

Living Schools are committed to a total approach toward the individual welfare of our children. An approach which works with the individual development and the unique potential of each child. One which challenges the 'teacher' to grow with the 'students.' In a homelike, center-like atmosphere Living Schools emphasize 3R's: Reverence, Responsibility, and Right Action.

Students learn to accept responsibility for themselves and for their growing harmonious relationships with fellow schoolmates, adult participants and the environment. With a balance between academic and practical skills each student's particular gifts, talents, interests and inclinations are considered. These serve as inspiration for the various skills and projects which are daily woven into the tapestry of Living Schools.

Current standards as set by the public school system are integrated as they serve the bigger picture for each child. Apprenticeship programs and activities both within a Living School and in the community provide a variety of hands on experiences in areas such as gardening, sewing, building, cooking, mechanics, business, etc. The Beauty of Life.....of things alive and living, is introduced and learned to be appreciated through a variety of modalities including art, music, drama, and our natural environment.

While there is no religious focus in any Living School, from time to time various readings from the world's great religions are discussed as are the thoughts of great thinkers and philosophers. These readings are to encourage Right Action in our lives and to serve as inspiration toward community and world service.

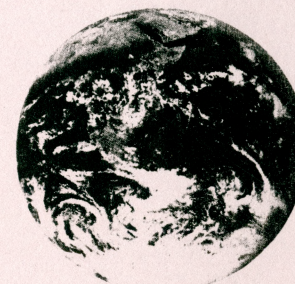
Life is to be enjoyed as well as revered. Students participate in a variety of sports and recreational activities. Sports are introduced with a twofold emphasis: for the pure joy of it as well as a way of moving beyond self imposed barriers and limitations. A deepened sense of personal responsibility and interpersonal cooperation with others and within nature is enhanced through both planned and spontaneous activities.

Credentialed teachers, coordinators, and volunteers guide the daily activities of Living Schools. The primary function of a coordinator is to integrate a wide variety of skills and talents from the immediate community. In particular, elders are a valuable resource. Those with a love for children and a longing to share are encouraged to participate in each Living School.

We would like to see Living Schools recognized and publicly funded as a way of creating challenging and exhilarating educational experiences for students of all ages. Grades K-12 are embraced within the Association of Living Schools. The age range and the number of students in each school will vary and will depend upon the needs of each school.

Living School Association invites interested adults and families to consider coordinating a Living School in their neighborhood. Alive and unfolding, each Living School will be unique. The form any one school takes and its content will depend upon each and every one of the participants and will reflect the community in which it develops.

A group of Living Schools may be overseen by Living School Association Board members. The primary task of board members is to insure that the original vision is present and nourished within each school.



One day we would like to see Living Schools throughout the world associating in a variety of ways, eg.: Global student exchange programs, special presentations, sports, etc. Communication would be via newsletter and or computer linkups. Scholastic achievements, inventions, creative accomplishments, practical solutions toward current local and global issues, as well as humanitarian services would be shared and credited.

Living School Association was envisioned by Francesca in the year of 1982. The Laurias (Salvatore, Francesca, and their son, Daniel) opened their home to the first Living School in Sebastopol, California in September 1992. It is their hope that a network of Living Schools around the planet will contribute to ever greater harmony between peoples, nations, and the earth.