

Iceland, October 21-23, 2011

INTERNATIONAL STEINER WALDORF PARENTS NETWORK



Dear Parents of Steiner Waldorf schools everywhere,

We, Ingibjörg and Gitte, are the presidents of the parents association of the two Waldorf schools in Iceland. It is with great pleasure that we send to you this invitation to join the International Steiner Waldorf Parents Network conference October 21-23 in Iceland this year.

Both of us joined the International Steiner Waldorf Parents Network for the first time last year and were immediately won over by the enthusiasm, passion and concern that everyone brought to the meeting. In fact, so much so, that we independently of each other decided to offer that the next meeting be in Iceland.

One phrase at that meeting caught Gitte's attention: 'Waldorf, the school of the future'. This phrase kept simmering in the back of Gitte's mind until an idea for a theme and a program formed and eventually manifested as this year's conference.

Here are some of our thoughts behind the program this year:

We, parents, are where SW meets the rest of the world. As such, parents in many ways are the ambassadors for the SW schools. To support the role of parents as ambassadors, the International Steiner Waldorf Parents Network was formed several years ago.



Borrowing a concept from the world of therapy, that the most successful therapists are those who are able to work from *inside* their client's world, our emphasis this year is to capture the things about SW schools that can easily be understood by non-SW parents.

The way we have chosen to do this is by bringing into focus results from studies and research that have been conducted over the last several decades that confirm SW pedagogy and educational methods. Following this we will go into facilitated group work to summarize and synthesize what we have learned in a form that we can use to catapult SW into the future, making SW 'The School of the Future'.



This year's meeting will take place in a 100 year old 'Waldorf Village' in southern Iceland.

Through discounts and donations we are able to offer the entire weekend including transportation to and from Reykjavík, accommodation in double rooms as well as meals for €200*. This phenomenal price also includes a 4 hr long guided sightseeing tour of the Golden Circle: Gullfoss, Geysir and Þingvellir at the end of the meeting.

Send us an email if you are interested in being part of the 2011 ISWPN conference,

Gitte: gitte@positivepowerliving.com, ph. +354 861 3174

Ingibjörg: isfix@isfix.is, ph. +354 891 9218

Looking forward,

Gitte and Ingibjörg

*Changes in exchange rates could cause this amount to change.

STEINER WALDORF PAST (A LITTLE), PRESENT AND (MOSTLY) FUTURE

Please notice that while Fridays and Sundays programs are pretty much settled, Saturdays program might undergo changes.

We will of course have smaller breaks even though they are not in the schedule :)

FRIDAY

14.30-15.00 Arrival and refreshments

16.00-17.30 Tour of Sólheimar

18.00-19.00 Dinner

19.00-19.20 ECSWE report

19.20-20.10 Recapitulation from earlier ISWPN meetings

20.30 Introduction of participants

SATURDAY

09.00-12.00 Presentation of educational, brain and psychological research that validates Steiner pedagogy

- Comparative studies
- Nature Deficit Disorder
- The brain and movement
- Multiple Intelligences
- Parent Involvement
- The damaging effects of exams
- The necessity of creativity in schools
- Slow schools

12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.00-14.00 Completion of morning session

14.00-14.30 Is there a need to modernize Steiner Waldorf language?

14.30-18.30 Facilitated group work: 'Catapulting Waldorf into the future'

19.00 Dinner

SUNDAY

09.00-09.45 A visit to a Waldorf school in Pakistan

09.45-12.00 Student exchange programs, next year and more

12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.30 Departure for Golden Circle sightseeing tour

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

FLIGHTS

Flights to Iceland must be arranged individually. Iceland has two airlines www.icelandair.com and www.icelandexpress.com. A few other airlines fly to Iceland, for example British Air, so it is worth checking around for best deals.



ACCOMODATION IN REYKJAVÍK

We have arranged for a 10% discount at centrally located Hotel Leifur Eirikson, www.hotelleifur.is, for the nights of Oct. 20 and 23.

Prices per night, including breakfast, are:

Double room 12.060 IKR

Single room 9.630 IKR

We have reserved both single and double rooms.

If you are traveling low-budget, we have a few beds at very cheap rates in the outskirts of town, or we will attempt to find private accommodation.

Please let us know which you would like, and we will make the arrangements for you.

TRANSPORTATION

The use of a bus for the entire weekend has kindly been donated to us, including driver and tour guide.

Departure Friday from Hotel Leifur Eirikson is at 13.00 hrs

Arrival Sunday Hotel Leifur Eirilson around 18.00 hrs.

This bus will be available throughout all the weekend.

SÓLHEIMAR

The conference will take place in Sólheimar. Sólheimar is a 100 year old community based on anthroposophical principles (a Camphill community) located in a beautiful valley in southern Iceland, www.solheimar.is (the website also has information in English). A tour of Sólheimar is the first thing on the program after settling in and refreshments.

We will be staying in two different guesthouses with session meetings taking place in a third building, and lunch and dinner in yet another building, all located close to each other.

All accommodation is in double rooms with private baths. The guesthouses provide bed linens and towels.

Sólheimar offers a mineral swimming pool, a café and a little convenience store.

FUN STUFF

While we have not yet planned our fun-things-to-do we do recommend a visit to either Sólheimar's pool and hot tub, or a bustrip to a nearby modern Icelandic swimming pool, consisting of water slides, Jacuzzis, hot tubs, steam rooms and more. So make sure to bring you swimsuit.

After lunch on Sunday we will on gather in the bus and visit Gullfoss waterfall, Geysir and Þingvellir national park where the Atlantic tectonic plate meets the European tectonic plate and where the first parliament in the history of man was formed, www.icelandtouristboard.com/index.php?page=the-golden-circle.

WHAT TO BRING

Late October is usually full autumn weather, possibly tending into winter.

We recommend you bring clothes for layering, especially warm clothes. Wind- and waterproof outer wear is a very good idea, as is sturdy shoes or boots. We also recommend that you bring hat, scarf and mittens as Iceland is a very windy place and strong winds adds a windchill factor. And again, do not forget you swimsuit; Icelandic swimming pools and possibly the Blue Lagoon on the return to the airport are unforgettable experiences.

Finally, we would like to mention the Icelandic tradition of not wearing outdoor shoes indoors. In all the buildings in Sólheimar visitors are expected to leave their shoes right inside the entrance door. We therefore suggest you bring indoor slippers or warm thick socks.

Register by contacting us:

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