

The Research Institute for Waldorf Education and Waldorf Publications

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The Online Waldorf Library — www.waldorflibrary.org — has increased its offerings to a remarkable degree, as you can discern from Marianne Alsop's report on the OWL. The collection comprises eBooks, articles, research papers, all articles from the *Research Bulletin*, and now also from journals no longer in print, such as *The Golden Blade*, and *Child and Man*. Many articles and books are available in Spanish and in Mandarin; these resources are a continual work-in-progress as we have increasing amounts of material translated to reach colleagues in Mexico and China.

The Research Institute for Waldorf Education (RIWE) is developing a meta-research project designed to gather the abundant research now available on primary elements of foundations of child development employed through Waldorf educational philosophy. The importance of sleep, the power of play, the direct experiences of people of color in Waldorf schools, teaching cursive handwriting, the impact of technology on learning, the effects of block teaching and looping on learning in school, and the effects of trauma on learning, are some of the topics under examination in this Meta-Research. Experienced Waldorf educators are at work in furthering this project. The result will be a book recording known research with a series of papers digesting the sea of available research on these topics, identifying and digesting the research, condensing it into accessible form to be useful to Waldorf teachers, schools, parents, researchers, and friends of education. The significance of this research project is manifold. Presented in digestible form, it will establish the modern scientific proof of the efficacy of the practices and insights used in Waldorf pedagogy for over a hundred years. As of this writing, RIWE is pursuing funding to continue and to complete this project.

This meta-research follows on the Survey of Waldorf Parents, which will soon be available in book form. This survey was waylaid by the pandemic, as so many things were, and the original survey was nimbly re-formed to address the topic of parental reactions to their Waldorf school's response to the pandemic and its associated lockdown. The results of this alternative survey were published in the Fall/Winter issue of the *Research Bulletin*, in an article titled, "The Community Speaks: What Waldorf Schools Can Learn from Their Parents" by David Sloan. Further research and evaluation continued

proceeded once the original parent survey analysis was completed, and results will be published soon.

Waldorf Publications has been at work in its steady efforts to produce and provide seven to ten books per year as reliable resources for Waldorf communities. An unusual project has been to assist in the translation and publication through Routledge and its affiliate, Taylor & Francis publishers, of the *Handbook of Waldorf Pedagogy*, compiled and edited by Jost Schieren. The book promises to be distributed widely by these respected academic publishers and covers an approach to Waldorf education based on science — philosophy, psychology, anthropology, child development — and the anthroposophical worldview that informs Waldorf education. Each AWSNA-recognized Waldorf school will receive a copy of this book as part of the BookBank program. We are confident that it will prove an invaluable resource for Waldorf schools and their communities.

In all these endeavors of RIWE — Research Institute, Online Waldorf Library, and Waldorf Publications — the commitment continues strong to act as a clearing-house for and creation of authentic research materials describing and enhancing Waldorf education in the light of Anthroposophy, its founding philosophy.