A Message from our Board and Administration

We completed our 5th year of Sunfield Waldorf School on the farm in 2011-12. This was another robust year, with enrollment holding steady at just over 100 students, and much done to support our mission.

The Binding Site Plan was submitted in June 2011 for review by Jefferson County’s Department of Community Development, a crucial step toward safely vesting our development plans into the future.

Design drawings neared completion for a brand new, multi-purpose building which will house two classrooms and provide space for indoor community events.

Our 90 ft. x 26 ft. hoop house was completed. The first crop to market was delicious spinach that we sold locally in early 2012.

We converted half of our office building into a much needed classroom, occupied by our 5th/6th grade class. This was a parent-led project with volunteers providing most of the needed work.

Fencing of the wetlands and perimeter (over a mile of it) began with the help of an AmeriCorps crew.

With Orcas Foundation funding, we began construction of an outdoor shelter which will provide a gathering space for school children, visitors, and Sunfield community members.

The Board approved the Employee Manual in May, after extensive revision.

At the end of the year we launched an expanded and exciting Summer Camp offering for the summer of 2012 (more about that in next year’s report).

As parents, students, family members, staff and volunteers, we continue to demonstrate what can be accomplished when we are acting in one accord, working with vision, gratitude and generosity of spirit.

Mike Garling  
President, Board of Directors

Jake Meyer  
Organizational Director

Mike Garling  
President and Treasurer

Peggy Whyte Ryan (to March 2012)

Jude Rubin (from September 2011)

Secretary

Beth Ann O’Dell

Pamela Roberts (until September 2011)

Laura Lewis (starting May 2012)

Administrative Staff

Jake Meyer *  
Organizational Director

Viviann Kuehl *  
School Administrator

Verity Fitzsimmons * and Neil Howe  
Farmer/Educators

Shelley French  
Business Manager

Michele Meyering  
Administrative Assistant

Faculty

Helen Curry  
Seventh/eighth-grade teacher

Beth Ann O’Dell  
Fifth/sixth-grade teacher

Ruth Mandelbaum-Pope  
Third/fourth-grade teacher

Lesa Sevin  
First/second-grade teacher

Monica Van Loon  
Spanish teacher

Monica Boucher  
Swallows Nest Kindergarten teacher

Koshalla Flockoi *  
Sunflower Kindergarten teacher

Isolde Perry  
Handwork teacher

Tammy Betzko  
Parent-toddler class facilitator

School Assistants

Jocelyn Hanbey  
Swallows Nest Kindergarten assistant

Viviann Kuehl  
Sunflower Kindergarten assistant

Emma White Thunder  
After Care provider

Webmasters

Viviann Kuehl

Jamie & Bette Kowalski (volunteer)

*Member of Management Council, responsible for day-to-day operation oversight
Our Mission & Vision

The mission of Sunfield Education Association is to provide programs in education and sustainable land stewardship that engage the hands, awaken the mind, and nurture connections between the earth and its inhabitants. Sunfield offers educational programs for all phases of life that enliven understanding through activity, recognize connections, harmonize academics with artistic and social activity, and kindle wonder. Sunfield educators honor the individual spirit and recognize the developmental needs of each student they teach.

Our biodynamic farming principles are a model of sustainable agriculture. We strive to enrich and replenish the soils, nourish a diversity of crops and animals, and work to restore ecosystems to their natural state.

The fields, forest, and wetlands of Sunfield serve as a learning environment that demonstrates a healthy balance between nature and humanity and allows participants to serve as stewards of the land.

Waldorf Education

Waldorf education is an independent and inclusive form of education based on the insight and teaching of the early twentieth-century Austrian philosopher and scientist Rudolf Steiner. Honoring all spiritual and cultural traditions and embracing the diversity of humanity, Waldorf education is the fastest growing independent school movement in the world. We are excited to be part of this important movement towards more holistic education for our children.

Read more about how we are fulfilling our mission and Waldorf educational principles at www.sunfieldfarm.org.
Sunfield Waldorf School

This was a year of celebration for Sunfield Waldorf School as the school grew to its full class range, and Sunfield's first group of eighth graders graduated in a memorable ceremony, with candles representing every year of their schooling together. These students witnessed our grade school grow from a single classroom in Chimacum Schools, and they spoke with affection and humor about their formative experiences.

The Grade 7/8 class, with teacher Helen Curry, spent much of the year immersed in the arts, sciences and history of the Renaissance. They played harmonious pavanes in their recorder quartets to accompany Renaissance dances. In art, they used traditional materials to create secco and fresco paintings. In the sciences, the study of human physiology and chemistry brought many wonders, as did physics, when each student built an electric motor. Algebra and the challenging study of three dimensional shapes in geometry brought their understanding of math to a new level. This rich year of learning culminated with a trip to Ashland for the Oregon Shakespeare festival.

