

Celebrating 100 Years Steiner/Waldorf Education – A Worldwide Festival

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1,100 schools and 1,700 kindergartens practice *Steiner/Waldorf* educational principles in over 80 countries on all continents of the earth. One hundred years after the first Waldorf school opened, the movement has become a world-wide force for educating young people by promoting individual freedom, equality and brotherhood/sisterhood, and the peaceful coexistence of humanity as the starting point and objective of all pedagogical activity. Waldorf 100 aspires to further develop the cooperation and effectiveness of Waldorf education in a global exchange throughout the entire world – and with you!

The common thread

Steiner/Waldorf educational initiatives are as diverse as the people who work together under so many different cultural, social, geographical, religious, and political conditions. Our efforts are bound together by a common ethos, recreated again and again by focusing on the developing human being.

Increasing numbers of schools are preparing to celebrate the centennial by using “head, heart, and hand” to rediscover the principles of Steiner/Waldorf education and revive the dialogue on developing this path.



What you can do

As a genuine grass-roots movement, Waldorf education always lives from the specific initiatives of specific people. We are planning our Centennial as a festival in which every school can contribute locally, by region, by continent, or world-wide. What that means specifically depends on your ideas. Would you perhaps like to make your own indoor or outdoor surroundings more beautiful? Invite the parents to a family festival in your kindergarten? Host a public event? Take on an environmental project? Establish a partnership with a kindergarten or child care in another part of the world or one next door?

We warmly welcome all ideas!

Waldorf 100 has created a flyer describing several projects and possibilities for activities in schools. We would like to present here some ideas and suggestions for activities in kindergartens and child care centers.

Loving deeds for nature and the earth

We can direct our attention and energy to caring for nature in our own immediate surroundings – for example by planting a tree or starting a flower garden that would provide nourishment for the bees to collect. And maybe host a family festival, collect seeds and plant them, harvest the fruits and work with them.



Social action

We rarely have time to develop relationships outside of our family and career. Suggestion for 2019: Every kindergarten, every child care center, could choose one or more other centers with whom they could cultivate a friendly, interested relationship

- with a child care center or kindergarten in one's own region or in another country
- with an organization in one's own neighborhood – a home for the elderly, a curative home, a farm, etc.
- with our neighbors

This relationship could take many forms:

- Staying in contact, exchanging experiences, visiting one another, learning from one another, introducing the partner organization in one's own organization, etc.
- Give a gift – candles, dolls, pictures, bread, pastries....



Courage for the future

We can only give children the best possible foundations for carrying out their own initiatives in the future with optimism and a sense of trust in life, if we understand how to consider their particular needs and develop a good relationship with them.

Two things that are a great help in this:

- Study with one's colleagues the general biographical development of the child and the human being, above all through the lectures by Rudolf Steiner known as „The Study of Man
- Speak regularly with one's colleagues in a tactful and precise way about observations we have made of the child and try together to understand the child.

If you have questions about working with the Study of Man or the methods for „child study, “please contact us.



It would be very nice if as many kindergartens and childcare centers as possible would participate. You can share your experiences with us on our website by contacting info@iaswece.org.

And of course, you are warmly invited to develop ideas and projects within your own community. You can communicate with us at info@waldorf-100.org and/or info@iaswece.org.

Shared projects

World Early Childhood Educators Conference at the Goetheanum

This conference is for all colleagues in kindergartens and child care centers, parents, board members, daycare mothers, therapists, and doctors. The conference will take place in April 15 – 19, 2019, Dornach, Switzerland. Registration will begin in September 2018 at www.iaswece.org.

All Waldorf early childhood centers will receive a postcard from a participant at the conference, with impressions and suggestions from the conference. (Addresses will be distributed by a raffle at the conference).

Film Project

After the success of the Waldorf 100 video, further videos are planned. One video will feature Steiner/Waldorf early childhood education, and we would like to include clips from videos that have already been produced in various countries. If you have created or have access to such videos, please send the links to info@iaswece.org. Themes of special interest include play – simple play materials – relationship to nature – subtle differentiated sense impressions – rhythm – speech.

Contact Information

Waldorf 100 is an initiative of the International Forum for Steiner/Waldorf Education and is carried legally by Waldorf 2019 e.V., Wagenburgstrasse 6, D-70184 Stuttgart/Germany.

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Many Steiner/Waldorf country associations, IASWECE, Freunde der Erziehungskunst and ECSWE are members of Waldorf 2019.

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For questions about early childhood and kindergartens, contact info@iaswece.org

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