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Treasuring Childhood
FILM & LECTURE SERIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TREASURING CHILDHOOD FILM & LECTURE SERIES TO KICK-OFF THE NEW YEAR

Presented by Tucson Waldorf School—free to the public

January 9, 2012, Tucson, AZ— Tucson Waldorf School is pleased to present the *Treasuring Childhood Film & Lecture Series* as an opportunity for adults to observe and discuss current societal trends that challenge today's children. The films and lectures will give perspective on a number of topics, including target marketing and increased consumerism, television and electronics consuming spare time, decreased physical activity, excessive homework, burnout, and cheating in school.

"Featuring the heartbreaking stories of young people across the country who have been pushed to the brink, educators who are burned out and worried that students aren't developing the skills they need, and parents who are trying to do what's best for their kids, *Race to Nowhere* points to the silent epidemic in our schools: cheating has become commonplace, students have become disengaged, stress-related illness, depression and burnout are rampant, and young people arrive at college and the workplace unprepared and uninspired," from the film, *Race to Nowhere* (One of the films that will be featured in the series.).

All films and lectures will be held on Wednesday evenings beginning at 7 p.m. at Tucson Waldorf School's River Bend campus located at 3605 E. River Rd. The line-up includes:

- *Consuming Kids: The Commercialization of Childhood*-January 11
- *Race to Nowhere*-February 1 (public screening) and February 2 (private screening)
- *Miss Representation*-March 28
- Lecture: *Saving Our Children-The Role of Art, Nature and True Human Care in the Journey of Childhood* featuring Karl Johnson-April 4
- Lecture and Panel: *Cell Phones, Media and Our Children* featuring Elizabeth Kelley and additional panelists-April 25

"Encouraging imagination in children is essential, and is the gateway to critical thinking and effective decision making as an adult," states Laura Gabelsberg, Grade 2 Teacher, Tucson Waldorf School. "When the child's brain is constantly being fed with media images, or is preoccupied with self-image or fitting in, for example, the capacity for imagination is diminished, compromising the ability to create, to be productive, and to have meaningful relationships."

The Treasuring Childhood Film & Lecture Series provides a platform for adults to rethink how we educate children, the excessive consumerism and society's propensity towards acquiring the latest and the greatest gadget. It will give parents a brief moment to pause and imagine an environment in which their children are free to discover who they are, from which grows a foundation for healthy introspection and development of unique talents and abilities that will enhance their quality of life and sense of purpose.

Reservations for the series are recommended by calling 520-325-5514 or by emailing TreasuringChildhood@TucsonWaldorf.org. Additional information may be found at www.TucsonWaldorf.org

Tucson Waldorf School is a Pre-K through Grade 8 independent school established in 1993. The Early Childhood Program through Grade 2 is located at 3349 E. Presidio Rd., and Grades 3 – 8 occupy the 10-acre campus located at 3605 E. River Rd. The curriculum emphasizes the arts and history, and mathematics and science, with the goal of preparing students to enter adulthood with self-discipline, independence, mastery of analytical and critical faculties, and reverence for the world's beauty and wonder. It is a non-profit school with tuition assistance available. For admissions information or to schedule a tour, contact Rebecca Briamonte at 520-325-5514. Website: www.TucsonWaldorf.org

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