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

HAPPY 2010 with Peace and prosperity to One and All in our Waldorf Educational Community!

Accreditation in full swing...During the fall months, four member schools completed their process of accreditation by hosting visiting teams of experienced colleagues, while 10 other schools submitted interim reports on their seven year, or in some cases, ten year accreditation process. Accreditation gives independent schools a "seal of approval" for their quality, integrity, and excellence. In coming months accreditation will be increasingly scrutinized as the push for the filling of forms and data based assessment increases. The opportunity to demonstrate the power of self-study, peer review, and alternative approaches to developing character and quality in a school will be heightened. 28 experienced teachers from the broad independent school community as well as from our Waldorf schools, volunteered their time to ensure the caliber of our schools by participating in the accreditation process. This collaboration between schools contributes to the high quality of education expected from our schools. Accreditation provides a fine example of our "Strength through Collaboration."

Waldorf Education Growing in Mexico...Teachers, staff, trustees, and parents from Waldorf schools and institutes in Mexico gathered in November in San Miguel de Allende for the annual Waldorf Pedagogical Conference. Hosted by Colegio Rudolf Steiner on their beautiful campus, the conference featured a rich variety of artistic and pedagogical workshops. The keynote speaker, Rosa Baracio, an experienced and respected Waldorf educator in Mexico, addressed the four temperaments in children. AWSNA Leader of Programs and Activities, Michael Soulé, participated and met with teams of teachers from schools in Mexico City, Cuernavaca, Tlaxcala, San Miguel, Guanajuato, Vera Cruz, Puerto Morales, Playa del Carmen, Aguascalientes, Guadalajara, and Valle de Bravo. These growing schools share the Waldorf movement in Mexico with many young initiative schools. Last summer over 100 teachers participated in courses offered by Centro Antroposofico in Cuernavaca. This February, the Cuernavaca school will be the first Mexican Waldorf school to complete an accreditation with AWSNA.

Board Member recognition and appreciation...The dedicated volunteers who comprise the Board of Trustees of AWSNA work year round in a host of different capacities and meetings to build the Waldorf Educational movement through our Association. The Board works steadily through its Board Development Committee to find the best candidates for bringing expertise to the Board to fulfill the mission of AWSNA. The Board is bidding a fond farewell to two valuable Board Members after their years of exemplary service: Scott Williams and Jane Wulsin. Scott will continue his fine consulting work in fundraising with our many schools through his work with Changing Our World. Jane continues her fine teaching in Green Meadow Waldorf School as she reaches the upper grades in her fourth class. Scott will continue his work on AWSNA's Development Committee, and Jane will continue her work with the Pedagogical Section Council. Their contributions to our movement are significant and their participation on the Board has been invaluable.