



The Homeschool Journey Newsletter

Christophorus Homeschool Resources
Waldorf-inspired Parenting and Education

Dear friends,

Christophorus will be switching to print on demand. See bottom of newsletter.

Looks like I hit a nerve with last month's newsletter topic: the sexualization of children is clearly an issue of deep concern to many of you. I have asked for and received feedback before, but never on this scale! Thank you so much to those who responded. I wish I could have reprinted from all your emails but there simply isn't room. And of course I am also grateful to those who may not have written, but who hold me and Christophorus in their prayers and thoughts.

So I have turned over this entire newsletter to feedback from you all. I am afraid I cannot respond individually to private questions that come to me. A number of you asked about how to help their loved ones understand their choices. [Our free talks](#) can be helpful both to you and your spouse as well as to grandparents and so on as you think through these and related issues. Have an evening together listening to a talk or two and then discussing what you think about it (without children present please!)

Many of you asked about how you can gird yourselves against what is happening in the world. The main advice I can give is for you to each strengthen your relationship to the spiritual world—no matter how dark it gets, there is always—always—One who will listen and give comfort.

[Our The Journey Begins at Home](#) is a cornucopia of ideas about building a strong family life and home and is full of advice not just from me, but from other Christophorus families, striving to keep their homes nurturing and healthy in a difficult world. Although focused on the early years, it is one of the most practical and friendly guides to a healthy home and healthy relationships available. Even of your children are older, it could be of great help.

Lastly, our [Self Study Course](#) could be really useful as it guides you on finding your own path of self development, deepening your relationship to anthroposophy and Waldorf education, and helping you really understand child development. Through knowledge and insight, you can then create the authentic and nurturing family home and way of educating that you seek.

If you are new to Christophorus and our newsletters, [please visit the newsletter archives](#) for back issues, including the August 2022 issue which is referred to here.

Before I turn this over to you all, I want to acknowledge that Michaelmas is almost upon us: this is the festival of the courage needed by every human soul as we journey into the darkness. Michael is a spiritual being entirely devoted to the right development of human consciousness and freedom. He is known to Judaism, Islam and to Christianity and has a living relationship to Hinduism. He brings courage and steadfastness to those who ask. The name of this archangel is pronounced MIKA-el and means *who is like God*.



Here are two blog articles I wrote about Michael and Michaelmas. [The first is from a few years ago](#) and the [second from lockdown-time](#).

And now on to the wonderful and thoughtful feedback to last month's newsletter. For space reasons I could not include everything. Many of you wrote to express gratitude and to say how helpful this newsletter is, an ally when one feels so alone. Read on and see that you are definitely not alone!

Beautiful! So much of what I feel! The Waldorf schools of late astonish me. Thank you! From RP

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Thank you again for your courage and intellect. I am almost in tears as I write this to you, I find your words to be a balm for my soul in these times. From TS, Turkey

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I just read your newsletter and I was so relieved that there are still people out there that hold childhood sacred. Thank God!! These days it's one craziness after another and if you even dare to speak up people think your crazy. From B

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The following is notable because of what C shares about her observations of children who get cell phones, how they change and how she for one can see this. Unfortunately, too many people—including teachers—in our society have never experienced normal, healthy children and so do not know how to read what takes place in a child once she has been stamped by phone use.

... it got to a point where even our homeschooled friends were getting their young children phones. It's funny (but not funny) to me, that I can spot a girl and tell immediately if she has a phone or not, based on her appearance and demeanor. It's striking how accurately you can predict. Additionally, I think, the social media is just pure rot. I can't even tell you the number of friends whose children have been solicited for nude photos, or who have randomly video called nude old men. And yet the parents metaphorically throw their hands up in the air, if they even know about it! It's so sick, so wrong.

Some parents have all of their kids texts come through to their phone, and think they're monitoring them. Then the kids download Snapchat & guess what? Not being tracked or monitored at all. Not to mention tik tok! Oh my God, literally. From C in California

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And just so everyone knows there are many points of view here.

Like the Indigo Children of the late 90's and early 2000's, I think the gender bending kids coming through now have much to teach and I'm here to listen. One dear child my youngest son grew up with, they were best friends, is a trans woman. I've known her for years, GM's who she is- but she is 22 and started to transition in her very late teens. This felt okay to me, genuine. I'm pro trans children but anti any sexualization of these children and against any medical intervention for these kids. I also think there's not nearly as many trans people as is said by the dominant narrative. From S

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Thank you for addressing the problem of sexualization of children. I'm finding that it's particularly the teachers and parents in their 30's or younger who are most susceptible to mistaking early sexualization for an ideal. Something happened after my generation (I'm almost 50) that made people almost too open. I find in them great Compassion but without wisdom of good and evil, without appropriateness and boundaries. From GM, Texas

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We firmly believe each child chose to be here during this time, just as (my husband) and I chose to be born here specifically during the late 70's and 80's. This knowledge brings comfort to us, since each child is in this world right now has a sacred calling to fulfill. Some will be derailed by the opposite forces, but some will prevail and will carry their light to those around them. This begs the question to all of us. What is my calling? You are dutifully fulfilling yours. There is no question about that! Good on you!

