

TWS Alum Newsletter



Spring is in the air!

Dear TWS Alum Community,

Signs of spring are popping up everywhere on the TWS campus! The Canada Geese are back, strutting with authority and claiming their space on roads, sidewalks, and fields. The egg count in the hen house is rising, and bees are buzzing around

the budding blossoms. Robins have returned and the air is full of chipper birdsong.

Speaking of songbirds, this issue is bursting with a selection of our incredibly talented alums who are making a musical living. We hope you can get out to see some of their concerts and performances this spring and summer!

First in the musical lineup is the TWS In Harmony concert, featuring our middle school orchestra, and high school guests, as well as a special guest performance by TWS alum Julian Troiano, featured below.

On Saturday, May 23, TWS is hosting the annual **Mayfest**. If you live in the area and have young children, you are warmly invited to come out and join in the *Mayfestivities*! Lots of fun activities are planned for the children. Consult the poster below for details.

The **20-Year Alum Reunion for the Class of 2006** is also on May 23. You will find the link to register below. Alum parents from this class are most warmly welcomed to join, too; we would love to see you there! Please register for this event.

We're excited to share that the Alum Task Group first draft report of our recommendations is heading to the Board for input before the final draft is submitted. A sample of faculty input is included below.

Let us know if you'd like to be featured in the fall edition. We would ❤️ to have more alums contributing articles, short shares of where you're at in the world, and what you're up to. Send us your news!

Spring greetings to you all,

Sara

Alum Task Group - Update



“The TWS Alum Program mission is to invite alum involvement in meaningful ways that promote joyful engagement, centre shared experience, and create enriching connections between alum and TWS communities.”

Report to the Board

The Alum Task Group executive has been busy preparing our report to the board. We hope to be invited to the May meeting to present our recommendations. Included in the report are some of the suggestions from our Faculty Reflection Questions, where we asked our teachers to envision ways to welcome and embrace alum into school life.

Our Early Childhood Faculty took up these questions with great care and love. They would welcome alum participation in school life in the following ways:

- **Seasonal festivals and community celebrations:** For example at Lantern Walk, Mayfest, harvest festivals, returning as musicians, bakers, craft helpers, or quiet supporters. This reinforces a sense of continuity and “once part of the community, always part of the community.”
- **Practical work alongside teachers:** Such as gardening, simple handwork, woodworking, or food preparation. Young children benefit deeply from seeing meaningful adult work done with care and intention. Join KG for a day. 😊

- **Community workdays or playground support:** Where children witness alum caring for the school environment and contributing to shared responsibility.
- **Parent engagement opportunities:** Such as alum presence at parent evenings or festivals, where parents can see the long-term outcomes of Waldorf early childhood education embodied in real people. Would you like to be a guest at an upcoming Kindergarten parent evening?



Faculty Profile - Leed Jackson

Oh, that unmistakable, infectious laugh! Everybody knows who it is when those loud, gun-fire guffaws echo through the forum

in the darkness of a school performance! I bet you're smiling and nodding in loving recognition, right?

Mr. Jackson has been teaching at TWS since 1991. His teaching specialties include Physics, Geometry, Technology, History of Architecture, Woodwork, and Metalwork, but anyone who has ever been in one of his classes knows that his areas of expertise reach far beyond the classroom walls.

A deep thinker, Mr. J. is a very well read scholar of anthroposophy, philosophy, and science. Wait for it... there's a quote coming your way! Also a bit of a jester, there will no doubt be a very bad pun or a goofy joke up next! Wherever he goes, he brings good cheer.

If you have ever received a report card written by Mr. Jackson, you will know that he truly sees the individual human being in every student. The love he holds for his students and for Waldorf education knows no bounds.

TWS Campus News

It's gettin' broody in the henhouse! Look at these gorgeous eggs! Yes, they come in a rainbow of natural pastel beauty!

It's been a long time coming, and it's not the sexiest of news, but the much needed hook-up to the Vaughan sewer system will be taking place this summer. Our old septic system is finally going to be laid to rest.