Beth Ann O'Dell's class of Grade 5/6 studied the ancient cultures of India, Mesopotamia, Persia, Egypt and Greece, presenting interesting reports with artistic representations that filled the classroom with a museum-like quality. In the spring, the students started the day with jumping, running, learning to throw javelin and discus in preparation for the regional Waldorf schools Olympiad. Fine compass work was introduced in geometry and many math problems were solved using decimals, fractions and percentages. The year culminated with a trip to Mt. St. Helens to study the wealth of geological formations caused by volcanic action.

Growing a garden of ancient grains, including, rice, rye, and millet, was a focal point for the Grade 3/4 class with teacher Ruth Pope, in preparation for hosting third grade students from five regional Waldorf schools who participated in farming activities and camped on Sunfield Farm for the annual Plough Day Jamboree. In math, the students delighted in calculating their way through a variety of fruity fractions which concluded with a fruit salad, while long division occupied many pages full of numbers. The stories the students heard of the Old Testament were enhanced with celebrations from Judaic traditions. In their study of the animal kingdom, each student researched and presented a report on an animal of their choice, creating an enthusiastic environment of shared learning.

Lesa Sevin’s Grade 1/2 class learned many songs, dances and rhythmic games which enhance the ability to learn. The stories they heard were often recreated as puppet shows or plays. Everyone learned to knit, and created useful pencil pouches as well as knitted lions. In language arts, they continued working on writing, reading and spelling. In math, they became familiar with the processes of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. In spring the class adopted and cared for the new batch of chicks which created many learning opportunities.

The Early Childhood program’s two kindergartens enjoyed their daily walks exploring the farm’s natural world, circle times, classroom activities, stories and songs, while developing a caring sense of community with teachers Monica Boucher and Koshalla Flockoi and assistants Jocelyn Hanbey and Viviann Kuehl. Tammy Betzko guided parents and toddlers in satisfying explorations of the farm and each other in Buttercup class, for our youngest learning group.

To read more about our Waldorf school on a farm, please visit www.sunfieldfarm.org.
Farmers Verity and Neil and CSA crew members show off some of the many fresh produce items that made their way into the summer’s CSA share bags.

Sunfield Farm

Farmers and Interns
Our resident farmer/educator couple, Neil and Verity Howe, emphasized developing the farm into an invaluable educational resource for both our immediate and wider community in their third season with us in 2011-2012.

Four farm interns worked with the farmers in the 2012 season, housed with Sunfield families or camping on the property. All interns participated in the Jefferson County Farmer Innovation, Education and Leadership Development (FIELD) program, an education-based internship developed by a group of local farmers. Our farmers taught three classes for FIELD program participants on the theoretical and practical elements of fencing, making compost, and running a CSA. In its third year, FIELD provided a model for educational farm programs.

AmERICorps Volunteers
Continuing our relationship with the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps program, we hosted our third annual team of ten 18- to 24-year-olds in the spring. For 7 weeks, this crew worked with the farmers on a variety of projects around the farm, improving infrastructure and preparing the farm for the growing season.

School-Farm Connection
All grade school students participate in a 40-minute daily farm chore period supervised by the farmers and teachers. Students rotate weekly through chores of milking goats, tending sheep and chickens, landscaping, and working in the fields with the farmers. The farmers also worked on projects with individual classes throughout the year, and interacted with early childhood students.

Improvements in Infrastructure
Farmer-volunteer teams helped grow our farm school through projects of trimming and painting the short barn; converting an old greenhouse and trailer into a fully functioning chicken-trac-

tor; removing invasive weeds from our creek bank; prepping, laying plastic and planting over 300 tomato plants in our hooped greenhouse. Work also began on our perimeter and pasture fencing project. The farm signed a contract with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a government organization supporting small farms in building sustainable infrastructure. Through this relationship we were able to purchase the materials for over one mile of high-quality, animal-safe fencing to delineate our boundaries, protect our wetlands, and secure our grazing animals.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
Our CSA program continued to grow, from 26 members in 2009, to 50 members this year, with over 50% repeat membership and 80% participation from our parent community. The share bags were bulging with produce, including over 50 lbs. of tomatoes per member during the summer months.

