**The Roadmap to Literacy**

***Creating an Artistic and Effective Language Arts Curriculum in the Lower Grades***

**With Janet Langley**

One of the most important tasks teachers face in the early grades is teaching students the fundamental language skills that underlie all future learning. This course will delve into the reasons why teaching students how to read and spell in English is such a challenge. It will also provide clear guidance on how teachers can meet this challenge with knowledge and creativity.

When it comes to learning to read and write, primarily phonetic languages such as German and Spanish have a definite advantage over English. In German, for example, every letter has only one sound and each letter in a word is sounded. English, on the other hand, has many more conventions that need to be learned in order for students to master the decoding (reading) and encoding (spelling) of their native tongue. (How to address all of these subtleties cannot be found in the original Waldorf curriculum because these layers of complexity don’t exist for German).

This Roadmap to Literacy course is based on the research that comes out of the recently published book of the same title by Janet Langley and Jennifer Militzer-Kopperl. It represents over five years (10,000+ hours) of research and writing into the question of how best to teach the fundamentals of English in Waldorf classrooms.

Over the week of the course, Janet will present the five key phases students must master to become literate. She will introduce these phases and provide:

* The basic concepts and skills students need to learn in each phase, including the essential Phonics Rules that serve as the foundation for learning to read, write, and spell
* How to teach English grammar
* Ideas for introducing new concepts in an imaginative and lively way
* Fun and effective practice activities to help students solidify skills
* Comprehensive lesson planning based on the developmental needs of each grade
* Easy ways to assess the efficacy of your literacy program
* How to handle common remedial issues

In other words, this course will offer teachers a clear, comprehensive, well-organized roadmap to guide them as they prepare their students to successfully meet the demands of the upper grades... and beyond.