



Adult Education Survey



THREE CEDARS
WALDORF
SCHOOL

Surveyed SWS and TCWS School
Communities: **66 Participants**



Intro

Why and What

In Waldorf Schools we find that it makes a positive difference for parents when they engage in and support their child's education. Children with consistent parent involvement and support seem to reach their potential with increased ease, and experience parents and teachers working together as a team

One significant way offered to parents in this domain is through ongoing adult education events.

This Survey started out with the question:

How can we help parents take better advantage of our adult education program, so their child can have an expanded benefit from Waldorf Education?

Outcomes

What We Discovered

We found that this survey results point to a wish for a wide range of lectures and experiences, which a single school might have difficulties providing on their own.

Along with the feedback we received from staff and teachers, these results **lay the foundation for our regional Adult Education Program for the coming years.**

While every school will continue to plan and provide their own adult education program, these results are a call to much closer collaboration between the schools in their planning and hosting of events.

1. What would you like to learn about Waldorf Education?

Answered Question: 66 Skipped Questions: 0

	% OF PARTICIPANTS WHO SELECTED THIS AREA	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WHO SELECTED THIS AREA
What are the benefits of Waldorf Education?	36.4%	24
Child development	68.2%	45
What are the capacities visible in a Waldorf Educated child?	50.0%	33
How do we prepare the children to meet the world? (And how are Waldorf graduates doing in the world?)	68.2%	45
Why is media discouraged in Waldorf Education?	21.2%	14
What happens in a Main-Lesson and why?	43.9%	29
How do I explain Waldorf Education to my family and friends?	42.4%	28

Understand the main concepts of Antroposophy & Rudolf Steiner's philosophy.

Anthroposophy's influence on Waldorf education.

More about Rudolf Steiner.

I would love to be offered some of the techniques that Waldorf teachers use - such as invoking the guardian spirit of each child, some of the verses, ways to stay mindful, etc. It would be wonderful if there could be "mini-trainings" for parents on how to cultivate some of the qualities we so admire in our children's teachers.

I need to be convinced that Waldorf prepares the kids for college. It seems that our high school seniors for the most part due quite poorly on the SAT and end up (for the most part) at mediocre colleges like W. Washington, Quest, and various art schools.

I am interested in the intersection between child development and the philosophy of each grade.

Given the school's real-world financial limitations, how does Waldorf education meet so-called "gifted" children? What does "spiritual" mean in the Waldorf context? How is the "spiritual" content of the curriculum not religious? What are the ideal expectations for parents? (This needs to be communicated more clearly.) How are Waldorf teachers assessed on an on-going basis?

Speaking as a grade school parent, I see the hard work and expertise that goes into teaching our children and I am so thankful. What can we do, as parents, at home with our children to support the efforts of our teachers? What can we do to make it easier for our teachers?

I think that some of these questions can be answered as part of parent evenings--how child development changes grade by grade and specifically in that class. Eleanor Seidman did a fabulous job with this at her parent evenings.

2. What would you like to learn about Parenting?

Answered Question: 66 Skipped Questions: 0

	% OF PARTICIPANTS WHO SELECTED THIS AREA	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WHO SELECTED THIS AREA
Parenting tools and discipline	61.7%	37
How to help children to be calmer and happier	65.0%	39
How to create a more harmonious and less stressful home life	63.3%	38
How to share your values and choices with your family and friends so they can support you	55.0%	33
Parenting the Child with special Educational Needs	21.7%	13
Movement Exercises for Body Integration (The Extra Lesson)	55.0%	33

How to foster critical thinking and full awareness in kids.

Teens and young adults.

I have studied NVC or Compassionate Communication and had exposure to Simplicity Parenting, and there is one point where they are at odds. I am torn on the inside as I respect and understand the need for clear direction and no choices for little kids, and yet have experienced the power of acknowledging their needs and offering choices in a stressful moment. There is a veiled "you will do this now" in the "you may do this now" And I know the kids pick up on it and resent it.

I would love to learn all of these things, and especially perhaps a section on self-care for parents. One thing I always am amazed about with Waldorf teachers is how serene and calm they seem, while I feel harried, exhausted, and ready to snap at any little thing (sometimes!) What is their secret? How can we, as parents, cultivate that inner serenity and calm? That is the main thing I wish I had more of as a parent.

How to limit drug use in the middle school and high school, especially this year's senior class.

Helping our children to be more independent and less reliant on the adults.

Parenting teens and how to balance love and acceptance with discouraging substance use, casual sex, etc!

Social integration, Anti-bullying.

3. What crafts and arts would you like to experience?

Answered Question: 66 Skipped Questions: 0

	% OF PARTICIPANTS WHO SELECTED THIS AREA	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WHO SELECTED THIS AREA
Fiber Arts	42.2%	27
Doll Making	25.0%	16
Celebrating the seasons and creating a Nature Table	46.9%	30
Wood working and practical arts	59.4%	38
Biodynamic gardening in practice (learn while volunteering)	62.5%	40
Watercolor Painting	40.6%	26
Clay or Beeswax Modeling	29.7%	19
Eurythmy	35.9%	23
Drawing	37.5%	24
Choir singing – practice for festivals and to strengthen our grades choir experience	34.4%	22

Meditation

Nurturing parents nurturing children. I'd like to do more all above.