Tomato Project
With NRCS funding and the successful installation of our hooped greenhouse, led by Farmer Neil, we were able to grow heat-hungry plants. With the support of a local farmer/researcher, we filled the 96 ft. by 26 ft. hoophouse space with tomato plants most suited to our climate. One of our interns took on the project of observing and recording data on the most abundant, fast growing, and flavorful varieties, information which will help us for years to come.

Retail Relationships
Although CSA was the main focus for our produce, our relationship with local retailers remained strong, particularly important for the farm’s income during the year’s early months. This spring, we provided the PT Co-Op and Chimacum Corner Store with over 430 lbs. of spinach from our hoophouse, bringing in over $2,000 to start our season. We sold various abundant crops to retailers throughout the season, including 5-10 flats of strawberries to the Co-Op every week during summer.

To read more about our farm and farm programs, please visit www.sunfieldfarm.org.
COMMUNITY EDUCATION

From the outset, the vision of Sunfield has always been to be a welcoming farm, accessible to all who want to learn what the land has to offer. The vision is tempered by economic realities, as we continue to look for new ways to make the farm available for children and adults in cost-effective ways.

FARM DAY VISITS BY PUBLIC SCHOOL
This was an area we had to reduce in scope due to lack of funds to hire a leader for these visits. We were able to host three visits by students involved in the Chimacum Choice program, and have received enough grant/donation money to host at least 10 farm day visits in the 2012-13 school year. School visitors got to participate in animal chores, including learning to milk, and they worked with the farmers to accomplish the vital tasks of the season.

PLough DAY JAMBOREE
Our second Jamboree hosted 97 third graders, 26 parents, and 7 teachers from Waldorf Schools around the Puget Sound, an increase from the 86 children who participated the year before. The same exciting farm curriculum and program was in place, everyone camped out on the farm, and many first-time events for individual children took place. The children got to harvest grain from the grain fields, thresh and grind it, and bring home a bag of flour. They worked with the farmers in the garden and collected manure that they made into a specially layered compost heap. They participated in all the animal chores, including milking. The highlight was seeing the horse ploughing and being able to stand behind the plough with the driver. They also got to pull a child plough with children as horses. They watched our Cotswold sheep being shorn and got to card the wool.

MAGICAL PUMPKIN PATCH
Pre-school children continued to visit Sunfield just prior to Halloween to enjoy our farm animals, singing, crafts and games. A total of 49 children in four different classes visited.

SUNFIELD SUMMER CAMPS
Our summer camp programs serve as an outreach to children not attending Sunfield, while also enabling Sunfield students to spend a bit of summertime on the farm. The Sunfield Seedlings program, serving children aged six and under, allowed for leisurely hours of play and activities in the fields and forests. The Pioneer Camp’s six- to nine-year-olds enjoyed traditional crafting. The Sunfield 4-H group met throughout the summer to deepen their learning about sheep and goats, and train the farm animals for the Jefferson County Fair. The animals and students worked hard during this event and were recognized with a special To Make The Best Better Award in addition to the Fair award ribbons now in Sunfield’s barn.

VOLUNTEER WORK CREWS
We continued to partner with Jefferson County’s Family & Juvenile Services Department, hosting monthly work parties for youth needing community service hours. These young people are engaged by our adult volunteers while performing meaningful and needed work on the farm or school grounds. On occasion, interested young men in rehabilitation at Gray Wolf Ranch volunteer to help on the farm and learn from our farmers. We continued hosting differently-abled adults and young adults. With their caregivers, they came once a week to help out during our student farm chore period.

AFTERSCHOOL WILDERNESS PROGRAM
In partnership with CedarRoot, Wednesdays continued as a program for boys, while Tuesdays saw a brand-new girls program begin. Sunfield provides the space for these children to learn wilderness survival skills from local experts in the field.

To read more about our community education programs, please visit www.sunfieldfarm.org.

2011-2012 Financial Summary

**2011-12 Income $627,048**
- Farm: $28,914
- Grant: $7,001
- Donations: $55,971
- Fundraisers: $4,208
- Community Education: $20,271
- School: $510,683

**2011-12 Expenses $648,094**
- School: $441,983
- Management & General Expenses: $78,594
- Debit Service: $75,610
- Community Education: $5,980
- Farm: $47,947

**2011-12 Donations $55,971**
- School: $441,983
- Management & General Expenses: $78,594
- Debit Service: $75,610
- Community Education: $5,980
- Farm: $47,947
Thanks to all our Donors
2011 - 2012

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Alban Vallat family
Karen Alfke
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Barlow family
Philip Barr
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We are located at 111 Sunfield Lane, off of Rhody Drive between Circle & Square and Fiesta Jalisco.

Sunfield Education Association is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

Sunfield Waldorf School is a developing member of the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America.