Being a human can look messy and unorganized at times, but these basic concepts of truth and freedom and brotherly love are always right, and are the governing forces behind our messy humanness. It never ceases to amaze me how the destructive narrative of our society being played out right now can look so much like these beautiful truths, and are like a wolf in sheep's clothing. May we pray for our children, that they may know the lies from what is real, good, and true. From B in California

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THANK YOU a million times over for this wonderful and relevant essay. As a long time (dare I say it now) Waldorf teacher, I couldn't agree more with each and every point you bring. I'm sure you will get pushback, but so be it. We absolutely MUST think of the children and not our own, often confused and perhaps misinformed, sympathies and antipathies. This is almost always what I see when parents and teachers veer from child development in the light of anthroposophy. I see it time and time again, and find that if we keep returning to the original wisdom of the developing child, it will clearly inform us as continue to move forward. Now, as a mentor and teacher of teachers, I wish I had even a nickel for each time I have had to say, "It's not about us, it's about the children!"

From AL, a Waldorf teacher

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What this (following) public school teacher says in the second paragraph is very important and helps us remember that not all teachers have gone mad—and that in many situations, it is parents who are the problem.

I also think it is very important to listen to the voices of people with whom I do not fully agree, and this video was not something that I would normally seek out. I was aware already of all the many serious problems surrounding the medical transition of children, but it was very valuable to hear the perspective of adult transgender people. I hope that more people listen to these voices before more children are irreparably harmed by this. It breaks my heart to think of how many of these kids will be thrust into depression once they realize the mistakes they were encouraged to make. I hope that I am wrong, but I fear that there are going to be a lot of suicides in this population over the next ten years. How do you recover from realizing that you were not just allowed but encouraged to permanently sterilize yourself as a child?

I have long been concerned with the early sexualization of children, not just from the current gender dysphoria craze. I started out adult life 18 years ago as a public school teacher and did that for 10 years. By the time I was about five years in, girls were pulling up their skirts on the dance floor so that boys could hump their rear ends with just their underwear in the way. When the principal banned this type of "dancing" a lot of parents protested! It even made the news, and you would be unpleasantly surprised with how many adults sided with those parents. We found underwear on the dance floor sometimes. I had to stop chaperoning dances. I just couldn't watch that and be silent with those kids, but speaking up would have resulting in being dragged before the school board by parents. From a public school teacher, now homeschooler

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I have been saying and thinking much of this since I first had children. I honestly don't think I noticed before, since I grew up in public school often telling my mom oh it's just clothes it's no big deal, but it is a slippery slope. I have been blown away by what people allow their children to be around, watch, listen to, and wear! When I talk about this, I feel like people think I'm overreacting or being rude. We quit celebrating Halloween when I took my tiny kiddos to trick or treat downtown only to see nightmare inducing and whorish costumes, and I had a "what am I doing, why are we celebrating this?" moment. It's not in line with our beliefs or morals. My goodness, the comments I still get -you'd think I was robbing my children of childhood! It's really refreshing to hear support and encouragement to stand strong! Thank you! From LR

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I am right there with you, and find myself deeply frustrated with the hyper sexualisation of children... I have a 4 year old girl and a 4 month old boy at home, and am constantly standing in between them and the dangerous rubbish that is out there for children ... we don't watch screens, purely because I don't like how all these things impact children, and find that if we keep returning to the original wisdom of the developing child, it will clearly inform us as continue to move forward. Now, as a mentor and teacher of teachers, I wish I had even a nickel for each time I have had to say, "It's not about us, it's about the children!"

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What N says above is super important in terms of harm being done to our children because people simply do not understand child development and the needs of the growing human being—this is similar to C's contribution earlier. I will address this issue at the end of these excerpts.

