



ArcticTerns

Worldschooling Newsletter

Kate, about her life changing decisions

How brave is the decision to start Worldschooling! In this newsletter Kate McAlisster explains how she bravely jumped the leap from pursuing her career to Worldschooling and how she opened a place where others get the same opportunity, without having to take drastic decisions.

Every Worldshooler has a story to tell

Every traveling family has a unique background, experience or knowledge, that they can share with other to expand and inspire.

In our newsletter we offer a platform to all the different stories that are out there.

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- Kate McAllister, about her life changing decisions
- Bansko online in a few days

Kate McAllister, about her life changing decisions

“Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?”

- Mary Oliver, poet -

Hello Kate, can you please tell us a bit about your family?

We are a family of 3. My son is grown and flown and my daughter is 11 years old and worldschools with me. We have two rescue dogs, three rescue cats (we had 13 at one point) and a goat, called Ferdy!

What made you change from pursuing your career to Worldschoooling?

I was a pretty good teacher. I helped troubled kids who needed the kind of support I was good at giving and things went well. I became an expert in self-regulated learning, designed ground-breaking curricula and received awards. I ploughed on up the professional track, making progress, getting promoted, doing all the things successful people did. I was so determined to win at the game of having it all; a great kid, a respected career and a nice home, that I didn't pay close enough attention to what it was costing us both. Although I think a part of me always knew. I remember talking to a friend one evening about life, the universe and everything. I remember telling her that I was proud of my career, and not too ashamed of my parenting, but that I wished I'd made different choices. I wished that I had spent more time with my son and less time at work. I wished that I had travelled more freely with him and not put other children's needs above his own. I always thought there would be more time, but there never was. And, in conclusion, if I ever got to live my life again, I hoped I would be braver.

A little after my 39th birthday, I discovered that I was expecting another child. A daughter. I could not have been happier. I had a really busy few years and achieved some great things. However, when she was about five I finally realised I was miserable. My relationship had failed and I was raising another child alone. I felt overwhelmed and I never had enough time for any of us. I was basically living the same life again. And, disappointingly, I wasn't being braver.

This was not at all what I should have been doing with my one wild and precious life. And certainly not with the second chance at life that I had been blessed with.

So, thanks to Marie Kondo, true friends and the conviction that only an utterly miserable 44 year old woman has, I started to change my life. After I had methodically emptied every cupboard and inspected every life-decision for joy and found virtually none, two more years had passed. The life laundry had been intense. I was left with a few notebooks and clothes, two passports and the money from the sale of all my worldly possessions including my house.



Where did you decide to travel to?

With not much of a plan and some serious butterflies in our stomachs, my daughter and I set off on our big learning journey in February 2020. We first went to NYC as it was a shared dream; which did not disappoint, and we landed in Dominican Republic in March 2020. We went to visit The Worldschool and Candace Hyde Smith. My daughter would attend and I would volunteer. I wanted to learn from Candace and she was interested in the work I had been doing in self-regulated learning.

What new life decision came up?

Then, just as we were finding our groove, everything changed. COVID hit, and the world went crazy. The Worldschool vanished into thin air and we were left with our suitcases and some BIG decisions to make. Would we go back to the UK where we had nothing? Would we move on to somewhere else? Or would we just ride it out in the Dominican Republic? You'll probably recall that in the first few weeks we thought the apocalypse was coming. So we figured there were worse places to be stuck if the end was nigh. We had mangoes on the trees, fish in the ocean, friendly people all around and sunshine on our faces.

It turns out we made a great decision.

We made friends.

We learned Spanish.

We slowly fell in love with the warmth, the colour and the chaos. The Dominican Republic soothed my soul and brought joy to my daughter's face. The light returned to us both. My son joined us just in time to continue university online and we rode out COVID together.

We slowly figured out how we somehow knew, when nothing was knowable, that we should stay. We'd discovered a pretty magical place where we could be ourselves. A land rich in culture and full of wonder that

heightened all our senses and piqued our curiosity. A home where we could be barefoot and wild, express ourselves freely and heal. A place where the light permeates your skin in and gently glows inside of you.



How has your life developed since?

This is where we still live today. And we have opened up a space so that others can feel it for themselves too. A place where, if you ever wish you could be braver, you can. Because you don't have to sell everything you have and step off the map alone. You can meet others living life on their own terms and learn from one another. It's a

place to regulate your nervous system and regenerate. A place to discover what kind of worldschooling is right for you and plan your family journey with people who understand. The kind of place I wish I had known existed when I was 29 and trying to find my way in life.

If I'm honest, I am probably still working harder than I want to be. There is a lifetime of rewiring to do. But I'm barefoot, I'm free, I can do as much or as little as I choose. My daughter is thriving, I am healthier than I have ever been and my son is off living his life.

I arrived here just shy of my 48th birthday. I will turn 52 this summer. I feel connected to myself, my kids, my purpose and my path. And I wanted to share that it is never too late to start truly living your one wild and precious life.

Kate McAllister

Director of The Hive, Dominican Republic

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What is **your** story? Share it with the Worldscool world.

Bansko online in a few days

We are almost ready to put Bansko 2025 online!

When you have run a program for 4 years, you would say it would be easy to put the 5th season online. However, every year we learn, every year we improve. And since we want our website to contain complete and honest information, it takes a little longer to get all the pieces together.

Our program will remain almost the same, with some changes here and there.

Our biggest change is our new complex, that we are very happy about!

Also our change to 6 weeks sessions, which we feel will add a lot to the power of the community.

Our biggest challenge was the price. With a nicer complex, longer sessions, and of course our full day program, we did want Worldschoooling Bansko to remain an affordable option for families. We decided to make some changes to the program in a way that every family can choose the activity plan that suits their needs and budget. We are proud that this way, despite all our program offers, we managed to remain one of the cheapest programs in the world!

All this information will be available in a few days! We will give everyone a few days to get familiar with the program before we open bookings, firstly for the people on the waitlist and our previous participants. We have a large complex this year but there is still a limit of families we can accept, and if we see how many families are on the waitlist already, this is the place to be!

Last change to add yourself on the waitlist







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