

Teaching Sensible Science

Co-Directors

The next cycle of “Teaching Sensible Science” will take place this summer and continue into the following school year. All three of the week-long sessions will take place at the Waldorf School of Saratoga Springs. Dates are:

Saturday, 24 June – Friday, 30 June 2006
Wednesday, 4 October – Monday, 9 October 2006
Saturday, 24 February – Friday, 2 March 2007

For details and registration, contact Michael D'Aleo at spalight@verizon.net. An account of this program can be found in the Autumn 2005 issue of the *Research Bulletin*, Vol. XI, No.1.

Report on the On-Line Waldorf Library

Marianne Alsop

The Online Waldorf Library (OWL) continues to facilitate research, post articles, add information on newly published books, and field many questions. We receive a great number of basic inquiries—for example, how to find a local Waldorf school. Interestingly, these queries frequently come from India, the Philippines, American Samoa, and Caribbean nations. If there are no schools nearby, and in these particular countries there are very few, the questions often evolve into those regarding how to begin a school or homeschool. Certainly, Waldorf education is becoming increasingly known around the world and parents are looking for ways to bring it to their respective communities.

Thanks to the efforts of David Mitchell and Roberto Trostli (see “Rudolf Steiner Library Accommodates Sleuths from the Research Institute” in this issue), OWL now has more than forty articles from the archives of the Rudolf Steiner Library in Ghent, New York, available online. Many of these articles are by some of the pioneers of the Waldorf school movement—Hermann von Baravalle, Hermann Poppelbaum,

Caroline von Heydebrand, Renwick Sheen, and Walter Johannes Stein, among them. Visitors to the site can find these articles by using the “Search” feature and typing in the name of the author or by simply clicking on “articles.”

OWL has received an average of 75 visitors per day over the past 5 months. Most of the interest is from North America, followed by the UK, Australia, and New Zealand. The most frequently accessed journal is *Gateways*, followed by the *Research Bulletin*. The Research on Waldorf High School Graduates survey received the greatest number of hits in December.

OWL continues to respond to all inquiries and invites visitors to email comments and questions. Highlights of recent website activity also include these:

In response to a number of questions regarding Christmas plays, OWL has posted several new articles from the *Rundbrief*, the journal of the Pedagogical Section at the Goetheanum. A number of other articles from past issues of the *Rundbrief* are also now available.

The Waldorf High School summer reading list is now easily accessible on the home page. This list is a compilation of North American Waldorf high school reading lists and will be updated as other schools add their suggested reading.

OWL receives frequent requests for more online articles from the *Waldorf Science Newsletter*, and we are building up our offerings of past editions. Meanwhile, all past editions are currently available for purchase from the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA) Publications.

Teachers have requested more plays for grades 2, 5, and 6. The online plays by Roberto Trostli continue to be greatly sought and appreciated.

Financial questions regarding pay scales for teachers, hiring criteria, and setting tuition are referred to AWSNA.

Other questions over the past months have included documentation to support setting an earlier start time for middle school students; creative approaches to paying tuition (also referred to as AWSNA); documentation that children who attend preschool do better in high school than children who remain at home; the potential benefits of a math specialist in the middle school; and resources for foreign language teachers. Other common topics of interest include creating care groups, articles for parents on child studies, and creating diversity study groups for parents and the requisite reading or study materials.

Homeschooling curriculum questions continue to arrive, and OWL serves the needs of many families, many of whom regularly correspond with me via email.

