

Sensible Science Comes to Baltimore

February 14th to 20th

The Waldorf School of Baltimore will begin hosting the first week of a three week course on teaching Middle School Science. There will be more than a dozen participants including several attendees from other Waldorf Schools. The course will be led by Michael D'Aleo, Director of Research at the Saratoga Experiential Natural Science Research Institute (SENSRI), who taught a weekend version of the course here last year and spoke at our last Upper School graduation. The week long course will also include Lylli Anthon, a seasoned instructor from the Halton Waldorf School in Toronto, Canada, Gary Banks who is a former research engineer on NASA and current Waldorf high school science teacher, and Barbara Richardson who is an eurythmist and coordinator of foundation studies at the Center for Anthroposophy.

In a Waldorf Middle School, science teaching is based on a phenomena centered approach. Instead of presenting the finished conclusion, students draw scientific conclusions from observed phenomena. In many schools the emphasis is placed on learning by being told and not learning through an experience that leads to knowing. The latter teaching method requires a teacher to have a different way of understanding and presenting material. Over a period of fifteen days the course will present the Middle School Science curriculum with the goal of strengthening our faculty's ability to present the curriculum in a strong and rigorous manner so that we may better satisfy the needs of the Middle School Student.

The course will begin Thursday evening and continue through the weekend until Wednesday at noon. Due to the length of the course, participating faculty members will have substitutes covering their classes on Tuesday and on Wednesday morning. Please join me in welcoming both the presenters and the outside participants to our school.