

Social Inclusion at the Nelson Waldorf School
From the SI Parent Group

This summer the SI parent group met with Kim Payne, faculty, staff and class eight students for our final year of training in the use and integration of Social Inclusion principles at our school. This year's workshops were energizing exciting and very hopeful for the years to come. As a first bulletin submission for the year I would like to share with you all the work of Social Inclusion that has already been an integral part of the healthy social life of our school.

In the 2007/2008 school year, we were blessed with the work of Danny Finley as the Social Inclusion coordinator; Danny worked closely with the students to create a warm safe and inclusive school environment for all. Danny also worked closely with the class nine students to create the SSAC (Student Social Action Committee), a peer led group of older children that brought Social Inclusion into the classrooms, onto the playing fields and into the assemblies with hands on, playful and heartfelt presentations and support.

The Social Inclusion parent group met regularly to create support systems within the school for parents learning about or involved in the social inclusion process. Further work by the parent group brought a series of study groups focused on Simplicity Parenting and shared experiences of raising children today. Regular bulletin articles supported the work of the parent group and kept the larger Waldorf community informed of Kim Payne's work as we are living it.

Faculty and staff brought to life Kim's work through the use of the DADD's, the Put Down Diet, creation of the call out scale for each class and the inclusion of the class nine students as mentors and presenters in every class. Faculty met regularly to share their experiences using Social Inclusion in the classrooms and to learn new skills to bring to the children.

The Social Inclusion Core Group of faculty and parents met bi - weekly to further their Social Inclusion learning, develop skills and presentations to bring to the community and created the beginning of the Nelson Waldorf School Social Inclusion policy. In February this group brought a Social Inclusion forum as an opportunity for parents to learn more about this vital work that is changing the social climate of our school. The SICG has been working with Kim Payne for the last two years and will continue that work throughout the 2008/2009 school year.

As a final contribution to the school before graduation the SAC worked with every class in the grades to create a Nelson Waldorf School Code of Compassion that is personalized and meaningful to the students today and those to follow. Social Inclusion has been a great gift to our school and I would like to thank the many people who have brought this to our community. The continued growth and development of our school is supported by our continued commitment.

In gratitude,
Georgia Argyle, Jillian Harvey, Holly Biggar, and Wendy Ramsey.
Parent SICG