

Inform

AWSNA COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2017

DEAR WALDORF COMMUNITY,

Autumn is a busy time of year for AWSNA's advancement office. Recent activities focused on sharing the voice of Waldorf Education with the broader educational community. In September, Beverly represented AWSNA at NAIS's Commission on Accreditation, the Independent Schools Association Network, the Council of American Private Education, and at the Department of Education in Washington, DC with the US Secretary of Education.

At all meetings there was an emphasis on how to approach our differences, whether related to educational philosophy, public versus private schooling, and/or legislative and political agendas, with carefulness, civility, respect, and open hearts. National association leaders were also consulted regarding funding and support for schools affected by the recent hurricanes that devastated areas of Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico.

Warmly,

*Stephanie,
Melanie,
& Beverly*



WALDORF ONE WORLD-DAY

For over 20 years, the “Waldorf One World-Day,” or “WOW-Day,” has been connecting people from all over the world. Students from 37 countries have given support to over 150 Waldorf and social initiatives.

On WOW-Day, various fundraising activities take place, establishing a connection among students of all continents. The proceeds of these activities are used to provide children with education, a protective community, or a warm meal. The time frame is from September 29 to November 29, 2017—each institute independently chooses the day that best fits its campaign.

There are countless possibilities for organizing your WOW-Day: Whether student, parent, or teacher: together you can devise ideas for your day of action. For example, you can prepare a circus show, work as a harvester on a farm, or push yourself to the limit at a sponsored run. Come up with big or small, loud or quiet actions.

Please go to <https://www.freunde-waldorf.de/en/wow-day/> for more information. You will find numerous ideas for your WOW-Day, information concerning the projects that are seeking your support, some legal information for your school, as well as standard employment contracts for your employer. We look forward to receiving photographs and field reports about your activities in order to attract further students to this project! Here's an example:

Peru > Estrella del Sur – Everyone is welcome

In the northern jungle of Peru, the initiative Estrella del Sur offers extra-curricular social work for children with special needs.



ESSENTIALS IN EDUCATION BLOG

The Importance of Learning a Second Language



Educators have long touted the benefits of second language learning for U.S. students, but its necessity is regularly challenged. Critics like to point out that language learning should be an elective, at best, due to expense and time constraints for becoming proficient. They also argue that English is likely to remain the international *lingua franca* of

business, implying that American students can rest on their English-speaking laurels. But there are many advantages to learning more than one language, and some are not just measured by business success. Read the whole article on [Waldorf Education](#).

And do visit AWSNA's education blog, called [Essentials in Education](#), in which we explore topics that matter to educators, researchers, policy experts, and thought leaders—from a Waldorf Education perspective.

We welcome comments and feedback, and we also welcome guest posts. Please contact Beverly Amico at bamico@awsna.org for details.

Please join us on social media:



THE COMEBACK OF CURSIVE

A recent article in *The Economist* discusses the importance of cursive writing: "Neurophysiologists in Norway and France have found that different parts of the brain are stimulated when reading letters learned by writing them on paper, rather than by typing them on a keyboard. The movement and tactile response involved in handwriting leaves a memory trace in the sensorimotor part of the brain, which are retrieved when reading the letters involved. If handwriting reinforces reading, the implications for teaching are huge."

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COMMUNITY WEB RESOURCES

WALDORFEDUCATION.ORG

FORMS

Templates you can use to create your own forms can be found on the "Affiliated School Resources" page of our website.

STAY CONNECTED

Sign up for our newsletter on our website and like and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Pinterest.

You can also support us on our website.
Thank you for your commitment to Waldorf Education!

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