

Sukhomlinsky News



Support for Ukraine

Dear reader,

I hope you are keeping well.

Recent events in Ukraine have overshadowed the preparation of this newsletter, and I have decided to vary the content in response to the crisis.

I visited Ukraine in 2009 on a research trip to collect material for future research and publications. I was invited by Sukhomlinsky's daughter as a guest of the Ukrainian Academy of Educational Sciences and visited Sukhomlinsky's school in Pavlysh. In Kyiv I visited the Sukhomlinsky Ukrainian College, the Sukhomlinsky Library, and State Archives. In each location I scanned documents and photographs.

As I travelled around, I also took photographs. I thought the most appropriate content for this month's newsletter would be photographs from that trip, so that readers can see images of Ukraine, and the peaceful life that has been disrupted by war. I have also included photographs of children from the Donetsk region who contributed pictures for the publication "A World of Beauty" in 2013, before the war began.

I would like to express my support for the people of Ukraine, and my condemnation of Russia's invasion. I hope many Russians will find the courage to protest against the actions of their government.

Best wishes,

Alan Cockerill

A lane in the village of Pavlysh, not far from Sukhomlinsky's school

A Story from An Ethics Anthology

With most of this month's newsletter being devoted to images of Ukraine, there is just a single story in this issue.

Three Birch Trees by a Grave

On a towering bank of the Dnieper stand three birch trees, shading a communal grave. In the grave three heroes are buried, three Soviet soldiers. They fell here, on the banks of the Dnieper, in a bloody battle with fascists.

The grave is on the outskirts of a village and is seldom visited. Many years have passed since the war, and the children of the soldiers who died defending their homeland have long since grown up. The children of those soldiers now have children of their own who are studying at school and reading books about the Great Patriotic War.

One Sunday a large group of happy, fun-loving children was returning from the forest. The boys and girls were tired and turned off the road to rest by the graves under the shady birch trees. They were laughing and chatting about their child-centred concerns. It was hot outside, with not a cloud in the sky and not a breath of wind.

In the middle of their happy chatter a moment of silence fell, and suddenly the leaves on the three birch trees stirred anxiously. The birch trees bowed their branches even lower over the shared grave.

The amazed boys and girls raised their heads. Why were the birch trees stirring, when it was still outside and there was no breeze?

The boys and girls turned their gaze from the trees to the grave. Their eyes became thoughtful. The boys and girls fell silent and stood for a long time by the grave with their heads bowed.



A home in the village of Pavlysh



The main school building in Pavlysh

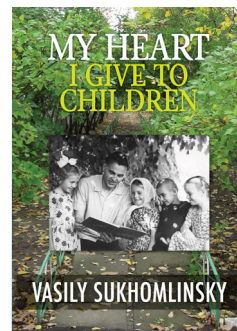


Children at the school in Pavlysh

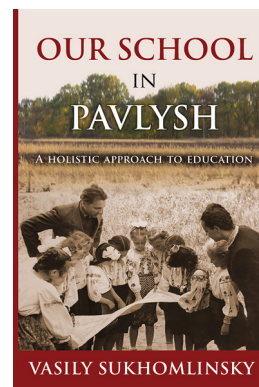
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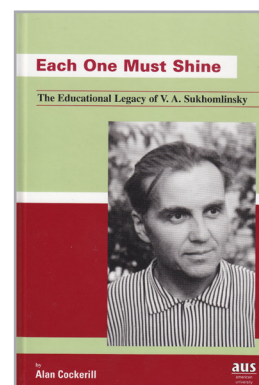
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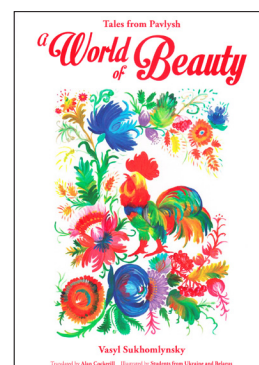
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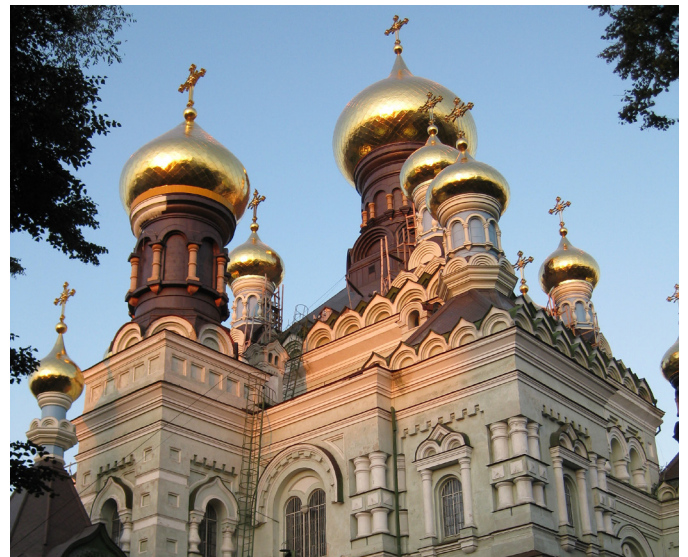
In the school grounds in Pavlysh



At a school concert in Pavlysh



Ancient burial mound on outskirts of Pavlysh



A church in Kyiv



At the Sukhomlinsky College in Kyiv



Children's artwork at the Sukhomlinsky College



Award presentation, Donetsk Region, 2013



Child contributor to A World of Beauty



Child contributor to A World of Beauty



Child contributor to A World of Beauty



Child contributor to A World of Beauty



Child contributors to A World of Beauty