

## **The History of Sugar Plum Faire**

In 2004, the Sugar Plum Faire was conceived as a way to raise funds for the eighth grade trip for Bright Water Waldorf School's first graduating class. The first Sugar Plum Faire was held in the Science/Music Lab (then the Community Room) with outside vendors. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class made a plethora of hand crafted items ranging from bunting dolls to roving angel ornaments as well as providing a table of baked goods. Hot soup and drinks were sold outside the community room in the hallway. It was a tremendous success.

The second year, the Sugar Plum Faire was held against the backdrop of the serious illnesses of both the seventh and the eighth grade teachers. The energy and motivation required to pull the Faire together arose from the cohesiveness that developed throughout the community in supporting the students and teachers through illness. The eighth grade teacher recovered, but the seventh grade teacher, Carole Street, passed away on November 17, 2006. Despite the situation, the Sugar Plum Faire expanded to include children's activities and the whole Bright Water Waldorf School community. At the time we were the only Waldorf School in the Seattle area to have a Waldorf Holiday Faire. Now, other Waldorf schools have returned to or established their own holiday fairs and Bright Water Waldorf School continues this wonderful tradition of creating a magical atmosphere amidst the hectic pace of this busy season.

For many years, the Sugar Plum Faire was spearheaded by parent Daphne Cuizon and loosely coordinated by various parent representatives from each class. In 2011, the Festival Committee played a more active coordinating role, conducted parent surveys post-event and worked with the Parent Association and faculty to reimagine our Faire. The Festival Committee then changed its mandate to officially adopt Sugar Plum Faire as one of the three festivals it oversees.

The Sugar Plum Faire celebrates the joy of hand crafting by offering opportunities for attendees to make items themselves (think hand-dipped bees wax candles) and to buy items made by students, parents and outside vendors. The Faire also offers a magical space for both kids and adults. The early childhood faculty's puppet show and the Enchanted Cookie Forest provide the opportunity to experience awe and wonderment.

We come together as a community and welcome others outside the school to share in the seasonal celebration of the holidays ahead surrounded by crafts, music, and good cheer. The Sugar Plum Café provides chili and hot dogs, enticing baked goods and warming coffee.

The Sugar Plum Faire proceeds support curriculum trips in Grades Three through Eight. The trips include the third grade farm trip, fourth grade Potlatch, fifth grade Olympiad, sixth grade Medieval Games, seventh grade Renaissance Faire, and the crowning event of the eighth grade trip, where students combine service and adventure.

We look forward to sharing this festive celebration with you, your family and friends and other loved ones. Come join us at Bright Water Waldorf School's Sugar Plum Faire!