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The sexualization issue was one of the reasons we left [a big city]. My daughter started playing travel soccer there because it was the only activity that we could find that would allow her to participate without being vaccinated... They had enough girls for two teams composed of eleven and twelve year olds. There was nonstop talk on the team about sexuality. Many claimed to be lesbians, a few had girlfriends and 2-3 were transitioning, in which direction I was never clear. From a worried father

This father speaks about uprooting and moving because he felt his children were not safe. He said: Our family moved many times but we never moved because the dominant ideology that was impacting children where we lived made us feel our children were unsafe—no one was coming for our children or normalizing behavior that has nothing to do with childhood. Reading his email was sobering, to say the least. This is beyond different opinions in the local homeschool co-op about whether children should watch TV—this is about the very safety of children because of the craziness around them and the serious, life-changing interventions which are being applauded, normalized and pushed.

Do people really understand they are sterilizing their children when they embark upon chemical and surgical interventions? There is no doubt that there are indeed an (extremely small) number of teens who will grow to truly, somehow, be the opposite gender they were born into (this has always been a very rare part of life throughout human history)—but this is not what is happening today and those who think it is really need to wake up.

This brings me to a few concluding thoughts. I watched part of an interview with a young person who regretted the surgeries and path they had begun at the tender age of 18. This person now wanted to again be a woman. The sex she had been born to, had incarnated in, had prepared for in the spiritual worlds before coming to earth. It was so painful listening to her because what she described was the ultimate tragedy inflicted upon children in a world that has no idea what a child is.

She had attended an all-girls school as a child and, as is perfectly normal, she developed crushes on fellow students and female teachers. It could have meant that eventually she would be a Lesbian—but it could also mean that she was simply having a crush on girls and women she admired. Had she taken in a less sexually obsessed culture and time, this would not have been lived as a sign of anything at all. But she did not.

She was also a tom-boy—something that in many circles nowadays is not allowed—as many lesbians will attest, this 'masculine' pole within the female experience is now taboo and means one is a huge a man. Lesbians being 'erased' by parts of the trans activist culture is a probable issue.

By high school this young woman, like the vast majority of girls in every generation, was uncomfortable in her body. But instead of being gently steered toward physical activity, art, nature and into developing her own spiritual life, she described herself as a young teen who practically lived in her phone. Adults did not understand her developmental needs and to say that she was seriously let down is a gross understatement.

The high school she attended had a program where 'gifted' teens could take courses at a nearby college. So as not much more than a child of 15, she was surrounded several days a week by people in their late teens and early 20s who of course may not have known her age and thus treated her as a contemporary. Men—grown men—paid her attention she did not want. She found this mortifying—she hated her breasts which attracted a lot of attention and she did not know how to cope with the advances she received. She began to hate herself—her body, her sex.

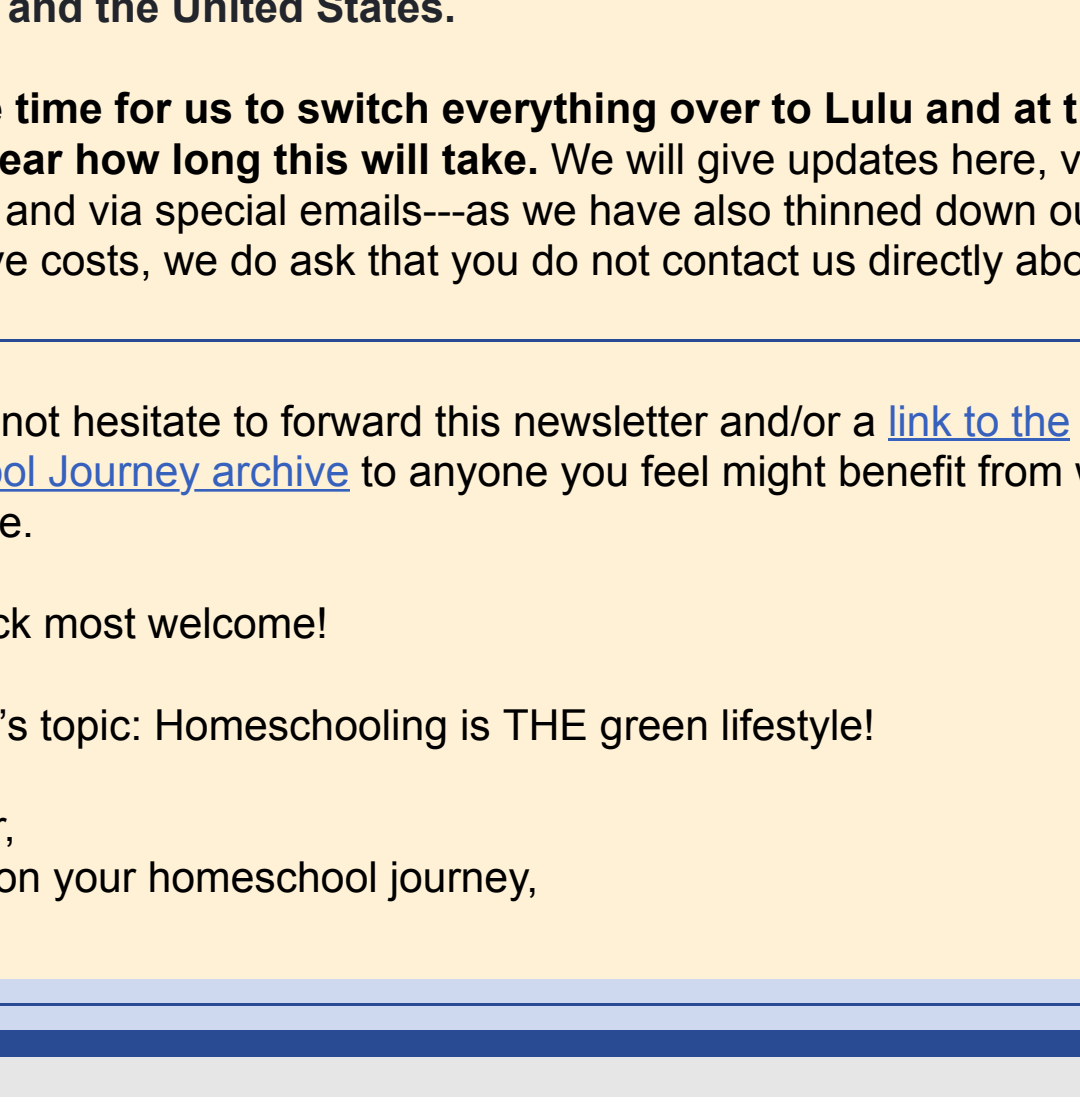
May I say that there was no mention of parents in this narrative? The interviewer asked about parents but the answer was that they both worked high pressure jobs and she rarely saw them. Speaks for itself.

