



The St Michael Steiner School

NEWSLETTER

14th May 2010

5 Merton Road London SW18 5ST

Tel: 020 8870 0500

Email: info@stmichaelsteinerschool.co.uk

Website: www.stmichaelsteiner.wandsworth.sch.uk

Dates for Your Diary

MAY

Fri 28th Staff INSET - no school

Mon 31st - Fri 4th June Half Term

JUNE

Mon 7th Back to school

Sat 12th Open Day 10 - 12.30

Fri 25th St John's festival

JULY

Thu 8th End of term festival
Times TBA

Fri 9th TERM ENDS
12.30 FOR ALL CLASSES

SEPTEMBER

Mon 6th Staff INSET - no school

Tues 7th SCHOOL STARTS
10am

FAREWELL LARA, ADMINISTRATOR, HELLO MS KUPPERS, CLASS 1 TEACHER

Lara Koppers first came to an Open day at the school almost two years ago. She was a student teacher on the Steiner Waldorf teacher training course at Emerson College and she wanted to assist and observe in the school. We get so many requests from students, I tried everything I could to put her off, but she just wouldn't go away. In the end (after I pretended not to remember her) she had to get her tutor (a fairly big name in the movement) to make a special request that we take her.

Impressed by her persistence (and her tutor's truly glowing report of her ability and potential), we finally gave in. She must have sensed that, once her foot was in the door, she must never, ever take it out again, because she then shrewdly applied for the Administrator's job. Very clever. Not seeing the trick, we hired her and she immediately set about making herself indispensable. During the next year, as well as holding the fort in reception, Lara covered classes when teachers were sick and took every opportunity to show us that she is a strong, creative and versatile teacher. There's no way out now because, not only have we realised that she is good at everything, but children and colleagues alike have grown to love her and to think of her as 'one of us'. She (or is it we?) made it through the year-long interview/ordeal/initiation process (and set the standard for all future applicants for posts in our school), so it should now come as no surprise to you that our Class 1 teacher in September will be ... Ms Lara Koppers.

You can relax Lara, you made it.... oh but here come the children, so back to work!

Amanda Bell
For the College

There are two events this month at Michael Hall which may be of interest to parents. The first is a talk by an anthroposophical dentist, Claus Haupt. Dr Haupt spoke to parents at Michael Hall last year and was very well received.

NEWS

The second event is the final introductory day for the Bothmer Gym training course on Saturday 19th June. This day is free and participants join with current students to experience what the course offers. The course proper starts in September and is held over one weekend a month for up to four years. All of our class teachers have either completed the training, have done some of it or are currently on the course and all of them enthusiastically recommend it to anyone who is interested in any aspect of movement.

THE TEETH

Orthodontics and a
Holistic Understanding of the Child

a lecture by dentist Claus Haupt

What can the teeth tell you about the developing child?
Why are each child's teeth so individual?
Is there a soul-spiritual connection to, for example, over-crowding in the teeth?
Can we find pedagogical and therapeutic ways of working with anomalies?
Are braces a cure?

This lecture will be of interest to parents,
teachers and therapists.
It will be translated from German

Tuesday May 18th 2010 at 8pm
Dick Chester Studio, Michael Hall School, Forest Row
Cost £7/£5

Claus Haupt has 30 years of experience as a dentist in Germany. His study of Anthroposophy has led him to an understanding of the spiritual significance of the teeth and their relation to the child's development. After establishing a private practice in Munich in 1985, he began to work together with eurythmy therapists, art therapists and speech therapists. He regularly visits a number of Waldorf Schools in Europe to assess children's teeth, advise and lecture.

For more information call Katherine 01342 822759 or Penny 01342 825608
Or e-mail katherine@bevbatch.co.uk or raeside.penny@gmail.com



INTRODUCTORY DATES BOTHMER MOVEMENT INTERNATIONAL - UK COURSE STARTS SEPTEMBER 2010

Saturday 6th March 2010
Saturday 17th April 2010
Saturday 19th June 2010

Each day (10am to 4pm) will be an introduction to Bothmer Gymnastics and the nature of the training.

