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

TEENAGERS and WALDORF EDUCATION - Save the dates for the AWSNA Summer Conference: June 24-27, 2011, hosted by Waldorf School of Garden City, NY. This year's theme is **Rudolf Steiner's Unique Understanding of Adolescence Child Development and the Spiritual Intentions of Waldorf Education** and the keynote speaker is Dr. Peter Selg, M.D., a youth psychiatrist working out of anthroposophy as director of the Ita Wegman Institute in Switzerland. This conference will delve into Rudolf Steiner's insights into children and into the whole pedagogical challenge which childhood presents, creating a basic reflection about the spiritual core of Waldorf Education. It is of value for middle and high school teachers, and will speak to educators of all levels who are lucky enough to participate.

BRAIN RESEARCH – Douglas Gerwin and Patrice Maynard were co-keynotes for the recent conference entitled "**Convergence: How science supports the wisdom of Waldorf Education.**" The conference at the Toronto Waldorf School was sponsored by the Rudolf Steiner Centre Toronto. 250 Waldorf school parents, teachers, administrators, remedial workers, day care providers, university professors, and public and charter school administrators attended the event, that systematically provided listeners with research that points to the facts that the brain develops in stages, and benefits from the curriculum provided by Dr. Steiner as the perfect enhancement/partner to brain development. (Don't miss neuroscientist Dr. Melrose's article on "Why Waldorf Works from a Neuroscientific Perspective" in The Magic Onion:
<http://themagiconions.blogspot.com/2010/10/discovering-waldorf-waldorf-from.html>.)

DANA - The Development and Administrative Network of AWSNA – met in Spring Valley, NY, in October. Topics discussed included governance in our schools, sustainability, enrollment trends, fund raising trends, competition, recruitment and retention of our administrative staff, and the building of skills in specific administrative areas with an emphasis on the nuances of Waldorf Education, while at the same time recognizing the value of incorporating aspects from our colleagues in other independent schools. The meeting produced a substantial list of action items for future work, a renewed dedication and camaraderie, and a clear vision for the importance of qualified and committed administrative support for all our schools and the children in them. The group will meet again via teleconference in January to review the progress on our goals within each region with a goal of having an annual in-person gathering.

Youth Initiative High School, a developing Waldorf school in Viroqua, WI, recently returned from participating in the **1st Green Schools National Conference** in Minneapolis, MN. Three teachers and two students represented the school and its nutrition and cooking curriculum: *The Whole Plate: A Return to Real Food*. Students participated in a Youth Summit, a gathering of about 100 high schoolers from around the country, which met to address environmental challenges and solutions. In addition to the summit and the exhibit booth, the school was chosen to put on a workshop called, "Real Food in the Classroom." They drew a great crowd of teachers from around the country who experienced the hands-on nature of the classes, one of the few offered with no powerpoints! People cheered when we announced that they would actually get their hands dirty and taste foods. Here are some pictures of the event: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/55246174@N07/sets/>

Four ways you can further Waldorf Education in America: Sign up for e-news and on the Alumni Corner on the www.whywaldorfworks.org and stay informed about Waldorf news; support your local Waldorf school every way you can; use GoodSearch (instead of Google) when surfing the web. Thank you for your commitment to Waldorf Education!

