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

On April 18-24, children around the world will celebrate **Screen-Free Week** (formerly TV-Turnoff) by turning off televisions, computers, and video games and tuning in on the world around them. Your organization, AWSNA, is an official sponsor of this initiative! Waldorf school communities are ideal partners in this global effort to eliminate screens for a week from the lives of children. In Waldorf schools, the human voice and human speech are cultivated through recitation and storytelling; imaginative play is a pillar of the work at school from early childhood on, transformed into drama through twelfth grade; and current brain research indicates that the curriculum in a Waldorf school supports development of the whole mind through play, the arts, and rigorous academics. Waldorf school communities already know the benefits of a week with no screens, but we can all do a bit more to focus away from the distractions of electronics that are so enmeshed in our complex and beautiful world. Join with us in working to have a completely free-of-screens week to emphasize the importance of this effort.

Great news about AWSNA's service trip to New Orleans! Already 55 people (alums, grandparents, parents, teachers, students!) have signed up to be in New Orleans this April 7, 8, 9, and 10, 2011, helping the Waldorf School of New Orleans and working on other projects helping to rebuild New Orleans. Do you want to join us? Rooms are going fast, since it's also the weekend of the French Quarter Music Festival! We've offered scholarships to 27 people to help with travel, including two wonderful groups coming in vans! Also an eighth grade has chosen this for their 8th grade class trip! We are thrilled with the outpouring of support and look forward to work and pleasure during this fabulous weekend. Please contact us if you'd like to be there too: aturowski@awna.org

It's not too late (OR TOO EARLY!) to register for the **AWSNA Summer Conference**. From June 24-27, 2011, hundreds will gather in Garden City, NY to learn more about Rudolf Steiner's Unique Understanding of Adolescence, Child Development, and the Spiritual Intentions of Waldorf Education. Keynote Speaker is Dr. Peter Selg, MD, a youth psychiatrist and spiritual scientific researcher working out of anthroposophy as director of the Ita Wegman Institute in Switzerland. This conference will delve into Rudolf Steiner's view into the pedagogical challenge which childhood presents, creating a kind of basic reflection about the spiritual core of Waldorf Education. Please inform your communities and mark your calendars! http://www.whywaldorfworks.org/03_NewsEvents/calendar.asp. Hosted by Waldorf School of Garden City, NY.

AWSNA's annual appeal continues to foster feelings of collaboration and strength in support of Waldorf Education in North America. This year, consider donating even just \$1 to AWSNA. If all our members and constituents gave \$1 we would have \$35,000 for Waldorf Education (make it \$5 and we'd have \$175,000!! You can donate on line on www.WhyWaldorfWorks.org. More ways you can further Waldorf Education in North America: Sign up to receive the e-news and on the Alumni Corner on www.WhyWaldorfWorks.org to stay informed about Waldorf news; 'like' AWSNA on Facebook "[Waldorf Education-the official page sponsored by AWSNA](#)"; support your local Waldorf school every way you can; and use GoodSearch (instead of Google) when surfing the web. Thank you for your commitment to Waldorf Education!



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“Rukia Goes to School”



The great thing about these pictures of children reading "Rukia Goes to School" in Kenya is that it is written by Waldorf teacher **Susan Cook**, who wrote it after spending time teaching in Kenya. Illustrated by Waldorf alum **Ilana Stein** and published by **AWSNA Publications**, "Rukia Goes to School" is used as a reader by children in North America at the same time that children in Kenya are reading the same book written about their school. Waldorf Education is the tie that gathers us together around the world!

AWSNA RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR YOU

Please keep these excellent resources in mind:

- Green Pages
- Waldorf: Messaging Guidelines
- Young Schools Guide
- Accreditation Guide
- Annual Financial Surveys
- Media Guide
- Overcoming Racism through Anthroposophy
- Articles on Finance
- List of Mentors, Evaluators and Teachers

We also offer helpful “Effective Practices” documents:

- Development
- Human Resources
- Enrollment
- Long-range and Strategic Planning
- Report Writing and Documentation
- Working with Parents
- Finances
- Community Life
- School and Pedagogical Operations

FORMS AVAILABLE: Don't reinvent the wheel: we've compiled the best forms from member schools that you can use as templates to create your own. These valuable tools can be found under “Affiliated School Resources” page listed in the AWSNA section of the www.WhyWaldorfWorks.org. If you need the password it's *4awsna*.