

News from the Online Waldorf Library

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The Online Waldorf Library (OWL) continues to see an increasing number of inquiries and requests for information. Over the past eight months traffic has increased by 15% over the same period last year.

Daily requests for general information are directed to other web-based resources like AWSNA, WECAN, and the International Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education. Direct links to these and other groups working internationally with Waldorf education are on the links page of the OWL site. A new addition is the link to the World Language Teachers in Waldorf Schools website, a helpful web-based community of foreign language teachers and resources.

The current economy has led to a number of requests for homeschooling resources from parents who have had to withdraw their children from independent Waldorf schools. Their requests are heartfelt, and it is obvious that, having made the decision to withdraw their child from school, they want to continue the education as well as they can. The OWL site offers many specific curriculum resources as well as links to homeschooling resource sites.

Included in the many requests for information over the past months are these topics:

- Teaching resources for working with children with special needs, both in homeschool and public school settings.
- Understanding sleep, from physical and spiritual standpoints.
- Research on gender issues specific to curriculum.
- How to work with the Extra Lesson in a homeschool situation.
- The relationship of knitting to brain development.
- Teaching German in a homeschool setting.
- Teaching music in the middle grades.
- Research on the development of handwriting.
- The evolutionary sequence of consonants.

Most notable this year has been the increased use of online or e-books, specifically the titles in the “Foundations of Waldorf Education” series. Other frequently used online resources include the *Science Newsletters*; Guenther Hauk’s *Handwork and Handicrafts*; and back issues of *Gateways*.

The Online Waldorf Library invites your questions and comments, and encourages readers of the *Research Bulletin* to explore this valuable virtual library.

Visit the Online Waldorf Library at

www.waldorflibrary.org.