



Summer Festival of Arts and Education July 7-25, 2025

IN-PERSON

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SAVE \$75

Rudolf Steiner College Canada

Week One: July 7 - 11

First Grade: Setting Sail

The transition from kindergarten to grade school for some children is plain sailing, for others stormy seas, but for all it marks a significant threshold they will need support in crossing. We will look at what children at this age, and in this age, will be looking for from us as their guides, both as a group and as unique individuals. Through pentatonic music and song, fine and gross motor skills exercises, body arithmetic and rhythmic movement work we will develop our appreciation of the different needs we will encounter; through story and verse and working with sound and letter-sound recognition, we will experience the journey into reading through oracy and writing; and through working with numbers before numerical symbols are introduced we will join the children in their awakening to the world of numbers.

We will practise, among other things, block and stick crayon use, will experience the potential of main lesson books and get into the nitty gritty of block planning, working with the temperaments, writing reports, guiding nature walks and bringing the parents with us (and not just on the nature walks!).

It will be full, it will be fun, so come join us for the ride!

REKA BORBELY, LONDON WALDORF SCHOOL



Reka completed her M.Ed. at Western University. Prior to this, she earned a B.Ed. and a Catholic Teacher Training in Esztergom, Hungary, and the University of Glasgow, Scotland. She also has her Hungarian Primary Teaching Certificate, Ontario Teaching Certificate, and Foundation Studies in Anthroposophy. She has taken two classes from grades 1 through 8 at the London

Waldorf School where she has taught since 2001. Currently, she is in her third cycle as a class teacher while serving her school as a member of the Leadership Circle in her role as the manager of pedagogy and curriculum.



Reka Borberly's grade one intensive at the RSCC's 2024 Summer Festival

Week One: July 7 - 11

Second Grade: Balancing Life Forces, Learning to Breathe

Rhythm and movement, songs and poetry, fables and heroes, inside and outside, are all matters of balancing life forces and learning how to internalize learning for seven and eight year olds. Newly arrived life forces allow children to master memory and inner experiences. In our class we can cover the curriculum to understand it as a means of accomplishing these important capabilities as the nine-year-old change hovers ahead. Using aspects of the curriculum for healing and strengthening and rhythmic incorporation of artistic work will lead the way! Bring crayons and your own inner, playful, enthusiastic self and your experience and insight.

PATRICE MAYNARD, DIRECTOR WALDORF PUBLICATIONS



Patrice Maynard, M.Ed., has been an adult educator since 1999. Since 2004, she has taught at RSCC covering grades' curriculum, music, poetry, and movement. Currently the Director of Publications and Development for the Research Institute for Waldorf Education (RIWE), she has been a leader at AWSNA, a class teacher and music teacher at Hawthorne Valley School in New York, and she helped in founding the Maine Coast Waldorf School, now a K-12 thriving Waldorf school. She is a mother of three Waldorf graduates and a grandmother of two, a Sunday poet and an amateur quilter.

*Movement exercises
in Patrice Maynard's
grade two intensive,
2024 Summer Festival*



Week One: July 7 - 11

Third Grade: Making a Home on Earth

Though story, art, music and movement continue as the fundamental ways in which the curriculum is brought to the children, the curriculum itself has a decidedly different character this year reflecting the shift that the children themselves are undergoing in their own development. For some, 'shift' may seem an overstatement for what may be a very subtle change, but for a number of the class it will be entirely appropriate.

The crossing of the infamous nine-year-old Rubicon and leaving the comfort and security of the fairytale world of early childhood brings a sense of vulnerability as well as loss akin to the "expulsion from Paradise." Stories from the Old Testament can speak directly to the souls of the children as we shall discover in exploring the story curriculum of this year.

But 'the crossing' also brings new possibilities as the children become more curious about their new home, the earth. They learn now to measure it, to plant seeds in it, to build with it, to whittle tools from it, to care for it, to make bread from it – so many possibilities in this a real 'doing' year.

This more conscious relationship to the environment is directed into the taking hold of the spoken language in grammar and punctuation, the language of music in discovering musical notation, and the application of number to measurement, time and money.

We will be form-drawing, round singing, clay modelling, and folk dancing; we will be looking at the practical and preparatory work of planning, of establishing effective classroom rhythms, of bringing the parents along with you; but most importantly we will be having fun as we dive into this wonderful year.

WARREN COHEN, TORONTO WALDORF SCHOOL



Warren holds a B.A. from Northwestern University in Chicago and an M.Ed. from the Open University in the U.K. He has served Waldorf education in a variety of roles: as a class teacher in the US, as an adult educator in the U.K. and in Canada as director of Waldorf Teacher Education at RSCOT where he also founded the Summer Festival of Arts and Education.

Currently he is the eighth grade teacher at TWS. His publications include: Raising the Soul: Practical Exercises for Personal Development, Baking Bread with Children, and in 2022 The Waldorf Book of Blessings.

Week One: July 7 - 11

Fourth Grade: Entering the Heart of Childhood

Fourth graders have an abundance of energy for new experiences and challenges, but also a deep well of questions and uncertainties. They are curious about the world and enjoy feeling competent. They crave connections and also become self-conscious, wondering about their position in the social universe. The story content in grade 4 reflects the experience of polarities that exist in the world around us as well as the interaction of people with their environment.

The curriculum supports the children through subjects that reflect this developmental stage - both through topics that help forge an awareness of where they are in their local environment and who they are compared to animals. The experience of feeling fractured is countered by experiences that allow us to explore how a whole can be divided into many parts (both in the world of numbers and the world of language), how we can work with these parts, and how this work can help us gain a better understanding of the whole.