Location:

Michael Hall School, Kidbrooke Park,
Forest Row, East Sussex RH18 5JA

To book please e-mail (best option) or
telephone and leave a message.

E-mail Martin Baker on: office@bothmer-movement.co.uk
Answerphone: 01342 826 677

WHITSUN

The children will be participating in a Whitsun festival next Friday, the 21st of May.

This festival is also known as the festival of Pentecost. As it is a festival symbolizing the baptism in the fire of the Holy Spirit, we would ask that all children be dressed in white on this day.

The Teachers

The Merchant of Venice

Class 7&8 are preparing their final class play, "The Merchant of Venice" by William Shakespeare. We would like to borrow some interesting hats and accessories which you might have. We would also like to borrow a lute / oud, if anyone happens to have one? It would be much appreciated.

Class 7&8

From The Early Years

Early Years Foundation Stage exemptions

In September 2008, the Early Years Foundation Stage was introduced for all those working with children aged between 0 and 5, including childminders, play-groups and all early years centres. It is a statutory framework and for the first time, made certain areas of learning and development compulsory for all children within this age group.

Along with most Steiner Schools in England, we found some of the statutory learning and development goals inappropriate for our kindergarten children. At a meeting of early years parents, we discussed these educational goals and all parents supported our application for exemption from these Early Learning Goals.

We are delighted to let you know that we have received a letter from the Head of Curriculum at the Qualifications Curriculum and Development Agency granting most of our exemption application with effect from 4th March 2010 until 3rd March 2010.

A copy of the letter is posted on our Early Years notice board, and will soon be scanned onto our web site, but briefly, we have been granted complete exemption from the following Early Learning Goals:

- Hear and say sounds in words in the order in which they occur;
- Link sounds to letters, naming and sounding the letters of the alphabet;
- Use their phonic knowledge to write simple regular words and make phonetically plausible attempts at more complex words;
- Read a range of familiar and common words and simple sentences independently;
- Write their own names and other things such as labels and captions and begin forming simple sentences, sometimes using punctuation;
- Use a pencil and hold it effectively to form recognizable letters, most of which are correctly formed.

We have been granted modifications on a number of other Early Learning Goals, in particular the value of 'warm technology' (e.g. oven, grain mill, apple press, woodwork tools) to support learning, rather than using 'information and communication technology and programmable toys'.

We are delighted that our application has been successful and that we will not be penalised by Ofsted for not working towards these goals with our 5-year old children. Concerns about the EYFS are now coming from mainstream reception teachers and childminders as well as practitioners in Steiner schools. In this weeks' Nursery World, consultant Margaret Edgington said, *'I would like to see the Learning and Development requirements and the local authority outcomes duty removed so that practitioners can focus on developmentally appropriate practice, rather than chasing goals and targets.'* And Early years expert Wendy Scott said she welcomed the proposal for a slimmed-down framework, *'as it would make room for Steiner, among others, and take the pressure off all children'*. She added: *'this takes account of evidence about children's learning which shows that a later start to formal approaches enables children to sustain their engagement and motivation to achieve, while not harming levels of literacy at the end of primary school'*.

A review of the EYFS is planned to be undertaken by the government from September 2010, and the other main parties have their own reviews planned.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our four new children: Hannah and Joseph in Katie's room, and Natalie and Olivia in Leigha's room. All the children have settled in happily. We wish you all a very happy summer term.

Katie
For The Early Years Team

What's Happening in the Classrooms?

In Chemistry - **Class 7&8** made up their own acid-base indicator in order to determine the acidity or alkalinity of common substances such as milk and vinegar.

A demonstration on the effect a strong acid like the diluted H₂SO₄ can have on the paper and sugar was a sight to see. Acids and bases were also discussed in relation to the human digestive system and the acidic release of substances to the environment through natural and man-made activities, which can affect the hydrological cycle and the natural environment.

We also looked at the characteristics of liquids, particularly water and oil. The idea that a specific liquid or pure mineral has a constant density regardless of its shape and size was introduced. This led us to the "eureka" experience of Archimedes and his formulation of the principle of buoyancy.

We also looked at the characteristics of still and moving air. Simple demonstrations on how the still air around us can exert pressure on our surroundings can make the children think and wonder about this invisible entity called air.

