Dear Parents and Teachers in Waldorf Schools,

You are being asked to participate in a survey about parent-teacher relations in a Waldorf school.

The information you provide will be used in writing my next book, The Second Classroom, Parent Teacher Relations in a Waldorf School. I hope the book will benefit new teachers, parents beginning the journey, and all those who want to examine how parents and teachers can best work together in the context of building a school community.

There are no risks in taking part in the survey as the use of participant names is optional and no respondent will be cited by name. If you provide your name and contact information (see questions # 19) it gives me the option of asking a few of you to participate in a follow up interview. Specific information gathered in the survey will not be shared with school administrators or any other party and the names of schools will be omitted in the book.

The survey takes about 10-15 minutes to fill out and participation is completely voluntary.

You may also leave any question blank if desired, but please answer as many questions as you can.

If you have any questions about the project please contact me at 603-283-2310.

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact Dr. Katherine Clarke, Chair of the Antioch University New England Institutional Review Board, 603-283-2162.

Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

Torin M. Finser
Chair, Education Department
Antioch University New England
Teacher Questionnaire on Parent/Teacher Relations Research Project: The Second Classroom.

1. Your Name (optional): 

2. Age: 

3. Gender: (circle one)  female  male 

4. Years Teaching: 

5. Present Role: (circle one)
   Early Childhood
   Class teacher
   Lower School Subject Teacher
   High School
   Administration

6. Years at present school: 

7. Are you also a parent at the school?  Yes  No 

8. Parent of alum of school?  Yes  No 

9. Place in your family of origin? (circle one)  Only Child  First born  Second  Third  Other

10. Which of the following do you most use to communicate with parents (may check more than one)

   ___ telephone calls  any restrictions?
   ___ letters  how often?
   ___ emails  any guidelines?
   ___ class nights  how many per year?
   ___ parent/teacher conferences  how many per year?
   ___ written progress reports  more then end of year reports?

11. On a scale of 1-5 please rank each of the above (5 as being most effective and 1 least effective. Put number to right of choices above)
12. What advice would you give a young teacher in establishing a good working relationship with parents?

13. What specific things can parents do for you that make you feel supported?

14. In which ways do you most need parent help?

15. Is there any difference in your interactions with fathers vs. mothers?

16. Do you have teacher’s children in your class(s) and if so, what advice can you offer in working with the parents of those children?

Are there reasons why you may at times be reluctant to receive input from parents?

17. What makes you pay attention to suggestions from parents? Do you listen to some parents more than others, and if so, why?
18. What are the greatest challenges you have faced in working with parents? Please list them briefly:

1. 

2. 

3. 

19. Has there been a particular incident in your parent/teacher relations that you would be willing to describe in an interview so that others might learn from your experience? This might have been a difficult situation that was resolved successfully, or a situation that became a conflict that needed the intervention of others.

Yes  No

If yes, please write your name and email address so you can be contacted for an interview:

20. Is there a topic regarding parent-teacher relations that has not been mentioned but deserves further inquiry?

Thank you for your help!
Parent Questionnaire for Parent/Teacher Relations Research Project: The Second Classroom

1. Your Name (optional):

2. Age:

3. Gender: (circle one)  Female   Male

4. How many years have you been a parent at your present school?

5. How many children/students do you currently have at the school?

6. Have any of your children graduated 8th grade? Yes  No   12th grade? Yes No

7. Your place in family of origin? (circle one)  Only first born   second   third   other

8. On a scale of 1-5 please rank each of the following communication tools a teacher might use (5 being the most effective, 1 the least effective):
   ___Phone calls from the teacher checking regarding a sick child or specific issue
   ___Monthly letter to parents
   ___Emails
   ___Class nights
   ___Parent/teacher conferences

9. What advice can you give a new parent in terms of establishing an effective parent teacher relationship?

10. What makes for a successful parent meeting/class night?

11. What qualities in a teacher make for good parent interaction?

12. What do parents most need from a teacher in order to feel met and supported?

13. Is there a difference in terms of relating to your children’s teacher(s) if one is a mother or a father? If so, please describe from one or more perspectives.
14. What are the greatest challenges you have faced as a parent in working with a teacher?

1.

2.

3.

15. Has there been a particular incident in your interactions with a teacher that you would be willing to describe in an interview so that others might learn from your experience? This might have been a difficult situation that was resolved successfully, or a situation that became a conflict that needed the intervention of others.

Yes   No

If yes, please write your name and email address so you can be contacted for an interview:

16. Is there a topic regarding parent teacher relations that has not been mentioned but deserves further inquiry?

Thank you for your help.