We will explore movement (both circle exercises and folk dancing), music (singing, recorder), form drawing, and practical activities - all experiences that will bring us (and later, our students) together as a group and engage us on a different plane. We will also look at organizational tasks like long-range planning, lesson structure, assessments and education plans, parent work, and collegueship to provide a sound scaffold for our work.

IMKE JORGENSEN, LONDON WALDORF SCHOOL



After studying anthropology, education, and comparative religion at Johann Wolfgang Goethe University (Germany), Imke worked with Vietnamese refugees for five years before moving to Canada. In 2001, she joined London Waldorf School where she initially taught gardening and German and helped to turn three tennis courts into a naturalized playground and a school

garden. She has graduated two classes but still teaches gardening and is the current faculty chair. Photo below from Imke's 2024 Summer Festival class:

Imke Jorgensen's class at RSCC's 2024 Summer Festival



Week One: July 7 - 11

Fifth Grade: Between Heaven and Earth

Between childhood and adolescence stands this golden year of fifth grade. The children are becoming more balanced in proportions and abilities. The grade 5 teacher is called upon to guide them through a content-packed, exciting and pivotal year.

The curriculum spans a vast period of ancient history, from India through Persia, Mesopotamia and Egypt, culminating with the mythologies and history of ancient Greece. These blocks lend a perfect opportunity to expand their writing skills and continue their work on spelling, grammar and composition.

In mathematics the children strengthen their knowledge of fractions, are introduced to decimals, and practise freehand geometry. Botany hones their observational skills through outdoor and indoor experiences, introduces the history of plant evolution and the idea of an ecosystem, with all contributing to the whole. Through the Canadian geography block they develop an understanding of physical and cultural aspects of this country.

This week's activities will include a curriculum study, anthroposophical insights into the development of the grade 5 student, artistic endeavours, movement activities and resource sharing. Participants will also receive daily skill building practice to help prepare and train their students for the end-of-year Olympiad.

MEGAN GRUNER, TRILLIUM WALDORF SCHOOL



Megan Gruner began her Waldorf teaching journey in 2011 when she became a class teacher at Edge Hill Country School where she also served as faculty chair. In 2015 she moved with her family to Guelph to join the faculty at Trillium Waldorf School teaching grades 1 through 8 and serving as pedagogical chair for two years.

Megan is a certified Brain Gym Movement facilitator and is in the process of becoming qualified in Emergency Pedagogy and Blomberg Rhythmic Movement. She is the founder of Natural Path Arts and Learning, through which she is able to realise her determination to integrate Rudolf Steiner's educational philosophy with contemporary understanding of meeting diverse learning needs.

Week One: July 7 - 11

Sixth Grade: Courage, Compassion and Rigour

Sixth graders are poised to conquer the world as they approach life with curiosity and tackle challenges with a newfound awareness of their capabilities. Absolutes define their world.

As causal thinking develops and with it the capacity to recognize logical connections, polarising tendencies in their thought processes can emerge, and conversations can become more ‘sharp-edged’. Brace yourself, teacher! We will look at what is demanded of you to meet this change in your class. Certainly the curriculum ‘grasps the nettle’, embracing polarities in many different ways.

For instance, mythology moves into recorded history, leading to lively discussions on right and wrong, rich and poor, stars and stones, warm and cold, and light and dark. Further new possibilities emerge. You may find your class now more able and willing to set goals, especially in learning, and to work towards overcoming challenges. Being prepared for what is coming can allow you to really enjoy this new dynamic.

During our week together we will develop practical plans, examine different blocks, explore how the curriculum meets the needs of growing adolescents, consider how anthroposophy can support the teacher’s inner life, engage in singing, poetry and movement, and discuss everything from successful parent evenings to engaging class plays. Let’s collaborate to prepare you and your class for another successful year together.

SARAH COOPER, LONDON WALDORF SCHOOL



Sarah holds a bachelor of fine arts with honours from Queen’s University, Kingston. After discovering Waldorf education, she completed Foundation Studies (2005) and Waldorf Teacher Education (2006) at Rudolf Steiner Centre Toronto. She completed a three-year Healing Education and Remedial Training (HEART) with the Association for a Healing Education at the Toronto Waldorf School (2010) and has now become a mentor for the HEART program at RSCC.

Sarah graduated her first class at London Waldorf School in 2014 and now teaches grade 8 in her second cohort. Sarah has enjoyed travelling North America as an AWSNA delegate, and travelling to the Goetheanum for the 11th World Teachers’ Conference.

Week One: July 7 - 11

Seventh Grade: Another Step Towards Truth

For thirteen-year-olds, seventh grade is a time of exploration of both the outer world around them and the inner world within themselves. Under their displays of burgeoning adolescence lies the capacity for wonder and discovery.

The curriculum accompanies the students' new curiosity in what lies 'beyond' with stories of exploration and encounters and with images in geography of lands and cultures from across the globe, while it meets their newly emerging thinking capacities with the artistic and intellectual brilliance of Renaissance masters, the marvels of perspective drawing, and sacred geometry, alongside the transformative ideas of other great thinkers in the chemistry and physics blocks. And they get better at using full stops.

This course will provide strategies to navigate the challenges of teaching seventh graders, offering a sample block rotation, classroom activity ideas, project outlines, and hands-on practice with perspective drawing, sacred geometry and the sciences. With humour, creativity, and a sense of adventure, teachers can inspire these young people to embrace the challenges and joys of learning as they begin to find their place in a broader world and discover who they are becoming.