Festival of Bells

On April 15 the school gathered in the forum for the sweetness of the Festival of Bells to celebrate spring's arrival.

Amidst musical gifts of song from the children, each class contributed handmade beeswax caterpillars and chrysalises, and pretty tissue butterflies for the spring tree.

Alum News

Seeking Your Contributions

This newsletter is for you! We invite your contributions on any topic. Please share your latest news and celebrations with us! We would love to post news about marriages, births, major milestones, awards, new jobs, amazing trips or experiences, and anything else you'd like to share with our alum community.

We also invite authors, translators, artists, musicians, creators, entrepreneurs, and scholars to share works, publications, and links to your websites and socials. We can't wait to see what you've been up to. The next edition will come in out November, so please send in your news items by October 1. Email me at s.anderson@torontowaldorfschool.com to share, and don't forget to include a few fabulous high res photos!

The Show Must Go On!



Julian Troiano - J&Co Music

Julian Troiano, Class of 2009, our special guest alum musician at the In Harmony Concert, has made a successful career out of his musical gifts that span classic, pop, and original compositions. His versatile venture, J&Co Music, offers styles for any occasion, ranging from string quartet to pop trio to piano-vocal solo performances.

Composer, performer, producer, recording engineer, and entrepreneur, Julian has built up a comprehensive set of skills that have allowed him to run a productive business and make a living doing what he loves.

Julian has been doing a lot more writing over the last few years and has plans to expand his work to include a 12-piece band, create thematic shows, and record an album. He will be performing a very special song that he wrote for his son at the In Harmony concert. ❤️

You can find Julian at the Shangri-la & Fairmont Royal York Hotels where he is a monthly regular. He offers a wide repertoire for weddings, corporate events, and private parties. Julian works with his clients to create their perfect event soundtrack. Have a listen to this fabulous cover of Teddy Swims' "[Lose Control](#)", including another TWS alum and bandmate, Aaron Teelucksingh.

Julian confesses that though he wasn't a great academic student, his Waldorf education helped him develop some key super powers: creativity, flexibility, and ingenuity in how he approaches problem solving in all situations.

You can find Julian online at: <https://www.jandcomusic.com/> as well as on [Instagram](#).

Check out his string quartet which blends classical and pop and which features our own TWS orchestra teacher and violinist, [Veronica Lee](#)! They had no idea when they began working together that there was a Waldorf connection there! What a small, wonderful world!



Claire MacMaster - Legally Blond!

Claire MacMaster, Class of 2015, says, "I fell in love with theatre in the middle of our Grade Five Play – *The Return of Odysseus*. It was not my first experience with the arts (I grew up in a performing family), but something about performing Penelope's

rhyming couplets in an outdoor amphitheatre had a profound effect on me. I continued to soak up every creative experience I could – school plays, choir and vocal ensemble, training at Stratford in the summers, and community theatre productions throughout High School."

For post-secondary, Claire chose TMU's Performance Theatre Program, partially because Marianne McIsaac, who was her Grade 8 and 2 Play Director (now mentor), taught an infamous first year scene study course. Naturally, she had to enroll in it.

Professionally, Claire's career has taken her all over North America. Some of her favourite work moments include playing Laura in *The Glass Menagerie* right out of school; touring throughout the States with *Dirty Dancing in Concert* as Baby; working with The Festival Players in PEC as Viola in *Twelfth Night*; and enjoying two Summerstock seasons with Drayton Entertainment (*Rock of Ages*, *Grease*).

Currently, she is directing *The Last Five Years* with ASV, co-producing and starring in *Brilliant Traces* with SlipTrap Theatre, and preparing her "dream role" as Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde* at Winnipeg's Rainbow Stage, running from Aug 12-30.

You can follow Claire on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).





Jesse Corrigan - Album Release

Congratulations on your album release, Jesse! Jesse Corrigan, Class of 2010, is a folk musician and singer-songwriter with a talent for adding playful humour and wit to his lyrics.

A prolific performer and natural storyteller with a relaxed, bluegrass style, you can catch him live around the province at one of his [upcoming shows](#).

