



Kolisko NEWS

<http://www.thekoliskoschool.wordpress.com>

FEB 2009 Vol. 1 • Newsletter of
The KOLISKO SCHOOL for STEINER EDUCATION,
a non-profit Steiner/Waldof school established by
The Kolisko Foundation for Education Inc. (KoFE)



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The Kolisko School has opened its doors. Thank you for helping make this dream real.

When a handful of parents started The Kolisko Foundation for Education (KoFE) with the hope of building an affordable Steiner school for Filipino children, we really didn't have anything going for us except the fire of a dream. Yet from this fire, The Kolisko School opened its doors last June to twenty-seven (27) students from Nursery to Grade 4. Words are inept in capturing the love we have felt from everyone who has helped us find our little home, build the school one brick at a time, paint the rooms in lazure, weed and plant our grounds, build our playground, stuff our little library, provide us with equipment and tools, among other things. We also thank the generous souls who have sent our teachers for training, gave their talents and time in the service of the school, sponsored marginal youths in our plays and fund-raising activities, and helped us find our way out of our low moments so that we may meet our financial obligations. More importantly, we are grateful to the parents and our teachers, who give of themselves beyond measure to care for the children.

We've always said that it takes a village to raise a child. The Kolisko School is a testament of this belief. With support from all like-minded individuals and groups like you aiming for social transformation by helping Filipino children grow into balanced and mature individuals, The Kolisko School is now marching confidently to its second year with the intent of welcoming more students and adding a fifth grade. Through our newsletter, we will keep you informed of our milestones as we continue with our hope to do our part in making this a better world. – *Evangeline Navarro & Tchie de la Torre* ♥

Join KUPKOP for Better Business and a Better World!

KUPKOP - for Kumunidad Para Kolisko Pilipinas – is a multi-pupose cooperative currently being set up to organize and support socially-responsible businesses that promote healthy lifestyles and intend a share of the profit for chosen community beneficiaries, which for now is The Kolisko School. Inspired by associative economics, KUPKOP is designed to foster close ties among producers, consumers, investors, and the larger community, such that human needs are fully addressed in the course of doing business. **Join us in making this a better world – be a KUPKOP coop member.**

For more info, please contact: Robert/Malu Medrano – 0922-878-8629, Baba Alberto – 0922-9915261.

Orientation on Waldorf/Steiner Education and KOSSE School Enrollment (Saturdays)

Feb 21, 9-11 am
March 7, 3 – 5 pm
March 21, 9 – 11 pm

The Kolisko School for Steiner Education is now accepting applicants for Nursery – Grade 5.

Contact us. We're at No. 10 Alabama St., Bgy. Kristong Hari, New Manila, Quezon City • 710-5279 • 0917 604 8725 • admin.kolisko.school@gmail.com

Our Hope

A Parent's Article

By George Chiu, Parent-Founder
Kolisko Foundation for Education (KoFE)
<http://www.thekoliskoschool.wordpress.com>



If you ask any Waldorf or Steiner parent how Waldorf inspired their children and influenced family life, you will likely hear more stories than you would care to listen to. Here is one of mine:

A few years ago, we attended a large family reunion highlighted by the usual overflowing food, laughter and children running about. After a while of mingling I went to look for my daughters, who were about 4 and 9 years old at the time. They had found their way to the room of the family's old matriarch, and there atop her sickbed, I saw them listening raptly to her retelling stories from her youth.

Everyone else at the party did not want to be around the idea of infirmity and sickness (and in truth, of the tired recounting of stories) so it was just the three of them there. But my daughters did not see the sickness so much as hear the stories. And they wanted nothing more at that time than to be with someone who could not enjoy the party like the others. To them, she was the most interesting person there.

I knew then that despite our many shortcomings as parents, we had done something right in sending them to a Steiner school, for it was clear that these two children had a capacity for human empathy that so many in our broken world have lost. Where did this capacity come from? We would like to think that it comes naturally in children, and encouraged from the example of the people they see everyday, in school and at home.

Nearly every parent who sends her children to a Steiner school will have such stories. **The Kolisko School** in New Manila, Quezon City is no different. It is in fact their collective experience of their children's unfolding that prompted twenty or so parents to found this particular non-profit Steiner school, so that other families will find access to it. In a very real way, the Kolisko School is a creative gift in idealism and hope.

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Acclaimed by UNESCO as the education for the new millennium, the non-sectarian Waldorf/Steiner Education used by the Kolisko School prepares young people to meet the world with inner confidence, to trust in the value of each human being, and to think and work with initiative in their lives. Within an **age-specific stress-free environment**, students are nurtured lovingly across the full range of human capacity - physical, emotional, intellectual, artistic and spiritual - enabling children to develop a lifelong love of learning, acquire creative independence and balanced maturity in adulthood, and achieve an understanding of what is beautiful in the world in the broadest sense of the word.

Can we, then, take what is truly one of the best kept secrets in education and make it affordably accessible to the Filipino child?