JESSICA GLADIO, TRILLIUM WALDORF SCHOOL



Jessica Gladio, a Montreal native, has been inspiring young minds at Trillium Waldorf School in Guelph, Ontario, for 16 years, guiding two classes through the transformative grade 1-8 journey. Jessica is herself a passionate learner.

After completing her Communication Studies and Fine Arts degree at Concordia University, she eventually found her way to RSCT's Waldorf teaching program. She is a veteran of the summer intensives both as participant and workshop leader.

She has also completed the Waldorf Administration and Leadership Development and Mentor Training programs at the Centre for Anthroposophy in New Hampshire and is a dedicated contributor to the broader Waldorf education community. But she still finds time to enjoy life's pleasures: not least roller derby, playing the ukulele, baking delicious treats, and enjoying board games with her family.

Week One: July 7 - 11

Eighth Grade: Completing the Octave

Grade 8 is the culminating year of the elementary school journey. The young adolescents are beginning to seek a dialogue between themselves and the world. The needs of the adolescent can be said to move between needs relating to the world - physical activity, intensity, affecting the world, belonging, being needed, needing facts - and the needs of the self - stillness, routine, rhythm, introspection, separateness, community, imagination. The curriculum works to create a balance in meeting these needs.

Through hands-on work together we will explore the curriculum and how it seeks to support the students in this transition time. Exploring underlying symptoms and the lives of certain human 'catalysts' we will enter the age of revolutions in history. Geography will highlight present realities of social justice and economic systems throughout the world.

Through the sciences we will experience how anatomy, physics, organic chemistry and meteorology, among other things, further sharpen students' observational skills as a foundation for flexible thinking while in maths, we will see how a multidisciplinary approach to the Platonic solids can nurture conceptual thinking. And lest we get too caught up in our feeling and thinking, there will be plenty of movement work so don't forget your running shoes!

PAULA ROSA, TORONTO WALDORF SCHOOL



Paula began her Waldorf teaching career at Waldorf Academy in 1996 as an assistant kindergarten teacher, eventually becoming a class teacher in January of 2001, and has since shepherded four classes through various grades. She graduated her first grade 8 class in 2008 - many of those students had been with her since kindergarten! For many years Paula took an active coaching role in the middle school volleyball and basketball sports program and taught games and physical education lessons across the grades. A life long learner, when she is not teaching or attending Waldorf professional development courses and conferences, Paula enjoys reading, canoeing, travelling and spending time with her family.

Rudolf Steiner College Canada is recognized as a full member teacher education institute of AWSNA (Association of Waldorf Schools of North America) and WECAN (Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America).

Week One: July 7 - 11

Eurythmy for Grades 5-8, afternoons period 1

In grades 4 to 8, pedagogical eurythmy helps to strengthen the incarnating individuality to harmonize each child with the group and to develop an expressive vocabulary in time for the onset of puberty. This is a journey from lightness to heaviness and the goal is to lay the right foundations of movement habit and capacity to find the equilibrium somewhere between lethargy and hyperactivity. We will do different exercises that are typical for these grades. Please bring clothes you are comfortable to move in and eurythmy slippers.

Eurythmy for Grades 1-4, afternoons period 2

In grades 1 to 4, pedagogical eurythmy invites the child into their body in a healthy way. Clothed in games, stories and dances, eurythmy exercises utilise rhythms and movement to weave the individuality, the life forces and the physical body into a whole. We will do different exercises that are typical for these grades. Please bring clothes you are comfortable to move in and eurythmy slippers.

JONATHAN SNOW, TORONTO WALDORF SCHOOL



Jonathan Snow completed both artistic and pedagogical eurythmy training in Stuttgart, Germany, obtaining the eurythmy teacher bachelor of arts in The Hague, Netherlands and participating in workshops in the USA. He is a certified Bothmer® gymnast, Spacial Dynamics® Level II therapist and Level III instructor. He has been a guest instructor in schools and adult training centres around the world. He continues to explore various movement arts, from dancing to martial arts.

Jonathan Snow leads eurythmy at the RSCC's 2024 Waldorf Development Conference



Week One: July 7 - 11

Blackboard Drawing for Grades 1-4, afternoons period 1

For the expert and novice, the blackboard zealot and the convinced white-boarder, we bring you Henry Muth, **yes, the Henry Muth**. You'll never look at a blackboard in the same way again.

Blackboard Drawing for Grades 5-8, afternoons period 2

As above but more challenging pictures.

HENRY MUTH, TRILLIUM WALDORF SCHOOL



Henry Muth has been a class teacher at Trillium Waldorf School for over two septennials. He studied at Rudolf Steiner Centre Toronto and earlier at the Ontario College of Art and Design. As well as an educator, Henry is a woodworker, visual artist, and musician. He lives with his wife and three boys in Guelph, Ontario.

Blackboard drawing in Henry Muth's Maps and Geography course at the Summer Festival



Week Two: July 14 - 18, Mornings

Social Understanding, Gender and Sexuality

An Holistic Approach to Sex Education in Waldorf

In this workshop, we will grow an appreciation of our communal responsibility for the healthy development of social understanding, gender and sexuality within our classrooms and communities. Rudolf Steiner gave many important insights within the Waldorf curriculum to support the healthy development of these subjects during the different phases of childhood. Over the course of the five sessions, we will explore the following themes:

- Puberty of the soul and puberty of the body in the light of anthroposophy
- Child development as it relates to health and wellbeing from birth through adolescence (a look through the grades at age-appropriate ways to introduce and work with these themes in the classroom setting)
- Inner development exercises to support our individual and communal growth towards greater inner freedom.

