



# INFORM

**GREETINGS** during this holiday season and best wishes for the New Year! Perhaps the finest holiday gift to all who have sacrificed for Waldorf Education, your children, and your schools is the well-deserved publicity that the Waldorf School of the Peninsula and the entire movement has received. In addition to garnering positive recognition of Waldorf Education, the *New York Times* article has opened the discussion of computers for children in a new way. Included in this issue is a compilation of the articles and reports that surfaced during the fall. Please share these with your community and don't forget that if you sign up to receive your AWSNA e-news, these news items would arrive straight into your mailbox! Subscribe on the Why Waldorf Works website. All these articles can be found on the News & Events page. We wish you all the joys and insight the holidays can bring and thank you for the commitment and appreciation for Waldorf Education for your children and the future.



## *The New York Times*

### **A Silicon Valley School That Doesn't Compute**

Excellent New York Times education series continues on why Silicon Valley, Google, and other high-tech parents choose to educate their children in low-tech Waldorf schools.

*New York Times, Matt Richtel, Oct. 22, 2011.*

### **Invitation to a Dialogue: Computers in School?**

The New York Times solicited letters in response to Greg Simon's follow-up Op-Ed piece on Waldorf Education. From 1993 to 1997 Mr. Simon was the chief domestic policy adviser to Vice President Al Gore, and oversaw the Clinton administration's program to connect classrooms to the Internet. He writes: "At the same time both of my children attended a Waldorf school. I wish parents who surround their children with technology and adult-created graphic images as early as 2 years old would realize that they are robbing their children of their greatest treasure and skill — being a child."

*NYT, Letters to the Editor, Oct. 25, 2011.*

***Media response across the country to the New York Times article and other articles as well.***

### **CBS National News Covers Waldorf Education**

As teachers across the country turn to laptops and iPads as education tools, one school in Silicon Valley, Calif., has actually banned computers. Priya David Clemens reports on why The Waldorf School of the Peninsula has gone low-tech.

*CBS News, Dec. 5, 2011*



### **NBC Nightly News discusses "The Waldorf Way"**

From the moment you walk into the Waldorf School of the Peninsula there are clear signs that something different is happening. Allysun Sokolowski, a third-grade teacher, greets each one of her 29 students by name and shakes their hand as they enter the classroom.

*NBC Nightly News*, Nov. 30, 2011

**Suncoast Waldorf School** in Palm Harbor, FL is featured on the Local Evening News  
*WTSP 10 News*, Dec. 1, 2011

### **Control • Halt • Delete**

Why some educators and scientists believe technology is bad for brains — especially young ones.

*Colorado Springs Independent* Nov. 24, 2011

### **School Bucks Tech Trend with Unplugged Approach**

While teachers across the city use netbooks and iPads to teach students, a new school in Edmonton keeps technology out of the classroom.

*Edmonton Journal*, Nov. 21, 2011

### **Some Ohio Schools Say Computers Don't Belong in Classrooms**

This article profiles Spring Garden Waldorf School in Copley, North of Akron. Where most schools these days have a computer room, Spring Garden has a woodworking shop. There are no photoshop lessons, but there is an arts and crafts room and lots of music, without the help of Apple's Garage band.

*State Impact NPR* Nov. 21, 2011

### **Toronto Waldorf Academy on Global Television News**

Grade 4 teacher Dean Husseini and his students from the Toronto Waldorf Academy are featured in a news report on the slow death of cursive writing. Yes, Waldorf Education continues to be the candle that continues to keep this vital flame alive.

*Global Toronto*, Nov. 18, 2011

### **Charles Greenhalgh: Waldorf School Can Provide Best Education for Your Child**

Letter from Charles Greenhalgh, Waldorf parent, about the White Mountain Waldorf School and how well his daughter has done at the school.

*The Conway Daily Sun*, Nov. 15, 2011

### **Teaching Is More Like Gardening Than Engineering**

A lot of school districts in America place a very high value on the results of standardized tests, which may not be the ideal way to measure the success of an educational endeavor. The author says that teachers need to be given the license and freedom to innovate and to re-invoke the creativity of the teaching profession, otherwise opportunities to recognize the true talents of students could be lost.

