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

In this season of holidays and the seeking of light in the dark days of wintertime, all at AWSNA send our thanks to all of you in our schools for the fine work you do – as teachers and staff in service to the young and as parents who sacrifice to give your children an independent Waldorf Education.

The Association for a Healing Education, AHE, is in its 21st year of offering professional development programs. For the fall of 2012, a new cycle of courses begins: “Classroom Educational Support,” a two-year part-time program, and “Remedial Education,” a three-year part-time program. Both courses will begin together October 18, 2012 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The curriculum for the two year course will address the developmental needs of children and methods that can be used in classrooms or groups in kindergarten, grade school and high school. The third year will prepare a teacher for a profession as an Educational Support teacher. It will address deeper issues regarding the children such as honing observation skills, and understanding the causes of today's challenges in childhood behaviors and learning styles. For more information contact Mary Jo Oresti at admin@healingeducation.org.

The very committed Group for Mexico met in late October in an advanced seminar for Waldorf teachers and the theme was the Threefold Social Order in our schools. The Guadalajara School generously hosted this seminar which was led by David-Michael Monash, Nora Hidalgo, and Patrice Maynard. Principles of Steiner’s blueprint for a healthy society were introduced; the Cuernavaca school presented on their own courageous work to incorporate this revolutionary idea for social renewal and organization in their school; a game to illuminate the ideas in practice was played; and all was leavened with graceful eurythmy designed to support the program.

The Council for American Private Education, CAPE, is an advocacy group with 35 state CAPE groups across the United States. So far we have not found sister groups like this in Canada and Mexico. Your school is a member of the USA National CAPE through AWSNA Twice a year Patrice Maynard represents us at those meetings in Washington, DC. She is the elected treasurer of CAPE and ensures that Waldorf Education and its unique approach are comprehended and included in independent school policy issues. Devoted to advancing the causes of independent education, CAPE works to keep legislators aware of the important place independent education plays in the American educational landscape. At the recent CAPE meeting in Washington, DC, Pat Bassett, Head of NAIS, presented on “Schools of the Future,” and was gratified to hear how many future-bearing approaches are already addressed in Waldorf schools.

We are proud to announce that Waldorf alum Benjamin Weber was selected as the 2011 Outstanding Secondary Level Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award recipient. Weber is a graduate of Hawthorne Valley School. The award will be presented during the 91st Annual, Conference of the National Council for the Social Studies, “Dimensions of Diversity” in Washington, D.C., in December at a special Outstanding Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award ceremony.

