



October 2010

n f o r m

A Newsletter for Waldorf School Communities
from the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America

AWSNA NEWS ... Michael Soule has resigned from his position as Leader of Programs and Activities. Michael began his AWSNA career as the first Northwest Region Leadership Council representative and assumed the role of Leader of Programs and Activities in 2006. As Michael wrote to the AWSNA Board: "It has been an honor serving the Waldorf movement and all the affiliated schools and institutes in this capacity over the past years. I have very much enjoyed this work and my connection with my colleagues and am proud of what we have brought to fruition, as well as the seeds we have planted towards Waldorf Education's future." We thank Michael for his dedicated service to the Association and the impulse of Waldorf Education and wish him all the best in the future. We also thank Karla Tegzes, his invaluable assistant, for all her fine work.

IN AN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH CLARITY around what defines a Waldorf school, as distinct from schools that use elements inspired by Waldorf Education in their programs, the Service Mark Committee continues working to establish AWSNA as the service mark holder for Waldorf Education. An advocate of "Social Emotional Learning (SEL)" in the public schools indicated that independent Waldorf schools should be supported as the real fruition of SEL for all schools. She said that because there will always be things that cannot be done in public schools, we need to keep our focus on all that can be possible through independent Waldorf schools for the future of SEL to reach its fullest potential possible. Best work is achieved through conversations with groups who aspire to use the terms "Waldorf" and "Steiner" to explain what their correct and helpful uses entail. This clarity is important for understanding true Waldorf Education in our culture.

WALDORF ONE WORLD... WOW-Day: On Friday, October 1, Waldorf students and teachers from all over the world will be engaged in work on behalf of disadvantaged children in an effort to give them access to a Waldorf Education and to improve their circumstances. With the money earned on last year's (2009) WOW-Day (approx. € 278.000), the WOW project was able to assist forty projects in twenty countries. These projects included one-day jobs, walkathons, handwork, circus performances, and many other wonderful activities that helped to improve the living conditions of children all over the world. Everyone is welcome to take part: find out details at the WOW website: <http://www.wowday.eu/en/home.html>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The AWSNA Summer Conference 2011 will be held June 24-27, 2011 in Garden City, NY. The theme is Rudolf Steiner's unique understanding of adolescence, child development, and the spiritual intentions of Waldorf Education. Dr. Peter Selg, M.D., a renowned youth psychiatrist and spiritual scientific researcher and director of the Ita Wegman Institute in Switzerland, is the keynote speaker. This conference will delve into Rudolf Steiner's insights into children and into the pedagogical challenge which childhood presents, creating a basic reflection about the spiritual core of Waldorf Education. It will be of inestimable value for teachers of adolescents, but it will speak just as much to educators of all levels who are fortunate enough to participate! Please inform your communities and mark your calendars. For more information contact please Connie Starzynski at (808) 295 2381.