*Los Altos Patch*, Nov. 13, 2011

### **Waldorf Teacher Featured on Radio Show**

David Blair is featured on a webcast/live radio show hosted by a parent at Shining Mountain. It is broken into three segments: Who was Rudolf Steiner, what are the essentials of Waldorf Education, and finally what would he would say to parents in the audience. Worth listening too!

*Gaeta Communications*, Nov. 10, 2011

### **Austin School Says Young Minds Don't Need Computers**

Software entrepreneur Shawn Rucks and his wife Angela chose a school that aims to unlock a child's potential... without a computer.

*KVUE* - local ABC Affiliate

### **Waldorf School Featured on CBS News (Includes video from news segment)**

At the Waldorf School of the Peninsula, first grade students shuck corn and build a garden, while fourth graders explore the philosophy behind Celtic knot drawing. In a high school humanities class students read their own poetry, while math students work with a compass and protractor.

*CBS San Francisco*, Nov. 10, 2011



### **Austin school says young minds don't need computers**

(Includes video from news segment)  
*WFAA TV, Nov. 9, 2011*

### **Assignment: Education - No Screens in Class**

Three Rivers Waldorf School in La Crosse is one of around 160 Waldorf schools in the country that believes children learn the best through relationships, not by using high tech gadgets.  
*News8000.com, Nov. 8, 2011*

### **Nashville school takes students off the digital grid: Some say screens dull young minds**

*By Nancy DeVille, The Tennessean, Nov. 5, 2011*

### **Scientific American: Preschool Tests Take Time Away from Play--and Learning**

The trend in early education is to move from a play-based curriculum to a more school-like environment of directed learning. But is earlier better? And better at what?  
*Scientific American, Nov. 2011*

### **Is Preschool Dead?**

A follow-up to the Scientific American article in the Huffington Post.  
*By Lisa Belkin, Nov. 2, 2011*

### **Do kids learn more without computers?**

*The Week (theweek.com), Oct. 31, 2011*

### **Teacher Looping in Chicago and Beyond**

"Looping" makes a lot of intuitive sense: teachers don't have to give up students so soon after they've figured out their personalities, learning styles, and habits, and they can go into their second year with a solid grasp of their students. There's not a lot of hard data on looping, in part because it's so uncommon. But what's out there is mostly positive.

*Chicago Magazine, Oct. 31, 2011*

### **Do Kids Need Computers to Learn? Some Schools are Saying No**

"Are Quebec schools embracing computers too zealously? I don't know the answer – I'm no

pedagogue – but it's a question worth asking. Two things are clear."

*Montreal Gazette Oct. 26, 2011*

### **What Is A Waldorf School?**

Even in today's tech obsessed world, many kids would rather doodle than Google. Parents and educators alike have honed in on this notion, and some are seeking a distinctly-low tech way to teach their children. Computers, tablets and gadgets are set aside in some classrooms, in favor of primitive teaching tools like pencils, pens, paint brushes, knitting needles and, at times, cake and mud.

*Fox News (myfoxny.com), Oct. 25, 2011*

### **No School Like the Old School**

Some of the finest minds at high-tech companies such as Apple, Yahoo, Hewlett-Packard, and Google are enrolling their children in technology-free schools that teach through the time-tested methods of hands-on exploration and project-based learning.

*GazetteXtra.com, Oct. 24, 2011*

### **The Private School in Silicon Valley Where Tech Honchos Send Their Kids so they DON'T Use Computers**

An article in the Daily Mail, UK, expounds on the New York Times article.

*Daily Mail UK, Oct. 24, 2011*

### **Waldorf School vs. Electronic Classroom: The New Parental Debate**

An Op-Ed piece in the Washington Post concerning the high-tech, low-tech debate.

*Washington Post Oct. 24, 2011*

### **At Elite Schools, Easing Up a Bit on Homework**

Although this NYT article does not mention Waldorf Education, it does reference studies that show less homework has its benefits - as Waldorf educators have known all along.

*New York Times, Oct. 23, 2011*

### **How writing by hand makes kids smarter**

*The Week (theweek.com) Oct. 6, 2011*