Find Jesse online at: <https://jessecorrigan.com/home> and on [Bandcamp](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) Have a listen to "Give Me a Match".



Featured Articles

Striding Boldly - by Alessandro Tersigni

**How exploring the English language early and continuously
at Waldorf anchored me**



I think a lot about language. It's what sets us apart among earthly species. It distinguishes geographic regions, nations, communities, and even families. In fact, language is so idiosyncratic that it differentiates individuals. My speech and my writing – as a rule, they're starkly different – stand out in dramatic and subtle ways from those of everyone alive and everyone who's ever lived, both kin and strangers.

At the same time, language is the most fundamental way we associate and create with each other. We use it to form societies, found partnerships, forge unions, and fare forth together on quests. Whether verbal, gestured, bodily, written, or otherwise manifested, language is both the expression of individuality and the basic building block of culture.

Of the realms of influence responsible for our linguistic lives – biology, environments, personal choices – my education has had by far the largest impact on my relationship to words. In my eleven years at the Toronto Waldorf School, there wasn't a day we didn't sing songs, recite verses, and enjoy the art of storytelling, from the first morning of Grade 2 to the last afternoon of Grade 12. We performed and beheld a spectacular range of plays and our diligent and insightful teachers exposed us to thoughtful forms of discourse. This immersion in words and their capabilities determined both the way I speak and the topics I speak about as an adult.

Click [here](#) to read the full article on our new Alum Voices page. Below, Alessandro in Grade 4.



What's Your Passion? Chocolate!



Francis Murchison, Class of 1998, is passionate about chocolate. He loves making and sharing delectable, healthy treats and has built a career doing what he loves. His work has taken him to the heart of the cacao industry in Puerto Rico.

A chocolatier by trade and an agro-entrepreneur, Francis offers management and consultancy services to bean-to-bar chocolate manufacturing companies and to cacao growing farmers. He also teaches truffle making workshops on the side.

It was a long and windy road that led him to his destination. After graduating high school he took two gap years volunteering at Camphill organizations and then started a degree in Linguistics in Montreal. Pausing mid-way to take a year-and-a-half long bicycle trip from Vancouver to Columbia, followed by a six-month

stint in Panama, he began to experiment with and refine his chocolate-making skills.

He ended up back in Montreal to finish his degree and began working as a commercial lines insurance broker by day and a chocolatier by night. A relationship break-up led to a move to California where he started his own chocolate company, aChocolypse, and where he met his current wife.

With a new baby in tow they moved to Puerto Rico, and within a few years Francis was running an expansion project for Jeanmarie Chocolat. Francis has built up considerable expertise in the chocolate manufacturing industry and in the agro business that surrounds it. He has been an active participant in the creation of a sustainable chocolate industry in Puerto Rico that highlights locally grown produce.

Francis says this about the magic of making chocolate: "The more I learned, the more I began to find that every single step of the way from planting to confection is rife with tiny but important details. I began to experiment with flavor pairings and cacao bean varieties, and with the fine tuning of cacao fermentation to tailor for flavor." He has never looked back!

Francis lives in Añasco in western Puerto Rico with his family of 5, his 3 cats, 3 dogs, 3 chickens, and a horse. He lives on 9 acres of land with a beautiful river that flows along one side. A very sweet life you've got there, Francis!



Upcoming Events

Mimi & Chloe - Apr 21st



Catch Class of 2020 alum and folk singer-songwriter Mimi Dominique (Matamoros), accompanied by sister Chloe Lukia Pilar at Drom Taberna on Tuesday, April 21 at 7pm for an evening of storytelling through song. Pay what you can entry. ❤️

In Harmony Concert - Apr 23rd

TORONTO WALDORF SCHOOL FOUNDATION

IN HARMONY CONCERT

& SILENT AUCTION

23 APRIL, 2026

7:00PM

CITY PLAYHOUSE THEATRE

PERFORMING

LOWER SCHOOL
HIGH SCHOOL &
SPECIAL GUESTS



SPONSORED BY

JANET FOURNIER
LISTENING ROOM, CA
PSYCHOTHERAPY & COUNSELLING

You're invited to the In Harmony Spring Concert & Auction on Thursday, April 23 at the City Playhouse Theatre in Vaughan. The concert features student orchestral and ensemble performances conducted by TWS orchestral faculty and performing musician [Veronica Lee](#) with **special guest alum musician Julian Troiano!**