It would be wonderful as a parent to participate in a Eurythmy lesson or workshop for parents, as so many of us don't really know much about what this is (but it sounds wonderful.) I would love to have a more lived experience of an essential part of my son's education, especially as I grew up in a time when the mind-body connection was not as valued (the 70s and 80s) and am trying to reintegrate it into my life. As for the other suggestions above, I would absolutely LOVE to learn doll-making with other parents. All the crafts mentioned above are important - I didn't mention woodworking bc it is not my particular talent, but I am sure it would be wonderful.

Pottery.

4.

What would you like to learn about Anthroposophy, the underlying philosophy of Waldorf Education and it's applications?

Answered Question: 66 Skipped Questions: 0

	% OF PARTICIPANTS WHO SELECTED THIS AREA	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WHO SELECTED THIS AREA
Anthroposophy	80.6%	50
Rudolf Steiner and his legacy	50.0%	31
Anthroposophical initiatives around the world	40.3%	25
Anthroposophy as a spiritual path	59.7%	37
Biodynamic agriculture	54.8%	34
Anthroposophical Medicine and remedies	62.9%	39
The Rudolf Steiner Foundation (holistic financial investments)	30.6%	19

Anthroposophical view of the current evolution of humanity.

All of these would be wonderful. The first two are especially interesting to me as I am not very knowledgeable about Anthroposophy, but a successive or rotating opportunity to learn more would be wonderful.

Nothing.

How do we explain to others who do not know about Waldorf education that, although Anthroposophy is the underlying philosophy of Waldorf education, it is not a religious school. How can we get comfortable with talking about this?

5. Do you have a favorite presenter you would like to hear?

Fill in Answers

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WHO
SELECTED THIS PRESENTER

Dr. Johanna Steegmans

11

Presentation on the virtues project. Missed the lecture from Betty Staley would love to hear her.

Melissa Borden

Jaimen MacMillan

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Betty Staley, Tommi Morgan I would like to have parent education in the mornings or weekends. It's too hard to do it in the evenings. Also if the school can provide childcare, it will be great. Then the kids can have a play date and the adult can really sit down and have longer period of workshop such as a 4 hr session with 1/2 of movement at the beginning , 1hr of talk, 1hr of art and 1/2 of eurythmy at the end. This way it will really give the parents a real understanding why all works. They will feel refreshed and nurtured and not all the talking could make anyone understand.

Kim John Payne

Not necessarily, but it would be wonderful if different teachers and administrators took it in turns to teach or facilitate about their own areas of expertise within Waldorf. I have been able to attend a few sessions run by the "wise elders" of the community, but I'd like to hear from others as well about what attracted them to Waldorf.

I am interested in the Virtues Project because it is a method that could build the sense of community and shared values between parents. In the grade school, I believe there is an opportunity to facilitate deeper conversations and to meet challenges that parents are facing. I think we need to establish some new norms for how parents interact as a community.

Betty staley is awesome. john gatto, elfie someone...

Dennis Clochec

Susanna Reynolds, Ms. Lisch, Kim John Payne

Michael Preston

6. It is easier for me to attend an adult education event...

Fill in Answers

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Morning (between 9am and 12noon)	23	20	18	15	19	26	15
Early Afternoon (between 12noon and 3pm)	7	5	5	8	5	12	12
Late afternoon (between 3pm and 6pm)	2	1	2	2	1	13	8
Evening (after 6pm)	30	28	33	34	25	9	5
I need childcare	5	5	5	4	5	9	7

Re: question 7 -- depending upon when the course is offered, I would be able to attend any of the options: single, 3 or 5 sessions

Would prefer them at the SWS grade school. Having to head downtown to the High School or over the 520 TOLL bridge is not appealing to me at all

Evenings are so in demand already and it creates additional stress on my family to be out for too many evenings. Some daytime during school hour adult education would be a welcome change.

Child care would always be welcome. I think shorter, single sessions are better for parents.

Schedule is very variable but generally days or evenings of the week is better than weekends

Daytime events should be on-campus and dovetail with pick-up and drop-off times.

In general, evenings after 6 pm work most consistently.

Variable-dependent on week, month--most likely mornings

7. I am interested in attending a course over...

Answered Question: 66 Skipped Questions: 0

	% OF PARTICIPANTS WHO SELECTED THIS AREA	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WHO SELECTED THIS AREA
One single	44.1%	26
Three session	40.7%	24
Five or more sessions	15.3%	9

8. I would prefer the session to be...

Answered Question: 66 Skipped Questions: 0

	% OF PARTICIPANTS WHO SELECTED THIS AREA	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WHO SELECTED THIS AREA
Weekly	26.2%	16
Bi-weekly	29.7%	17
Monthly	50.8%	31
Once in a school term	16.4%	10

Thank You!

to the following...

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Bernd Zabel for the initiative.

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