

Waldorf High School Awarded Community Grant to Offer Green Chemistry Class

Belmont, MA – Waldorf High School of Massachusetts Bay, located in Belmont, MA has received an award from the Belmont Cultural Council to fund an after-school class introducing green chemistry to middle school students.

The class is scheduled for April 10, 2008, and it will feature chemists from the Beyond Benign Foundation who have been coming to the high school for the past several years to teach a morning main lesson to ninth graders during their chemistry block.

Waldorf High School math and chemistry teacher, Dan Raizen states, “The scientists from Beyond Benign come to the ninth grade to demonstrate that non-toxic substances can make up the materials of a wide variety of products we use every day. They run a lab in which our students create solar cells using blackberries. It was such a success we decided to apply for funding to present an introduction to green chemistry to other students in the Belmont area.”

What exactly is “green chemistry”?

“Basically, green chemistry means the use of products that are less hazardous to human health and the environment, that are less energy and materials intensive than traditional products, and that degrade safely at the end of their life cycle,” explains Raizen. “It’s a great thing for students to encounter the Beyond Benign scientists because they are experts who are passionate about the field of chemistry and its ability to be transformed to help heal the planet.”

The Belmont Cultural Council’s grant will fund the publicity for the after-school program, the materials needed for the experiments, and an honorarium for the chemists. Students will be introduced to the principles of green chemistry through various activities and labs. It is a free program and open to the public.

The Belmont Cultural Council is part of the Massachusetts Cultural Council which promotes excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents and contribute to the economic vitality of communities.

Waldorf High School of Massachusetts Bay is a private school for grades 9-12 in Belmont, Massachusetts, 20 minutes from downtown Boston, which offers stimulating academics, numerous field trips, community service, foreign exchange, and senior internships.”

For more information, please visit:

Waldorf High School of Massachusetts Bay

www.waldorfhighschool.org

Beyond Benign Foundation

www.beyondbenign.org

Massachusetts Cultural Council

www.massculturalcouncil.org