Anyway, as is the usual path in such tragic stories, this young lady found her way to groups on 'social' media that were more than happy to help. She discovered that since she had had crushes on girls and woman, that she had been a tom-boy, and that she hated the sexual advances of men and was uncomfortable in her body, that she was actually a man. Obvious, eh?

Fast forward only a few years with a tale of breast binders and chemical treatments and surgeries... and this poor person... well, let's just say that hopefully she will be able to find solace, meaning and purpose by giving real help to other young people.

I need to finish this newsletter as it really is a whopper...yet I am aware of having so much more to say. I will leave you with the thought that much of the 'secret' of helping children come into their bodies in a right way lies with the right development of the twelve senses and an acknowledgment that the awakening of the astral body at adolescence is actually painful. Pain brings consciousness—everyone who has ever out themselves knows that—It is the pain that makes them feel alive. Our society tries its hardest to avoid pain, whether through addictive behaviors or consumerism or just materialistic denial. Such avoidance of pain hides the struggle each human soul encounters as they incarnate—and the longer and more thoroughly this is masked, the harder it becomes for that person to realize his or her true self. We must help our children awaken to their spiritual reality so that they can know their true purpose in life.

The first step is, as always, with parents: find your authentic path if you have not already and bring the gratitude, reverence, joy and hope of that path into your home life (not talking about it, but living it) so that your child is surrounded by the healing balm of the love of God. With God's love and presence, pain is not alleviated but is made bearable. To be human is to bear pain and to find joy. May each of you learn how to led this narrow yet rewarding path through life, showing the way for your children.



Moving to print on demand

As many of you know, we are currently having a curriculum sale. Christophorus is moving from our local printer to print on demand via Lulu. This has been a very painful decision as we have had a 15+ year relationship with our printers... but add the uncertainties of the economic climate to a number of other factors, and this seems like a sensible decision for Christophorus.

Most of you won't notice this switch as everyone will continue to purchase our materials through our Bookstore. Prices, despite inflation, will stay similar. But books which come via Lulu will take more time—possibly up to 3 weeks. This is because they are printed by Lulu and then dispatched by them. So do allow that extra time.

The most positive side of us going over to Lulu is that many international customers will pay their own local postage rates as Lulu prints in so many countries! This is a huge boon as international rates from the US are crazy high! Lulu prints in Australia, Canada, Europe, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

It will take time for us to switch everything over to Lulu and at this point it is not clear how long this will take. We will give updates here, via this newsletter and via special emails—as we have also thinned down our office staff to save costs, we do ask that you do not contact us directly about this.

Please do not hesitate to forward this newsletter and/or a [link to the Homeschool Journey archive](#) to anyone you feel might benefit from what is written here.

All feedback most welcome!

Next issue's topic: Homeschooling is THE green lifestyle!

Til October,
Blessings on your homeschool journey,
Donna