

Once again WOW-Day 2012 raises much attention

Berlin 6.11.2012/KS/OG. For the fourth consecutive year, WOW-Day has been a worldwide success. This year, WOW-Day took place on 27 September 2012 with many creative solidarity campaigns in more than 215 Waldorf schools in 31 countries. 127 of the participating schools were German.

WOW stands for Waldorf One World. But what exactly is this campaign called WOW-Day? Once a year, students at Waldorf schools dedicate one day to support developing Waldorf initiatives around the world. Through artistic activities or one-day jobs children and adolescents raise money for Waldorf facilities in urgent need of help.

This year the participation of Waldorf schools from Kazakhstan, Moldova, Slovenia, Poland and Thailand were especially surprising! Last year Waldorf schools from India, Brazil, Canada, Argentina and the United States had already participated. Therefore we are very happy to see that international participation has continued to rise in 2012.

With the help of the Friends of Waldorf Education and its partners, the German Federation of Waldorf Schools and the European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education, the student campaign continues to grow. As a result more and more students learn to develop an interest in a foreign culture and to dedicate their efforts to help others. They also experience what it is like to collectively become active and implement own ideas turning them into concrete results.

“As a Waldorf student in Brazil, I have experienced myself what it means for Waldorf schools abroad to survive without government support. For me, as for many other students around the world, it goes without saying, to give something back for the wonderful experience of being a Waldorf student and enable as many children as possible to attend a Waldorf school. With the WOW-Day campaign we help schools abroad to ensure their survival” says coordinator Olivia Girard from the Friends of Waldorf Education.

By early November 2012, we had already received € 115,000 on our WOW-Day bank account. This is an impressive sum, which we expect to be of great help to many Waldorf initiatives abroad. In spring 2013, we will announce the complete revenue from this year’s WOW-Day on the website of the Friends of Waldorf Education.

We look forward to the next WOW-Day, which will take place on 26 September 2013.

Further information under www.freunde-waldorf.de/de/wow-day

Freunde der Erziehungskunst Rudolf Steiners e.V.

The Friends of Waldorf Education support more than 600 Waldorf schools, kindergartens, curative education facilities and social projects worldwide in financial and legal matters. The Friends furthermore organize the WOW-Day campaign and promote educational sponsorships, emergency education and community services. Donations are directly forwarded at 100 percent to the facilities abroad. The association itself is not financed by a percentage of incoming donations, but through sustaining members and donations specifically intended for administrative efforts.

Bund der Freien Waldorfschulen e.V.

All 230 German Waldorf schools are included in the German Federation of Waldorf Schools, which is headquartered in Stuttgart. In this city the first Waldorf School opened in 1919. The Federation leaves the autonomy of each Waldorf School untouched, but serves to integrate common responsibilities and interests.

European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education (ECSWE)

The European Council for Waldorf Education includes 26 national Waldorf Associations, thus representing more than 680 Waldorf schools in Europe with over 147,000 students.

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