia Kerr, the class teacher for the children now entering third grade, stood excitedly before her students with a giant stalk of broomcorn. On their last day of school as second graders, these same students planted corn seeds. This year, as they learn about the life of early-American Colonial settlers, they will harvest the corn and make brooms from the broomcorn.

Speaking about the unique experience of being a class teacher, David Heberlein, who is the class teacher for the eighth graders said, "My intention as a class teacher is to truly get to know these students, and to support and meet them where they are. This year the American Revolution will be a lens through which my teenage students can look at their relationship to adult authority."

Joanne Pawelko's son Owen was among the first graders participating in the ceremony. "This is an exciting time for us, as our son learns to greet his teacher each morning with a handshake and begins studying new subjects. The best part is to see him embrace each thrilling new moment with such intense joy," she said.

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The Waldorf School of Princeton is one of over 900 schools worldwide sharing an educational philosophy and curriculum that supports a child's natural development. Waldorf education is one of the largest, independent, non-sectarian school systems in the world. The School's campus is located amidst rolling meadows on Cherry Hill Road in Montgomery. The Waldorf School of Princeton welcomes children of all cultural, racial, social and religious backgrounds. The school is a non-profit, tax-exempt educational organization, accredited by the New Jersey Association of

Independent Schools and the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America. Tuition assistance and scholarships are available.