Participants will have opportunities for self-reflection, small and full group discussions, as well as practice sessions with inner development exercises throughout the week.

MEAGHAN WITRI



Meaghan is one of the “Developing the Self, Developing the World” facilitators of the health and wellbeing in-school and community programs in North America and Europe. She has worked with parents and families in a variety of capacities for over twenty years, including as an early childhood and parent-child educator and currently as the founder, lead grades teacher and mentor of The Phoenix Initiative which is dedicated to freedom in education.

What people say about Meaghan:

“Working with Meaghan was a breath of fresh air for the HWS community. We decided to invite someone who can illuminate gender and sexuality education from a deeply anthroposophical and holistic perspective. During our first encounter, Meaghan worked with our faculty, student body, and the parent community. She brings a crystal-clear picture of child development from birth to 21 years old, imbued with a deep understanding of age-appropriate ways of working with children in the classroom.” – Aniko, Halton Waldorf School

Week Two: July 14 - 18, Mornings

The Magic of Class Plays

Plays in a Waldorf school can be true pedagogic magic by helping students develop skills and capacities (e.g., self-confidence), by deepening aspects of the curriculum, by strengthening a sense of teamwork and community in a class, and reinforcing the day-to-day rhythm of the school year by breaking that very rhythm, making this occasion special.

In this course we will take up such topics as: why we do plays, how to choose a play, how to write a play, in what ways plays should differ from grade to grade, how to cast a play, and how to make a play a true learning experience. We will sample plays for different grades and if possible, rehearse and perform a short play or scene.

MERWIN LEWIS, LONDON WALDORF SCHOOL



Merwin Lewis, a Waldorf teacher for the past 38 years, is also a poet, a playwright, and a composer. His many compositions include three songbooks and fourteen musicals written for Waldorf schools. He has also composed four musicals for adult performers. He has written plays for all elementary grades as well as plays for teachers to perform.

To stay young, Merwin loves to tell gnome stories to the younger grades, to teach science and creative writing to the upper grades, and to mentor teachers to deepen their understanding and practice of our demanding profession.

*Merwin Lewis at the
2024 Summer Festival*



Week Two: July 14 - 18, Full Day

Co-Creating with the Living World

This is what the children of our times long for and know is necessary for the future of humanity and for Gaia, our beloved home.

We have heard fairy tales with gnomes, trolls and mermaids. Our children love to adorn nature tables with little figures and make houses for fairies. What does this have to do with our existential questions of how to face the shocking events where wind, water and fire wreak havoc in nature and also the human built world?

The time is at hand to begin to forge a relationship that is reverent, creative and loving with the non-sense-perceptible beings of the elemental world.

This is a full day course. Elyse will lead the morning sessions with exercises that include inner imaginative practices, communication that includes art as the language for “speaking” and “listening”, and encounters with the mature trees who have been participants in co-creating and communication with children and adults for the last 15 years! You will learn how to bring children into these growing co-creative experiences with nature beings. Elyse will introduce the work of many anthroposophists, artists and visionaries who are developing the relationship with the living world.

In the afternoon sessions Laurie will lead us in co-creating a story using marionettes which we will share with each other. You will learn how to hold, ensoul and move the puppets with graceful and true movements. You will create the environment where the story will unfold. Finally, we will go into the forest to present this beautiful work to the trees as a gift and a further step towards acknowledging and communicating with the nature beings.

ELYSE POMERANZ



Elyse Pomeranz was a Waldorf class teacher and has been a mentor for RSCC for 10 years. Elyse completed the Arscura School of Living Art 3-year programs in Art Capacity for Life and Biography Counseling. She studied with Marko Pogacnik (UNESCO artist for peace), co-creating with him and a North American team the geopuncture installation at TWS in 2011. Her

own research with mature and ancient trees began in 2011 and she has over 1000 drawings co-created with trees around the world, some of which are as old as 5000 years (www.thetreeconversations.com).

LAURIE HARPER-BURGESS



Laurie Harper-Burgess has been a Waldorf early childhood teacher for many years and a LifeWays home care provider for the last twelve. Three of her ongoing passions are working with children, puppetry and nature. This course brings these together in a way that will inspire the participants as well as giving them real experiences to transform their lives and the lives of the children they live and work with. Since retiring in the summer of 2023, she has been mentoring and teaching more frequently at the RSCC.

From Scene Six in “The Guardian of the Threshold”

“Once upon a time there lived
A light filled child of the gods.
It was akin to beings who with foresight weave
In spirit realms the web of wisdom
Cared for by Father Truth, the child grew up
Within its world to primal power
And when it felt the ripened will
Bestir itself creatively within its limbs of light
It often looked with pity toward the earth
Where human souls were longing for the truth
Then spoke the child of light to Father Truth
“Men thirst, O Father, for the drink
which you can offer them out of your springs.”
And Father Truth with earnestness replied:
“The springs which I must guard
let light stream forth from spirit suns;
And only those may drink the light
Who never need to thirst for air to breathe.
On light, therefore, I have brought up the child
Who feels compassion for the souls on earth
And can engender light in breathing beings.
So go, my child, and when your way to men
And lead the light within them, spirit kindled,
Confidently forth to meet my light.”
Thereon the bright light –being made its way
To souls who feel their life by breathing
It found good men in numbers on the earth
Who offered it soul lodging joyously.
In faithful love it turned their gaze
Unto the Father at the springs of light.
Now when this being heard from human lips
And happy human minds Imagination....”

