

## **Tucson Waldorf School Educates Local Children Using Same Model as Nationally Recognized Waldorf School.**

Tucson, AZ - October 26- The article "Grading the Digital School; A Silicon Valley School That Doesn't Compute" ran on the front page of the New York Times last Sunday. The article describes the deliberate absence of technology in Waldorf classrooms ironically endorsed by the biggest names in the technology industry. This list includes the chief technology officer of eBay along with executives of Google, Apple, Hewlett-Packard and Yahoo who all send their children to the Waldorf School of the Peninsula in Silicon Valley.

"As Arizona schools are continually cutting the arts curricula, millions of dollars are being spent to bring technology into teaching Tucson children," says Margery Bates, Administrator of Tucson Waldorf School. "We need to think about how early we are introducing media and technology to our children and the affect it may have on their creativity, social interaction, movement and critical thinking faculties as adults."

In contrast, Tucson Waldorf School replaces technology, using instead pencils, paper, fountain pens, knitting needles, detailed chalk renderings on the blackboards, books, art, foreign languages, drama, movement education, farming and music as resources to deliver a 'Twenty-First Century' education steeped in the classics.

"Waldorf teachers undergo extensive training and present each lesson as a living experience for the students," states Rebecca Briamonte, Enrollment Director for Tucson Waldorf School. "The children come alive when they are engaged with the curriculum, which naturally lends itself to a deeper understanding and retention of the concepts presented. Current studies substantiate that this very engagement is something that technology cannot deliver."

Guido Brusa-Zappellini, Ph.d. University of Arizona Department of Astronomy and parent at Tucson Waldorf School states, "The depth of engagement in mathematics shown throughout all the grades is evidence that technology in the classroom is not a prerequisite to excellence—rather, it is planting the seeds of innovation."

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. known as the "River Bend" campus. Four new classrooms at River Bend were recently completed, ending phase II of a multi-phase project plan. \$3.3 million has been raised through donations from the community to get to this point. Enrollment is now open for parent-child, nursery and kindergarten classes, as well as grades 1-8.



Chalkboard drawing



Biology chalk drawing



Grade 8 student art

Tucson Waldorf School offers a curriculum emphasizing the arts and history, 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 tours, contact [Rebecca Briamonte](mailto:Rebecca.Briamonte@tucsonwaldorf.org) at 520.325.5514. Website: [www.tucsonwaldorf.org](http://www.tucsonwaldorf.org).