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May 2011

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

**Waldorf Inspired Service to New Orleans ...** The weekend of April 7 – 10, 2011, was an extraordinary one for the Waldorf School for New Orleans (WSNO) and sixty Waldorf community volunteers. The Leadership groups of AWSNA met for the weekend and joined the work at breaks and lunches. Some volunteers went off to the St. Bernard Project to help in one of the hardest hit neighborhoods in the city. The school was transformed with color and a lovely play yard: the workers lazured the walls in three classrooms, an enormous wall, and two hallways. They dug up the mulch pit for the swing set. They fixed the cement walk. They built a brick patio for the play house, dug a new garden bed for the Kindergarten vegetable garden, soaked and scraped hundreds of wine bottles clean to line the vegetable garden bed and the flower garden with those scrubbed bottles turned upside-down. There are no “thank yous” big enough to all the players in this event: you can read more about this on our website [www.whywaldorfworks.org](http://www.whywaldorfworks.org), and on the AWSNA Facebook page.

**NCPSA accreditation...** Word arrived while we were in New Orleans that our Association's NCPSA accreditation has been renewed for accrediting schools through 2016. This great news is due to the good work of Carol Fulmer and Arthur Pittis and we have much to be thankful for in this current accreditation and "accountability" environment.

**“A Moveable Classroom”** in both the first and second grades is an innovation worthy of note at the Pine Hill Waldorf School in New Hampshire. Two courageous class teachers, with support of the faculty and administration answered the question of movement and flexibility in these early grades with the installation of a classroom with no desks and chairs, but instead with tables and giant, buckwheat-hull filled “bean” bags on which the children sit. The tables double as balance beams, painting tables, climbing and jumping devices, and multi-levels of circle work. Results after two months are positive and enthusiasm for the new approach to movement as part of the design of the rooms is high in the Pine Hill Community.

**Screen Free Week ...** was a high participation event in all of our Waldorf communities....of course! Stories are trickling in now of innovations born in the absence of screens. Please vote for your favorite one: they're posted on Facebook and on [www.whywaldorfworks.org](http://www.whywaldorfworks.org).

**Art from the Seventh Through Twelfth Grades...** is being collected to represent Waldorf Education in North America. Beautiful submissions of sophisticated artwork done by our students have already been submitted. Get your students' art work to us soon! Scan and send to [pmaynard@awsna.org](mailto:pmaynard@awsna.org).

**Four ways you can further Waldorf Education in North America:** Sign up for e-news and on the Alumni Corner on the [www.whywaldorfworks.org](http://www.whywaldorfworks.org) and stay informed about Waldorf news; support your local Waldorf school every way you can; use GoodSearch (instead of Google) when surfing the web; and give a gift to AWSNA, as we stand together for holistic education and the protection of child development. Thank you for your commitment to Waldorf Education.

