

WOW! What's WOW? Waldorf One World is an opportunity for established Waldorf schools throughout the world to connect with young Waldorf schools, kindergartens, and therapeutic initiatives from South America to India to Africa. This was the first year that the Waldorf School of Princeton participated, joining over 200 Waldorf schools in 31 countries. By the end of October, the equivalent of \$170,000 had been raised. Thanks to the creativity of our teachers, the hard work of the students and the generosity of parents and friends, we contributed over \$800 to support El Nido, a kindergarten in Colombia that exists largely on donations.

WOW Day is scheduled to coincide with Michaelmas, the festival of courage and initiative celebrated at the end of September by Waldorf schools worldwide. Our first grade teacher, Maria Cardenas, has a personal connection to the director and head teacher of El Nido, and together they planned a way for the schools to connect heart to heart on September 28. Both schools gathered at the same time and lit candles. After hearing Mrs. Cardenas speak about El Nido, our students lifted their voices in a Spanish Michaelmas song that is a favorite of the children there.

The funds we raised for the school came primarily from sales of 70 quarts of soup, prepared the day before by our students. The children chopped vegetables from our garden to prepare minestrone, squash and lentil soups. Guiding the efforts were Suzanne Cunningham (gardening teacher), Pamela Shafer (sculptural arts teacher) and special guest chef Ivan Cardenas, Mrs. Cardenas's brother. Ms. Cunningham also offered pesto from our garden, and a few lucky families also were able to take home 'Hedgehog Rolls' lovingly baked by the Sciarretta family. Special thanks to Caroline Phinney, who received a bucket of steaming squash soup, and returned it to us the next day, cooled and blended to perfection.

We also collected gently used items, some of which will be sent to El Nido. Larger items, such as play stands, were purchased by WSP families and the donations included in the total. Thank you to all who contributed or purchased items.

As Ms. Shafer pointed out to our students in the Michaelmas assembly, the Waldorf School of Princeton was once a young school, which was nurtured by established schools. We are in the position now to be of help to a young school, and truly, all of the students and so many members of the community came together to make this successful. We hope that our connection with El Nido will continue. Viva Waldorf! Viva WOW!