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## **Educating the Whole Child: An Inspiring Account of What Education Can Be**

*How a dedicated teacher educated young children  
in a rural community recovering from the trauma of war*

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA, April 12, 2016 – At a time when more and more emphasis is placed on standardized testing in basic literacy and numeracy skills, this new publication is a reminder that education is about much more than just ‘reading, writing and arithmetic’. The Ukrainian educator Vasily Sukhomlinsky believed that we were on the threshold of the ‘Age of Humanity’, and that educators needed to think deeply about what they were contributing to the human soul, ‘the broad humanitarian education of young people – emotional and aesthetic education’.

Vasily Sukhomlinsky’s *My Heart I Give to Children* (EJR Language Service Pty. Ltd., Brisbane, 2016, ISBN 978-0-9805885-7-6, Au\$ 24.99), describes how he worked with a class of six-year-old children during an experimental preschool year, and how he continued to work with them during the subsequent four years of their primary schooling. It shows how his methodology contributed to their health and resilience, to their capacity to empathise with others, to their connection with the natural world, and to their aesthetic and moral development, as well as to their intellectual and vocational development.

Sukhomlinsky wrote of his experimental preschool year: ‘The life of our school developed from an idea that had inspired me: children by their very nature are inquisitive researchers, explorers of the world. So let a world of wonder reveal itself to them in living colours, in clear and vibrant sounds, in stories and games, in their own creativity, in beauty that uplifts the heart, in the urge to do good deeds for others. Through stories, imagination and play, through children’s unique creativity: that was the sure way to a child’s heart. I would introduce the little ones to the surrounding world in such a way that every day they discovered something new in it, so that every step led us on a journey to the wellsprings of thought and speech, to the wondrous beauty of nature. I would take care that each of my pupils grew up to become a wise thinker and researcher, that each step on the path to knowledge enriched the heart and tempered the will.’

Vasily Sukhomlinsky (1918-1970) was a school principal, a prolific writer, and a corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Pedagogical Sciences. From a school in rural Ukraine, where he was principal from 1948 until his death in 1970, Sukhomlinsky’s influence spread throughout the Soviet Union and beyond. In 30 books and 500 articles, all based on his own practical experience, Sukhomlinsky describes a holistic approach to the education of global citizens. His books were read by millions, and thousands of educators came to his school to see it with their own eyes. Here are the comments of two visiting principals:

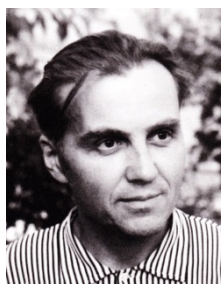
“Pavlysh Secondary School should be renamed a university! We say this quite seriously: a feeling of wonder and admiration overwhelms anyone who with the slightest love for children and schools.” (V.A. Karakovsky)

“I have spent only one day in this remarkable school ... but I have learnt as much as I did in four years at teachers college.” (M. Manukian)

*My Heart I Give to Children* was many years ahead of its time. It addresses issues such as our relationship with nature, how to nurture children’s souls in the face of the sometimes negative influences of mass media, how to help children develop empathy for others, how schools can develop strong relationships with families, how children’s brains function and develop, how to foster an intrinsic love for learning, and how to support children who struggle to acquire skills in literacy and numeracy. The work is addressed to school principals and teachers, and anyone interested in the upbringing of young children.

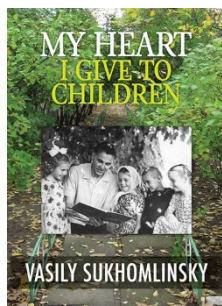
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#### **About the Author:**



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#### **About the Book:**



Vasily Sukhomlinsky’s *My Heart I Give to Children* (EJR Language Service Pty. Ltd., Brisbane, 2016, ISBN 978-0-9805885-7-6, Au\$ 24.99), describes how he worked with a class of six-year-old children during an experimental preschool year, and how he continued to work with them during the subsequent four years of their primary schooling. It shows how his methodology contributed to their health and resilience, to their capacity to empathise with others, to their connection with the natural world, and to their aesthetic and moral development, as well as to their intellectual and vocational development. Sales information: [www.ejr.com.au/publications](http://www.ejr.com.au/publications) .

### **About the Translator**



Alan Cockerill is an Australian school teacher, working in Brisbane, and an adjunct research fellow at Monash University. He has a background in Russian Language studies, and received his Ph.D. in 1994 for a study of the educational legacy of Vasily Sukhomlinsky, a holistic Ukrainian educator. His book about Sukhomlinsky, *Each One Must Shine*, was published by Peter Lang in New York in 1999. He has published articles about Sukhomlinsky in refereed journals, and his translation of Sukhomlinsky's most famous work, *My Heart I Give to Children*, has just been published by EJR Language Service Pty. Ltd. in Brisbane.

### **Review Copies and Media Interviews:**

For a review copy of *My Heart I Give to Children*, or an interview with Sukhomlinsky scholar and translator Alan Cockerill, please email [alan.cockerill@ejr.com.au](mailto:alan.cockerill@ejr.com.au) . When requesting a review copy, please provide a postal address.

If you would like to receive this information as a Word document, please send your request to the above email address.