We also looked at the part of air that is responsible for combustion and putting out the fire. The idea of a carbon cycle and global warming was also discussed.

We also had a quick experiential excursion into the world of electricity and magnetism. Our taster session on electricity would give the students sensory and empirical knowledge of the passage of electric currents through copper wires and other conductors of electricity.

The students were eager to experience chemistry and physics and excited to develop their ability to think and develop their own theories. There were moments of reflection, long silences in which new faculties of thinking emerged.

Edwin Ladaga

Class 1&2 worked with the pictures in language and language in pictures for three weeks. Our theme was "Knights of God", stories of heroic deeds of Celtic saints, heroes and heroines. Through drama, writing, drawing and reading, the class delved into the stories with questions, comments and awe for these valiant people of old. The stories often combined the qualities of man's challenge to transform his desires into service to humanity, working selflessly for the good of all kingdoms of the earth. The class were excited to work with short readers, which they illustrated and will bind by the end of the year. It has been a wonderful experience to work with another class and age group for a time and I am delighted to have had this opportunity!

Juanna Ladaga

Class 3&4 spent the first 4 weeks of the summer term learning about animals. The Man and Animal block is an opportunity to compare the strengths and skills of various animals, looking especially at their areas of specialisation: how the way an animal's body is formed reveals what it can do and how it lives. Sharp teeth, claws and eyes in the front of the head are the characteristics of a hunter, while eyes in the sides of the head, long, strong limbs and flat teeth belong to a grazing, prey animal. In contrast, Human Beings' bodies are not specialised in the same way; we don't have claws, wings, webbed feet or gills, and yet we can paddle through and swim under water, fly and hunt. We can do these things because of our lack of specialisation - because we can literally 'turn our hand' to anything we choose. Because of our quick minds and because, through walking upright, our hands remain free, we are able to invent, learn and make things to help us do the things that animals can do naturally out of the way their bodies are formed.

Amanda Bell



Class 3&4 visited a farm in Esher to see the horses during their 'Man and Animal' block.

FROM ADMINISTRATION

Phone Book update

Welcome to all the new children that started at the beginning of this term.

In Class 3&4 we would like to welcome
Phoebe Woods
and
Ryan Walker

In the Kindergarten we have:
Natalie Arnoff
Hannah & Olivia Edsel
and Joseph Woods

We are delighted to announce that the fundraising activities, cake sales, fair, and auctions during the last year has raised 9270.56. This excludes donations, grants and some specific funds. A more detailed report will be issued in the next news letter.

The Fundraising Group

ACCOMMODATION NEEDED FOR VISITORS

Occasionally we have students, advisors, therapists or speakers, who do not live in London, come to our school. Often we need to find a place for them to stay for the night so that they can join us for our early starts. If you have a room available and are happy to have lodgers there from time to time for mostly one night at a time, and with plenty notice, please let us know as this would help the school hugely.

Thank you,
Lara

The Management Team meets approximately every two weeks to monitor and co-ordinate the School Support Teams. If Support Team members have items or information for our meetings, please put them in the box in reception or email them to Jin Yee Lim at j.lim@liminaires.co.uk
The next meeting will be on 14th June 2010

Amanda Bell
On behalf of the Management Team

Dear Parents

Thank you all so very much for filling in your new premises questionnaires and for returning them in good time.

The results from the questionnaire endorsed very positively the school's plans to find new premises ideally by September 2011. A large number of you had excellent ideas and suggestions which will be very useful indeed. And your openness about your future plans and thoughts regarding your children's education is an enormous help to the project.

The Premises Group will keep you all informed of our progress via the newsletter and email. We would be very grateful if any of you could let the Premises Group know should you have any information regarding potential suitable premises.

Thank you very much.

The Premises Group

Would you like to see this newsletter in colour and detail?

This Newsletter - as well as back issues and all future issues - is available in full colour on our website at

www.stmichaelsteiner.wandsworth.sch.uk

Newsletter Contributions

The next newsletter will be distributed on Friday 11th June.

We are always keen to publish contributions from parents in the newsletter. If you have something interesting/funny/controversial/moving/profound to share, however small, please send it to me. Deadline for contributions is 6pm Wednesday 9th June.