Week Two: July 14 - 18, Mornings

A Puppet Story for All Seasons

“Puppetry is a remedy against the ravages of civilization.” - Rudolf Steiner

Using a felting needle, pipe cleaners and coloured fleece we will craft puppets to tell four puppet stories, one for each season. This will include how to make animals and easy backdrops. With these you can create many magical puppet shows on your lap, or table top, in a living room, in a garden or on a forest walk for your children, grandchildren or class. Celebrate birthdays, seasonal festivals, or just have fun. As we work, we will explore ideas for staging, movement and gesture.

DIANNE GOLDSMITH



Dianne Goldsmith taught with the Toronto Board of Education for fifteen years. After the birth of her first son, she discovered the Toronto Waldorf School community. For many years she had a Waldorf-inspired home playgroup after which she joined the early childhood faculty at TWS, first as a kindergarten assistant, then as a lead teacher until her retirement in 2015. Currently she mentors

EC teachers and teaches puppetry at Rudolf Steiner College Canada. She is a founding member of the Silk and Strings Marionette Troupe.

Scene from a Silk and Strings production of Rumpelstiltskin, December 2024



Week Two: July 14 - 18, Afternoons

Artistic Speech and Story-Telling Through the Grades

1:30-3pm: Grades 5-8, 3:15-4:45pm: Grades 1-4

Developing the art of speech opens us to a host of enlivening and rejuvenating forces. Through their awakening we can come to connect with our creativity, while our ensouled speech brings soul nourishment to the children in our care. During the course, we will explore the various ways to practise artistic speech and storytelling. We will engage with all three faculties of our soul life – thinking, feeling and willing – to bring our speech and story-telling to life. Further, the material we cover will both guide teachers in what texts can be particularly supportive of children at different stages of their development as well as offer possibilities for participants to deepen their own spiritual life through training the will through speech.

SÉAMUS MAYNARD



Since graduating from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London, Séamus Maynard has developed his own unique approach to the art of acting which draws heavily on Rudolf Steiner's indications on speech and Michael Chekhov's view of acting as an art. As an actor and musician, Séamus has worked with a range of companies including The Belgian National Theater (Brussels Belgium and Salzburg Austria) and The Actors' Ensemble (Hudson, NY), where he is the current artistic director. As a teacher of acting, speech and movement he has taught at a number of colleges, most recently the Phoenix Initiative, a spirit-led education initiative as well as Waldorf schools. Séamus is the author of the book: Parzival A Journey of Initiation as well as three original plays, A Solo Interrupted, Ascalun, and Appearances.

Summer Festival 2024



Week Two: July 14 - 18, Afternoons

Art Through the Grades

1:30-3pm: Grades 1-4, 3:15-4:45pm: Grades 5-8

For grades 1-4, we will be working with the wet-on-wet painting technique as it develops through the curriculum, with particular focus on the seasons and festivals of the year. This course will explore how this method deepens the child's imagination, emotional expression, and sense of beauty.

For grades 5-8, the course expands into a broader range of artistic media, including clay work, and printmaking, though the primary focus will be on drawing and painting. Participants will learn how to introduce techniques and different media to support the developmental needs of older students, encouraging both creative expression and technical skill-building.

By the end of the course, participants will have a deeper appreciation of how art is the lifeblood of the Waldorf curriculum, and a greater confidence in their own capacity to create rich and diverse artistic experiences that nurture their students' intellectual, emotional, and physical development.

BERIT STRASSER, LONDON WALDORF SCHOOL



Berit grew up on biodynamic farms in Switzerland, immersed in Rudolf Steiner schools for over a decade. She graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Mt. Allison University in 2003 and has been dedicated to teaching art for over 20 years, working with both children and adults. Since 2011, she has been the art teacher at the London Waldorf School, guiding students from grades 1 through 8 in various mediums. Over the past twelve years, Berit has also completed numerous artistic training courses at the Centre for Anthroposophy in New Hampshire where she is currently in her third year of Art Therapy training.

*Painting class
with Berit Strasser
at Summer Festival
2024*



Week Two: July 14 - 18, Afternoons

Working with Wood the Waldorf Way

Come craft in the TWS woodshop with Warren Lee Cohen, long time Waldorf class teacher, teacher educator and woodworker. Learn how to read wood and work with a variety of tools to carve your own spoon, bowl or salad set. He will lead you through all of the steps from choosing the right wood, working wisely and bringing the project all the way to fruition. Come and discover how satisfying it can be to cook and serve with your very own utensils!

WARREN COHEN, TORONTO WALDORF SCHOOL



Warren holds a B.A. from Northwestern University in Chicago and an M.Ed. from the Open University in the U.K. He has served Waldorf education in a variety of roles: as a class teacher in the US, as an adult educator in the U.K. and in Canada as director of Waldorf Teacher Education at RSCT where he also founded the Summer Festival of Arts and Education. Currently he is the eighth-grade teacher at TWS. His publications include: Raising the Soul: Practical Exercises for Personal Development, Baking Bread with Children, and in 2022 The Waldorf Book of Blessings.

