

November 5, 2008

SOCIAL INCLUSION CORNER

The healthy social life is found
When in the mirror of each human soul
The whole community finds its reflection
And when in the community
The virtue of each one is living.

The Social Inclusion Parent Group recently hosted a series of three study groups based on the work of Kim Payne, "The Soul of Discipline". For the last three weeks members of the parent group met with school parents to explore the presentation made by Kim Payne at the school this summer. Kim's lecture was both very funny and very informative, inspiring many parents to look at how they are bringing discipline to their children.

The first study group looked at the history of "parenting styles" as brought to us over the years by an ever evolving and often contradictory panel of parenting experts. We explored how parenting styles arose out of a need to define our values and beliefs as both adults and children spent less time out of the home and amongst outside influences. We looked at how these styles have served us as parents and where we sensed they were not entirely the answer, with nothing quite fitting all parenting needs.

The second study group was an introduction to Kim Payne's ideas on parenting, admittedly yet another expert on parenting offering more suggestions. Yet a difference arose as we looked into his work and recognized the thoughtfulness with which Kim brought forth his ideas. Kim has brought his experience as a parent, a Waldorf teacher, a recovered psychologist (his words), and his depth of understanding of developmental stages of the child. Using a healthy pedagogical approach Kim provides a framework for bringing discipline to our children that is age and stage appropriate.

The last study group was an in-depth look at the discipline that is appropriate to each stage and practical applications in both the home and school. We named the stages of development, the child's primary needs and how we can offer them our own inner authority as a guide in developing self-discipline. The parents brought their own experiences and questions and together we identified what has worked, what hasn't and where we want to go in our own parenting.

Thank you very much to all the parents who attended this series; it was deeply enriching and has left the SI parent group with much food for thought.

The SI parent group will be offering another three-week series of discussions on "Simplicity Parenting" in the New Year. Watch the bulletin for more details.

To all interested parents there will be an informal parent chat group every Tuesday morning in the Parent Room (downstairs in the main building). A play space is available for children. This is a self organized group, just come and join in, bring your crafts and hobbies to share with others or just come to relax and connect.

Georgia Argyle
On Behalf of the
Social Inclusion Parent Committee