- **Get tickets:**
<https://tickets.cityplayhouse.ca/event/655:613/655:823/>
- **Make a bid** at the online silent auction:
<https://www.32auctions.com/twsapril2026>

Proceeds from the evening will support the tuition assistance fund and, new this year, a portion of the proceeds will help cover required private music instruction costs for families with demonstrated financial need. Now that's music to our ears!

Death of Salesman - On Broadway!



Class of 1985 alum and actor [Tasha Lawrence](#) has been cast as "the Woman" in Arthur Miller's classic, *The Death of a Salesman*. [Tasha's](#) love for acting was ignited in TWS high school drama classes where she landed the leading role of Abigail, the manipulative antagonist, in the Gr. 12 production of *The Crucible*. It's Arthur Miller all over again, Tasha! Break a leg!!!

The show has been getting rave reviews and they have extended its run to August 9th. You can catch the show at Broadway's Winter Garden Theatre if you're in the NYC area.

Hey, Duncan Alderson! Will we see some pics of you and Isabel with Tasha after the show? 😊

Dragonette at Koerner Hall - May 14th



Class of 1997 alum Martina "Tina" Sorbara, better known as the electro-pop dynamo Dragonette, is a Juno Award-winning artist and sought-after songwriter. Her global hits include "Pick Up the Phone," "Let it Go," and the chart-topping "Hello" with Martin Solveig.

Tina's latest collaboration brings film composer Jonathan Goldsmith and The Henrys frontman Don Rooke together to create a "genre-blurring trio united by the playful constraint of crafting songs under two minutes".

The Royal Conservatory (Toronto) presents Dragonette with Tiny Sun at Koerner Hall, Thursday, May 14th at 7pm. Get tickets [here](#).

You can find these charming vignettes of songs as they are being released on both her [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts, and on YouTube. Have a listen to "A Grand Expanse" below.



Celestie & the Besties' Residency

**Celestie
& the
Besties**

TRANZAC
in the
Southern
Cross

Every
third
Sunday
9:30pm
PWYC

292 Brunswick Ave

Celeste Van Winkle, Class of 2017, has landed a coveted six-month residency at Toronto's Tranzac Club. She is performing original songs and some fave covers in her first ever musical project where she is fronting and directing the show with her band, and back-up singers who are also TWS alums, sister Forest Van Winkle and classmate April Anderson-Jaciw!

Catch Celestie & the Besties every 3rd Sunday in the Southern Cross room at the Tranzac at 10pm: (April 19th) May 17th, Jun 21st, Jul 19th, Aug 16th, Sept 20th. Entry is pay what you can.



Class of 2006 20-Yr Reunion - May 23rd

CLASS OF 2006

20-YEAR REUNION

Saturday, May 23, 2026



The Class of 2006 20-Year Reunion will be taking place on campus on **Saturday, May 23** at 10:30am in the Music Room. [Registration](#) is open for this event. Please share the link with your **parents** and invite them to join in on your reunion day. TWS faculty, both current and former, are also invited! ❤️

Mayfest - May 23rd

Mayfest 2026

Save the date
MAY 23rd

Saturday | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Maypole Dancing
Flower Crowns
Face Painting
Gemstone Digging
Henna Booth
Carnival Games
Puppet Show
Pizzas by Pizza Papas
Ice Cream truck
Craft Sale and more...

TWS

Toronto Waldorf School
A deeper perspective

Mayfest will be bustling with activity outside in the forest and field! Alum families with young children are warmly welcome to join in the *Mayfestivities!* Bring your skipping rope and jump for TWS in the spring skip-athon!



Alum Meet Up - Summer TBD



We want to hang out with you! Stay tuned for info about a summer meet up in Toronto. If you have ideas for a chill venue with an inviting outdoor space, send Sara your suggestions.