That is our hope and we have worked hard over the last three years toward this goal. We are very thankful for all the benefactors whose faith and support have enabled The Kolisko School to open its doors in 2008.

As a recent addition to the thousands of independent Waldorf/Steiner schools worldwide that started from Germany in 1919, The Kolisko School is a true alternative to the kind of traditional schooling that is the norm today. Ask a Waldorf parent of an incident of child burnout and she will be hard put to think of one. Incredibly, Waldorf children will learn everything they are supposed to and will have honed capacities in the various aspects of human development. More than that, it is our ambition that these children in time become men of women of high purpose, who because of the way they grew up, will be in a position to make a meaningful contribution to the world. We have every reasonable hope that they will continue to be life-long learners in the spirit of the verse that Steiner children from the first to fourth grade recite every morning:

*The sun with loving light
Makes bright for me each day.
The soul with spirit power
Gives strength into my limbs.
In sunlight shining clear
I reverence, O God,
The strength of humankind
Which thou, so graciously,
Hast planted in my soul
That I, with all my might,
May love to work and learn
From thee comes light and strength
To thee rise love and thanks. ♥*

Seasons & Rhythms:

Foundation of Education by Izza Pascual, Pre-School Teacher

One of the basic principles of early childhood in Steiner education/Waldorf Education is the recognition that young children readily learn about the world through their interaction with their environment. Thus, young children are guided in a playful activity both within the classroom and the outdoors.

An integral part of the Steiner preschool program is the outdoor playtime. Regardless of the season, children are encouraged to do meaningful tasks outdoors to develop appreciation for the natural world. When the children are out of their classroom, nature can provide the toys. The bark of the trees can be made into a boat that can float in a puddle; the leaves and twigs are used to make houses for the little ants to take shelter, the pebbles and rocks are built to make tiny bridges. All of these nature constructions help develop the young child's fine motor skills by practicing delicate finger movements.

Aside from playing, work also plays an important role in the child's development under the care of a Steiner preschool. With the teacher, the young children are engaged in meaningful work that is done as part

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of the rhythm for the week. There is a day for baking, for making soup, for doing crafts. There is also a day when the children would do some laundry washing, plant some seedlings, water the plants, weed some grass. The children's involvement in various activities exposes them to different dimensions and aspects of their lives important for their older years.

The children experience joy and enthusiasm as they take part in the rhythm of caring for their health (cooking, baking, preparing meals), their peers (working and helping each other, older kids guiding younger ones, sharing toys and eating together), taking care of the seedlings they planted (raking the soil, watering the plants) and taking part in nature's rhythm of growth and abundance (singing and storytelling about nature and seasons, playing under the sun or in light rain, nature walks).

The more they get exposed in these activities, the more the children develop a connection with the real world. The rhythm and activities also help them become more imaginative and inspired, kindling a love for learning and laying the foundation for creative thinking. These, more than memorization of facts and figures, are the true foundation for the kind of learning necessary to prepare them not only for later educational challenges but for life. ♥

The Kolisko School for Steiner Education will hold public orientation on the following dates: February (sat) 21, 9-11am, March (sat) 7, 3-5pm and March 21 (sat) 9-11am at #10 Alabama St. Brgy Kristong Hari, New Manila, Quezon City. RSVP, inquiries and visiting schedules call 710-5279. To know more about our programs please visit <http://www.thekoliskoschool.wordpress.com>



Community works.

The Kolisko Foundation for Education (KoFE) and
The Kolisko School in partnership with the Larger Community

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

For the children, our teachers try to gain the best Steiner training. Thank you for the various forms of help to make this possible.

National Trainings

- ♥ Teachers Izza Pascual and Rowena Miral-Sy: *Continuing Masters of Arts in Education Training, Major in Steiner Education* (joint effort of KOFE with St. Scholastica College, Manila) under Astrid Schmidt-Stegmann and Ina Jaehnig.
- ♥ Teachers Violeta Calderon, Dino Demetilio and Annie Flores: **Foundation course in Steiner Education** of Nicanor Perlas, *St. Scholastica*, April 2008. Teacher Rinna Soriano: **Teacher's Training**, *Gamot Cogon Institute; Observation of Summer Classes*, *Acacia School, Sta. Rosa, Laguna*, 2008
- ♥ Teachers Annie, Izza, Rinna, Rowena, and Janneke Agustin: **"Mode of the Fifth" Lecture/Training**, July 2008
- ♥ Teacher Rinna: **Lazure Training**, August 2008
- ♥ Teachers Malou, Janneke and Rinna: **Eurythmy Workshop** with Tanja Baumgartner
- ♥ Teachers Izza and Janneke: **Early Childhood Training Program**, *Rudolf Steiner Education in the Philippines*, Jan-Feb 2009



International Trainings

- ♥ Teacher Rowena: **Asian Teacher Training**, *Ratschasuda College, Mahidol University, Salaya Campus, Nakaornpatom, Thailand*, April 28 - May 2, 2008
- ♥ Teacher Malou Medrano: **World Conference for Waldorf Early Childhood Educators**, "Meeting the Needs of the Child Today: Development of the child from pre-birth to age seven, Development of the adult caring for and educating the young child" *New Hampshire, USA*, Aug 2-9, 2008.