Email them please, to: amandabell@mac.com

Community Pages

Please note that the school does not endorse or recommend, either in general or in particular, anything offered in the Community Pages and parents are advised to check the qualifications of practitioners or people offering services here.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A 3-BED.HOUSE OR FLAT IN SOUTH WEST LONDON TO MOVE.

Please contact Polina (the German teacher) 07868190879 or polina.habi@hotmail.com

German Family looking for an Au pair!

We live in Stuttgart and have two little sons. Arthur just turned 3 years old, Theodor is 18 months old. If you: speak good English, like children and are responsible you could fit in with our little family! Please don't hesitate to contact us!

susannenusser@yahoo.com

Please write in subject: AU PAIR

Our house is close to the city, so if you consider taking any classes it should be convenient for you. You will have your own room & bathroom. We are a stable, warm-hearted family and look for someone to play & educate our kids and who is also willing to help with a little housework. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

The Nusser Family

Hello, I am a 17 years old girl from Germany and I want to spend three months as an Au-pair in England. I will graduate this summer and after that I would like to improve my English a little bit.

I am friendly and trustworthy and I have already some experience with kids, because I have two sisters. If you are interested, please send me an e-mail. Address: c.mahner@t-online.de

Thank you.

Best regards Claudia Mahner

AU PAIRS WANTED

We are a German family with 4 children of ages from months to 10 years old living in the town of Buchholz near Hamburg and are seeking an English female Au-Pair with an anthroposophic background as our children attend an anthroposophic school locally (Rudolf Steiner).

Although there are Au-Pair agencies, I prefer to try this direct contact to schools and hope we are successful in finding someone appropriate. We look forward to replies under the following Email address: leoldt@gmail.com

Chers Amis,

En Février dernier, nous vous avons sollicités pour diffuser une annonce dans votre bulletin hebdomadaire concernant la location de nos locaux pendant l'été.

Nous vous remercions de votre aide et vous serions très reconnaissants de bien vouloir diffuser le rappel ci-dessous.

Très sincèrement,

Marie-Claire FAURE, Responsable des Locations

Rappel - Vacances d'Eté en Provence : L'Ecole Steiner-Waldorf d'Avignon (Provence – France) loue ses locaux à des familles Steiner-Waldorf et amies pendant les mois de juillet et août.

Contact : location.ecole@free.fr

Siteweb : http://web.me.com/ecolersa/ecole/les_locations_dete.html

Community Pages

UNIQUE CHAKRAS / AURA SESSIONS

Treat yourself and fundraise for the school!

I propose -during March and May - discounted sessions for school parents and staff (but tell your friends and family too). I will give back 10% to the school.

I WANT TO PUT SOME APPLES ON THE FUNDRAISING TREE! So visit me...

I give you:

- * **Detailed description and drawings of the energy flow of your chakras and aura**
- * **Explained life patterns and their link with your chakras patterns**
- * **Messages from your charkas on how you can move forwards...**

You will leave with session recording on a CD, drawings, a big smile on your soul, feeling sacred and blessed away by your own potential...

Suzanne: 07805 740 002

Good morning,

My name is Alexandra Gineste. I'm French and I come from Niger (Africa). I'm 16 years old and I live in Montpellier (France) with my 3 brothers: David (15years), Kevin (11years) and Anthony (10years). I'm a good student in Secondary School. I like French, geography, history and languages (English and Spanish).

I have good results in English but I don't speak it fluently. That's why; I think that a stay in an English family could help me to speak better this language. I would like a stay during four weeks in my holidays (July and August). I can do housework, look after children and help them for their homework particularly in French.

Of course, you will receive money for your hospitality and for food.

You can join me on my email address: alexandra.gineste@yahoo.fr

We are a family with three daughters (1, 3, 8) and a strong waldorf background living in Hamburg (Germany). My husband and I are both medical doctors in the field of pediatrics and internal medicine and we are looking for an au pair girl who would like to stay with us 1-2 years starting in August/September 2010 and who is familiar with the waldorf education.

Contact: Mirjam_Wuesthof@web.de

++49 40 278 78 999