Below: Toronto Waldorf School campus where RSCC Summer Festival takes place



Week Three: July 21 - 25, Mornings

Developing the Developmental Curriculum

This course aims to match pedagogy to the actual development of the child and young person in context. This is a new approach to Waldorf curriculum, that builds on the generative principles of teaching and learning. As educators we bring tacit understandings of the nature of childhood and youth to the classroom, and we have acquired various Waldorf ideas on top of these. The blend is not always ideal for meeting children who are diverse, different from our own background and have quite individual developmental trajectories and learning biographies than we expect. How then might we revise how we observe and understand children and young people, so that every learner can feel seen, heard, recognized, accepted and understood?

MARTYN RAWSON



Dr. Martyn Rawson was born in Glasgow, UK. He has been a Waldorf teacher since 1979 and is still teaching. He also works in teacher education in Germany and in Taiwan where he is associate professor of education. Martyn has published widely on Waldorf education both academically and within the Waldorf movement.



Martyn Rawson leads a curriculum workshop at RSCC, 2023

Week Three: July 21 - 25, Mornings

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Imagine walking into your yard or balcony rich with various colours set to a backdrop of glorious shades of green. As you push aside some leaves and get a closer look at what is ripe for the picking, you then head back in to make dinner but not before you collect a handful of aromatic herbs to accompany the colourful vegetables. This is the joyful life of a gardener, and a task that was essential to life for most of our ancestors. Growing your own vegetables can bring a sense of calm as you nourish your family with the freshest food, reconnect with kinship of the land and all its inhabitants, and for many, connect with your soul that physically just makes sense.

If you have a calling to grow food but feel that you don't have a "green thumb" or don't know where to begin, this week will turn that idea around by giving you the foundations and some fundamentals to growing nourishing food in your outdoor space. No experience necessary.

MARY-LU SPINNEY



Balancing her love of biology (University of Western Ontario) and dance (Dance Arts Institute) was not so easy for Mary-lu until, after 20 years working as a choreographer, performer and yoga teacher she found Waldorf education and anthroposophy.

Finding home in a place where art and science held equal weight was balm for her soul. After completing her Waldorf teacher education at Rudolf Steiner Centre Toronto, she became a class teacher at the Toronto Waldorf School where she taught a wonderful group of students from grade 1 - 8. She then became a specialty teacher creating and teaching in the new farm and garden program where the dance of science and art meet. Mary-lu is passionate about food systems that support biodiversity on all levels.



Week Three: July 21 - 25, Mornings

Anthroposophical Perspectives on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion How a Simple Understanding of Social Threefolding Can Guide Us Through the Challenging Social Justice Questions of Our Time

This workshop will provide participants with a grounded and clear understanding of anthroposophy's insights into social health and how they apply to issues of race, gender and the esoteric mission of western culture. Justice does not result from the application of equality throughout the three social realms of rights, culture and economy. It is the combination of three ideals—equality, freedom and fraternity—that offer us the most practical path to overcoming humankind's persistent challenges. Participants will explore insights that can be directly applied to education, teaching and the role of the teacher in a healthy community.

MARK MCGIVERN



Mark is a trained and experienced Waldorf class teacher. He has worked as an educator in Nicaragua with the Sandinistas in the late 80s, in a small Japanese city teaching English in a Honda factory and spent three years teaching in Dubai. He is a mentor for the Foundations Studies in Anthroposophy Distance course, an online course developer with the RSCC and author of Tolkien's Hidden Pictures: Anthroposophy and the Enchantment in Middle

Earth (Steinerbooks 2022). Mark is co-founder of The Anthroposophy and Social Justice Project which, rather than dismissing anthroposophy, seeks to make known the rich resources it offers us on questions of social justice.



Week Three: July 21 - 25, Full Day

Who Shall Raise the Children? The Living Art of Parenting for the 21st Century

Through inspiring presentations, artistic activities, and movement exercises, together we shall create a space to find and explore our own unique question in the field of parenting. This question will become the North Star that guides you through the turbulent waters of raising children in these times. Throughout the journey of following the Star, you develop new parenting skills and capacities which then become an inner compass. Our intention for this course is to plant seeds together for connection and to inspire new social forms out of the ever-deepening inner knowing of what is needed for the future. It does, after all, take a village to raise a child.

Marg and Kati, as New Adult Education facilitators, apply individualized spiritualized learning processes based on Coenraad van Houten's work and will introduce My Child Myself, a parent education process developed by Arlene Thorn. As students and facilitators of these modalities they will call on the work of Kim John Payne (Simplicity Parenting) as well as Otto Scharmer and Arawana Hayashi. Please bring a notebook, sketch book and coloured crayons.

MARG BEARD



Marg Beard has been a Waldorf educator/mentor for over 30 years. It started with the homeschooling, from birth to grade 12, of her three now adult children. She became, for many years, a mentor for RSCC's Foundations Studies in Anthroposophy Distance program, Homeschooling and Early Years streams, a co-founder and director of RSCC's Healing Education and Remedial Training (HEART) program, and now a facilitator of the New Adult Learning programs My Child Myself as well as My Home, Family and Community (www.newadulthoodlearning.com).

KATI GABOR



Kati Gabor, New Adult Education facilitator, mentor, parenting coach and Waldorf consultant is an experienced Waldorf teacher who has worked with parents, teachers and healing professionals for the past 20 years. Her focus on the inner work of the teacher led her to Michael Chekhov's drama exercises which inspired her to complete the Art of Acting course at the Threefold Educational Center, NY. Kati facilitates Connections and My Child Myself programs of New Adult Learning (www.newadulthoodlearning.com).

