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

Welcome back to another year of innovation and excellence in your work in Waldorf Education!

WALDORF TEACHERS are the most important element of Waldorf schools. Finding teachers who are trained and ready is the most challenging of all our tasks in Waldorf Education. (As of mid-July, there were still 209 unfilled job openings in our schools.) The Teacher Education Network (TEN) of AWSNA has received grants from the Waldorf Schools fund and the Waldorf Educational Foundation to prepare a teacher recruitment "kit," complete with a compelling DVD profiling several Waldorf teachers. The plan is to engage school communities in the important work of identifying potential Waldorf teachers with these excellent new tools for recruitment. Ask for them from your school's delegate or administrator in late August. Let us know what you think and start planning for recruitment events in your community in 2010-2011!

ALUMNI PAGES are now launched....Come and join us on these new and secure pages at www.whywaldorfworks.org/alumni. Teachers, parents, staff, board members, and former Waldorf students are all welcome. On July 30, a launching party was held at the newly opened Club Helsinki Hudson in Hudson, N.Y. Friends and alumni from Alan Howard Waldorf School, Great Barrington, Hawthorne Valley, High Mowing, Kimberton, Monadnock, New York City, and Pine Hill, and were all represented. The event was sponsored by several alumni businesses, the Club Helsinki Hudson, and AWSNA, and featured door prizes, including a gift certificate from the Hawthorne Valley Farm Store and books and CDs. The party was followed by a concert featuring the Blue Ribbon Boys, a terrific band rife with Waldorf alumni! Look for additional alumni events coming soon.

PARENTAL CHOICE IN EDUCATION is a growing movement in the United States. Twelve states have passed some form of tuition tax credit legislation that allows parents to use tax dollars to fund an educational option of their choosing instead of public education. The political debate has been active all summer and has taken a symbolic form around the successful DC voucher program, which is to be eliminated next year by the current administration. AWSNA has been active in pursuing parental choice issues and investigating ways to engage Waldorf school communities in building parental choice options. We encourage all Waldorf parents to be advocates for parental choice in education by contacting your senators and congress representatives and expressing your wish to be able to retain tax dollars to allow for this choice. Ideas from Canada and Mexico in ways to do the same are always welcome.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE of AWSNA is hard at work re-evaluating the structure of AWSNA and discovering ways to trim costs, maximize the effectiveness of school dues, and increase income for the whole Association. In this current economic recession, careful analysis is being used to reconfigure the budget of AWSNA and maximize efficiencies.