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

The Summer Conference in Portland in June is open to parents, administrators, Board members, and teachers in Waldorf Schools on the North American continent. Sign up and join us for a rich experience of deepening and broadening our shared ideals in this education we love! Register online at www.whywaldorfworks.org. Do not miss it!

Economic conditions and Waldorf schools – courageous work is visible in all Waldorf schools as economic concerns preclude independent education from being an option for many families. Efforts to increase tuition assistance to families, and creative arranging and reducing of programs are underway on many fronts. The inner resilience of the education is a resource many are discovering as these difficult decisions and adjustments are made.

Some funding may be available to individual schools in the United States through the government: On February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), a nearly \$800 billion package to help jump-start the sagging economy through a combination of tax cuts and government spending. ARRA involves unprecedented amounts of federal funds for education programs, some of which will affect religious and independent schools. Through our membership with the Council for American Private Education (CAPE) information can be found about the potential for independent schools in this arena at www.capenet.org. Caution is important in pursuit of these funds as there can be regulations attached to the funding and the requirements for application might present a drain to school's human resources. If there is a member of your school's community connected to your public school district who can help with comprehension of procedures and application processes, pursuit might be worthwhile.

Johns Hopkins University Roundtable Johns Hopkins University sponsored a one-day Roundtable on *Arts and the Brain*, based on the report released last year from the Dana Foundation, indicating that the arts light up parts of the brain that no other activity does. This was followed in DC by the tenth annual conference on *Learning and the Brain*. The invitation only Roundtable included 200 researchers, teachers, educational leaders, superintendents, principals, and policy makers. Joan Almon represented the Alliance for Childhood, Chaddie Hughes attended as a local Baltimore resident, and Patrice Maynard represented Waldorf Education and AWSNA. Verification of the value of arts in brain development was apparent in all research, as well as startling discoveries about the late (25 years of age) brain maturation point. Waldorf Education was underscored as having a holistic approach in brain development as well as in child development.

Grateful Teacher Graduates: The AWSNA Teacher Training Loans and Grants program, supported by dues from member schools and foundation grants, provided \$290,000 this year to 227 student teachers pursuing education in affiliated Teacher Preparation Institutes to become a Waldorf teacher. These loans are forgiven for graduates who teach in a Waldorf school. Last month we received two special contributions in appreciation for this program, raised by this year's graduating classes at Rudolf Steiner Centre in Toronto, Canada, and from Sunbridge College in New York. Along with their gift, they sent a note of gratitude for the support they received that allowed them to complete their training, saying "Thanks to AWSNA".

All at AWSNA wish you all a fine Summer full of light!