Week Three: July 21 - 25, Afternoons

Embracing the Unknown Compassionately and Playfully

When our mind is full of the warmth of humour, we are in touch with the best of ourselves. – P. Chödrön

The unknown carries the future. To make space for the future, to let go of the past and create a vibrant relationship with the present, we need to find ways of embracing, maybe even celebrating, every moment and exchange between teachers and students. When we experience creating compassionate playful environments for ourselves, we can in turn offer these qualities to our students.

As we know, teaching is, more often than not, unpredictable and the teacher needs to be able to think on their feet, to respond intuitively in the moment. In theater clowning, we turn to the spirit of our inner clown to practise improvisational readiness. When we embrace paradox, confusion and our personal challenges, suddenly the impossible becomes possible. The clown schools us in the art of welcoming every gift life offers, especially our perfect mistakes. No previous experience is needed to be touched by the clown's magic.

We do not become clowns, we step into the state of the clown. Through warmups, gentle physical exercises and self-reflection, we practise the ability to be present and set our imaginations free. We leave behind preconceived plans and explore letting something happen instead of making it happen...effortless intuition. If you can breathe, you can enjoy the lighthearted benefits of the red nose.

CATHERINE BRYDEN



Catherine has been submerged in teaching, communication and group learning processes for over three fun-filled decades on three continents, NA, Asia & Europe. In 2001, she started teaching English at the Rudolf Steiner School Gröbenzell, along with running farming, forestry, class trips and UNESCO programs. The same year, at English Week, she discovered the world of theater clowning, then trained as a Nose to Nose clowning facilitator in the UK, which invited deep shifts in her approach to working with groups, teaching and life.

As a freelance artist since 2013, she has facilitated theater clowning workshops with schools, students and social circus practitioners, has led theater programs for young adults, coached new teachers, serving whatever she is called to. She is passionate about people, communication and above all, change. Catherine brings a loving boldness and gentle chaos to workshops and stage, in English, French and German.

Week Three: July 21 - 25, Afternoons

Rudolf Steiner's Biography and Mine?

What does Rudolf Steiner's biography have to do with mine?

Through life charting, artistic work and conversation we will dive into the meaning of the planetary rhythms in our life. In doing so, we may find some interesting and surprising resonances with Rudolf Steiner's life and biographical rhythms. These insights can connect each of us in a new way to the Michael stream and His mission to save the human spirit, as well as inspire us to find our own place in this work.

REGINE KUREK, ARSCURA ART FOR LIFE



Regine graduated from her biography training with the late Dr. Gurdrun Burkhard in Arlesheim in 1995. She subsequently pioneered training in Canada through Arscura-School for the Exploration and the Development of Art in the Healing and Social Fields. This three-year program was accredited by the ITF (International Trainers Forum) at the Goetheanum where she also became a contributor to the bi-annual WWBC (Worldwide Biography Conference) until 2019. Since then she continues to lead art and biography courses where and when she is invited.

Regine's biography course at the Summer Festival



Week Three: July 21 - 25, Afternoons

Veil Painting

We begin not with an idea but instead with colour. Thin, almost translucent overlapping layers of pigment are applied slowly to dry water-colour paper gently birthing multiple tones and shades of colour. Eventually a subtle form that can be either abstract or form coalesces into a motif. Each wash or veil of colour requires continuous flexibility from the artist as the artistic field changes with each successive wash and the unknown slowly reveals itself. This is painting out of the colour, a meditative process both artistically challenging and yet refreshing to the soul.

JEF SAUNDERS



A co-director of Arcscura – School for Living Art. Jef is a biography counsellor and an anthroposophically inspired artist and teacher. For 18 years he was also an art therapist and biography counsellor at an anthroposophical medical practice.

*Jef teaches veil painting at the
RSCC 2024 Summer Festival*





Professional Development for Waldorf Teachers Part-Time Grades Program 2024 Graduates

**SPECIAL THANKS to
Mercurius Canada,
Toronto Waldorf School
and Paper Pipit
for their continuing support.**



Cover art by Gledis Naska, alumna of RSCC full time Waldorf Teacher Education Grades program 2023

Registration and Discounts

While the grades intensives in particular are designed for practising Waldorf teachers, **courses are open to teachers, parents, administrators, students or anyone interested.** Festival fee is \$680 CAD per week (about \$475 USD), with 10% discount for two weeks and 20% discount for 3 weeks. Half day registration – morning or afternoon – is \$400 per week, also with the same discounts for multiple weeks. **Early bird discount (by May 16) - \$75 off your total registration fee.** Discounts do not apply to lunch orders. Fees include beverages and morning and afternoon snacks. Delicious hot vegetarian lunches are available by pre-order only, \$125 CAD per week.

See online registration form for details. Courses have limited openings and will be offered only with sufficient enrollment. All fees are due upon registration. You may cancel your registration before June 20th and receive a refund less \$75 cancellation fee. **No refunds available after June 20th.** We reserve the right to cancel any course with seven days notice with full refund. Register at rscc.ca/summerfestival/

Lodging

A limited number of spaces are available with local families. Contact us if you need help with accommodation.