Festivals & Events

- Opening/Rose Ceremony June 10, 2008
- St John's Festival Community Celebration July 26, 2008
- Buwan ng Wika (Opening - Aug 11) – (Culmination, Sept 2, '08)
- Michaelmas (Opening – Sep 29) – (Culmination, Oct 17, '08)
- Michaelmas Puppet Show Oct 16, 2008
- Advent Garden Community Celebration Dec 6, 2008
- St. Nicholas' Day Dec 8, 2008
- Journey to Bethlehem, A Christmas Tableau Dec 19, 2008
- Light in the Lantern PuppeTREE show "Journey to Bethlehem" Museo Pambata and R.O.X Bonifacio High Street, Dec 2008
- Epiphany Puppetry Jan 2009
- Love Bonfire Feb 13, 2009



Community Learning Sessions

WITH KEY STEINER MENTORS AND FRIENDS

- 2006, 2007 and 2008: Nicanor Perlas, President, Center for Alternative Development Initiatives; 2003 Right Livelihood Awardee/Alternative Nobel Prize
- 2006 to present: Dr. Divina Hey-Gonzales, Anthroposophic Medicine Expert, Community Doctor and Study Group Guide
- 2007 & 2008: Astrid Schmidt-Stegmann, Director-Waldorf Education Teacher Education Program, Rudolf Steiner College CA, USA
- 2008: Ina Jaehnig, co-founder and long time teacher of the Denver Waldorf School, USA
- 2008: Peter Patterson, class and specialist school teacher for 40 years in 6 Steiner Schools in Europe and New Zealand
- 2008: Dale Diaz, co-founder, member and advocate of PAGASA, with PAGASA core



Community works.

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PUBLIC EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

- The Art of Speech: Techniques of Working with Speech for the Individual's Self-Development and Creativity , Michael Burton, *Dec 19-22, 2007*
- Effects of Electronic Media on Young Children - *Jan 19, 2008*
- Parents: The Child's First Teacher - *Jan 26, 2008*
- Toys That Enliven the Imagination - *Feb 2, 2008*
- Alternative Activities to Electronic Media for Young Children - *Feb 9, 2008*
- The Waldorf Early Education program - *Feb. 16, 2008*
- Rhythm: The Foundations of Discipline *Feb 23, 2008*
- How do you teach Math, Science and Reading to Children? Steiner Education: Alternative Education in the 21st Century", *April 19 & 26, 2008*
- Healthy Eating, Healthy Living: How to Prepare Nutritious Meals for the Family - *April 2008*
- Chocolate Making & Packaging - *May 4, 2008*
- Beading Workshop - *May 10, 2008*
- Candle Decorating - *May 18, 2008*
- Candle Making - *May 2007; Dec & May 2008*
- Bead Art - *May 25, 2008*
- Breastfeeding in the Workplace with Velvet Roxas *Oct 18, 2008*
- Wreath Making Workshop - *Dec 2008*
- Biodynamic Farming with Greg Kitma - *Dec 2008*
- Hello Angel: Angel Awareness Workshop *Nov 22, 2008; Feb 21, Mar 14 '09*
- Parenting: Healthy Kids Workshops - *(3 Topics) Feb 28, 2009*

FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE KOLISKO SCHOOL

- Lecture of Astrid Schmidt Stegman with Benefit Dinner - *Kolisko School, Oct 21, 2007*
- Art Exhibit - *Green Meadows Club House, February 9-10, 2008*
- Block Screening of Indiana Jones 4 - *Robinsons Galleria Cinema 1, May 25, 2008*
- Mga Kwento ni Lola Basyang - *Phil Educational Theater Association, Oct 18, 2008*
- Madagascar Escape 2 Africa - *TriNoma Quezon City, Nov 8, 2008*
- Gunner Inglorious, Play Performed by Michael Burton - *Quezon City, Nov 29, 2008*
- Special Edition Gift Items
 - Kolisko Bags and T-shirts - *June to July 2008*
 - Book Sale of Michaelmas Press publisher, Pam Fenner - *Aug-Sept, 2008*
 - Gift Cards for KEAPers - *July-Sept, 2008*
 - 2009 Kolisko Table and Wall Calendars - *December 2008*
 - Gift Cards with Children's Artworks - *Dec 2008*



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 and its seasons!



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PAGASA Dare to Hope
 Join PAGASA Weekend of Hope Feb 28-March 1, 2009
 visit: www.pagasa.net.ph



Words and pictures
 cannot fully capture the rich life
 created within and outside
 The Kolisko School
**with what you, the community,
 have helped to create.**
 We look forward
 to your continued participation
 in making this a better world.



Whatever you can do, or dream you can
 do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power,
 and magic in it. Begin it now." - *Goethe*

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