In the future, we'd also like to arrange for other fun ways to get together. Think theatre nights, musical shows, interesting lectures, or gallery walks. Let us know what tickles your fancy.

TWS 60th Anniversary 2028-29

In 2028, the school will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary, and plans for the festivities have begun! We are looking for a group of alum volunteers to help shape and organize an All-Alum Reunion.

We are also hoping to collect a series of **alum testimonials** to help us celebrate this milestone occasion. Please email our Admissions and Marketing Assistant, Stefanie Radda, at admissions@torontowaldorfschool.com for more details.

Please reach out to Sara if you have ideas for workshops and activities, or if you'd like to join in on the organizing fun. 😊

AWSNA Alum News



Building a Strong Alum Community

A passionate group of alums from schools across the continent has been meeting over the past months to help amplify AWSNA's alum relations work and support the growth of a strong alum community in North America.

Current members include: Theo Groh, John Bloom, Mark Finser, Ewan Finser, Noémi Glen, Aileen Leijten, Johan Bos-Beijer, Sara Anderson, Dion Bowman, and Liliana Delman.

One of the group's goals is to host an alum event in 2028 to mark 100 years of Waldorf Education in North America, and a road map for action is currently being developed. The group's efforts also aim to support the long-term health and sustainability of Waldorf Education.

New membership is welcome. The group meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 8pm ET. If you'd like to learn more about this initiative, please email alumrelations@awsna.org for details.

Invitation to Join

Check out the one and only networking platform for Waldorf alums in North America! **Whether you graduated Gr. 8 or 12, or only attended for a number of years, you are welcome to join Waldorf Alum Connect!**

AWSNA Alum Relations is working to make the platform a thriving resource and networking hub for Waldorf alums of all ages and life stages. What would you like to see on the platform? Email alumrelations@awsna.org to share your ideas for platform enhancements.

- **Find alums** from your Class Year, Waldorf alums living in your city and all over the world, find alum businesses.
- Be a **mentor** or find a mentor.
- List your company in the **Business Directory** and reach an audience of over 3750 members.
- View the **Grad Gallery**, featuring a collection of photos of the Class of 2025 from all over North America. Soon to showcase the Class of 2026!
- Explore the **Gap Year Gallery**, showcasing alum-owned and Waldorf-inspired gap year opportunities.

Membership is also open to **Waldorf alum parents**, Waldorf staff, and Waldorf Teacher Training Institute alums and staff.

Visit <https://alums.waldorfeducation.org> to join.

Academic Rigor!

SCHOOL RENEWAL

AWSNA's School Renewal magazine is looking for article submissions on the topic of **academic rigor for the modern age**. Topics could include the development of intellectual capacities, examples of what rigor looks like in Waldorf classrooms, and how we prepare students to meet the modern world beyond graduation.

Articles must be submitted via [this link](#) and should be **no longer than 1200 words**, in **Microsoft Word, double spaced, 12pt font, Times New Roman**. Submissions are **due by May 15, 2026**.

All submissions must also include the suggested article title, the author's name(s) and AWSNA membership affiliation (i.e. TWS), a high resolution author headshot, a roughly 2-3 sentence bio, and high resolution images to accompany your article. You can reach out to Beverly Amico at bamico@awsna.org if you have any questions.

If you are interested in interviewing a fellow alum and writing up the article, please also reach out to Beverly! Published articles receive from \$150-\$500 depending on placement and length.

The image displays three promotional cards for AWSNA resources, each with a distinct background and a call-to-action button.

- Alum Directory:** Features a map of North America with location markers. The text reads: "Alum Directory", "Find North American Waldorf alums near you.", and "Search Directory".
- Alum Business:** Features a purple background with a hexagonal graphic and circuit-like patterns. The text reads: "Business Directory", "Alum Business", "Find Waldorf alum-owned businesses near you.", and "View Business Directory".
- Alum Community:** Features a teal and blue background with a circular graphic. The text reads: "FIND YOUR CIRCLE", "Join an interest group", "Find your school community", "Alum Community", "Make connections. Find fellow alums with similar interests.", and "View Communities".