Childcare at TWS Summer Camp

Toronto Waldorf School offers a full-day camp for children age 4 to 15 at a reduced fee for festival participants. To make reservations contact the school at 905-881-1611 or camp@torontowaldorfschool.com



Daily schedule

8:00 to 8:30	Morning coffee
8:30 to 8:55	Singing/Movement
9:00 to 10:30	Morning course
10:30 to 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 to 12:30	Morning course continues
12:30 to 1:30	Lunch
1:30 to 3:00	Afternoon course
3:00 to 3:15	Break
3:15 to 5:00	Afternoon course continues
5:15 to 6:00	Research project presentations and graduation for Professional Development for Waldorf Teachers Part-Time Grades program students (some days) - all welcome



Other RSCC Programs and Courses Include:

Waldorf Early Childhood Teacher Education Full-Time

This one-year program focuses on Waldorf early childhood education from Birth-to-Seven. The program runs annually September through May.

Waldorf Grades Teacher Education Full-Time

This one-year program focuses on Waldorf grade school education from grades one through eight. RSCC offers the only full-time Waldorf teacher education program in the English-speaking world. The program runs annually September through May.

Biodynamic Farming Diploma Program (NEW)

RSCC is launching a new program to educate biodynamic farmers. This program begins in the spring 2025. The program consists of online modules and on-farm experience, totalling 840 hours over two years.

Professional Development for Waldorf Early Childhood Teachers Part-Time Birth-to-Seven

Our two-year, part-time certificate program in early childhood teacher education covers the essentials of Waldorf early childhood from birth to seven years. Each year is made up of a three-week intensive session in the summer, together with a one-week session each fall and spring. Next cohort starts June 2026.

Professional Development for Waldorf Early Childhood Teachers Part-Time Birth-to-Three

Our one-year, part-time certificate program is designed for early childhood teachers and assistants working with children from birth-to-three. Next cohort starts June 2026.

Professional Development for Waldorf Teachers Part-Time

This program is designed for those already teaching in a Waldorf grade school who want to work towards becoming a fully qualified Waldorf teacher. The program consists of three consecutive Summer Festival programs of three weeks in July, plus independent study and working with a mentor.

H.E.A.R.T. - Healing Education and Remedial Training

RSCC offers a part-time H.E.A.R.T program which is fully online and can be taken remotely from anywhere. It's intended for those who have already completed Waldorf teacher education.

Foundation Studies in Anthroposophy Distance

The program consists of one-on-one mentoring meetings, over the phone, or on Zoom. Students can start any time, from anywhere. In addition to providing an introduction to anthroposophy, it is also a prerequisite for teacher education courses at RSCC.

Foundation Studies in Anthroposophy Encounter


This program meets every Saturday in Thornhill (and other local centres) throughout the school year and offers an in-depth experience through lectures, discussions, and artistic activities.


ONLINE: Voices of Experience (NEW)


Seven seasoned Waldorf educators – Christof Wiechert, Nettie Fabrie, Wim Gottenbos, Martyn Rawson, Merwin Lewis, Barbarah Nicoll, and Diane Walters – share their insights on teaching the children of today.

ONLINE: Anthroposophy: An Introduction

This course aims to give some background on Rudolf Steiner, along with an overview of anthroposophy and many of its practical applications through videos, text and interactive elements.



 **VOICES OF EXPERIENCE**
Seven Seasoned Waldorf Educators
Share their Insights on Teaching
the Children of Today



Cost \$50. Access it here: <https://rscc.ca/online>



ANTHROPOLOGY - AN INTRODUCTION
Rudolf Steiner College Canada Online Course



Cost \$50. Access it here: <https://rscc.ca/online>





Rudolf Steiner
College Canada

for Anthroposophy • Waldorf Education • Arts

2025 RSCC Summer Festival of Arts and Education

Week One - July 7-11

MORNING + AFTERNOON 9:00-3:00

Grade 1 – Reka Borbely

Grade 2 – Patrice Maynard

Grade 3 – Warren Cohen

Grade 4 – Imke Jorgensen

Grade 5 – Megan Gruner

Grade 6 – Sarah Cooper

Grade 7 – Jessica Gladio

Grade 8 – Paula Rosa

AFTERNOON 3:15-4:00, 4:15-5:00

Eurythmy, period 1: grades 5-8, period 2: grades 1-4,
Jonathan Snow

Blackboard Drawing Through the Grades, period 1:
grades 1-4, period 2: grades 5-8, Henry Muth

Week Two - July 14-18

Week Two MORNING 9:00-12:30

Social Understanding, Gender and
Sexuality in Our Time, Meaghan Witri

The Magic of Class Plays, Merwin Lewis

A Puppet Story for All Seasons,
Dianne Goldsmith

Co-creating with the Living World, Elyse Pomeranz, Laurie Harper Burgess (all day)

Week Two AFTERNOON 1:30-4:45

Speech and Storytelling Through the Grades,
period 1: 5-8, period 2: 1-4, Seamus Maynard

Art Through the Grades, period 1: grades 1-4,
period 2: grades 5-8, Berit Strasser

Working with Wood the Waldorf Way,
Warren Cohen

Week Three - July 21-25

Week Three MORNING 9:00-12:30

Developing the Developmental
Curriculum, Martyn Rawson

How Does your Garden Grow?
Mary-lu Spinney

Anthroposophical Perspectives on DEI,
Mark McGivern

Who Shall Raise the Children: the Living Art of Parenting, Marg Beard & Kati Gabor (all day)

Week Three AFTERNOON 1:30-4:45

Embracing the Unknown
Compassionately and Playfully,
Catherine Bryden

Rudolf Steiner's Biography and Mine?
Regine Kurek

Veil Painting, Jef Saunders

Register online at www.rsc.ca/SummerFestival • info@rsc.ca
905-764-7570 • 9100 Bathurst Street, #4, Thornhill, ON L4J 8C7