



The St Michael Steiner School

NEWSLETTER

17th September 2010

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Dates for Your Diary

SEPTEMBER

Sat 18 Open Day

Thur 23 Class 2&3 parents' meeting 7-8.30pm

Mon 27 Class 4&5, 6&7 parents' meetings 7-8.30pm

Wed 29 Michaelmas

OCTOBER

Sat 9 Association meeting 10-12.30

Sat 16 'A DAY IN THE CLASSROOM' 9.30-12.30

Thur 21 School ends for half term 12.30/3.00

Fri 22 Staff INSET (no school)

NOVEMBER

Mon 1 School starts 8.15am

The First Day of School

There was once a group of star children living in the heavenly fields. There came a time when they looked down onto the shining earth and saw their mothers and fathers and longed to be with them to live earthly lives. As they looked down, a rainbow bridge formed from the heavens to the earth which they travelled down to reach their families. As they did, the stars sang their names to them.

The children were loved and cared for, and slowly came into uprightness, spoke their first words, and took their first steps. When the time was right, they went to play in a garden. Here, they were cared for by the gardeners, made many friends, grew strong and learnt to do lots of things for themselves.

The keeper of the Garden Gate was a kind, rainbow woman who wore clothes of many colours and had a sunshine smile. Slowly, over time, the children came to know her well and recognised her deep wisdom. Occasionally they caught a glimpse of her golden underskirt, for she was really the Princess of Golden Knowledge.

There came a time when she invited them to join her in her castle and there she would guide them and help them in life. She would teach them to write and read, and understand the world and its people.

The children were excited and yearned to go, but did not know the way. "We will help you", called their families and friends. Together, they wished a rainbow bridge down to the Earth. With gifts of flowers from their garden, one by one the children followed the path that appeared under the rainbow bridge all the way to the castle. Here, the Princess of Golden Knowledge shook their hands and welcomed them in.

From The Early Years

Kindergartens

We would like to welcome our new children and their families, as well as our new members of staff, Juanna Ladaga who has joined the Early Years after her class graduated in July, and Jeannette Cubeque Rey who has come from St Paul's Steiner School in Islington.

A big thank you to Farmer Richard, our dear trustee from Plaw Hatch Farm in Forest Row, who kindly gave us big sheaves of biodynamic wheat which our children have already begun to thresh.

*Leigha Hipkin
For the Early Years*

Parent/carer and Child Group, Autumn Term 2010

This term we will have two 'drop-in' afternoon parent/carer and child groups. On Tuesday afternoons beginning 21st September a group will meet from 2.00pm to 3.30pm, and run every Tuesday throughout term-time until Tuesday 7th December, excluding 26th October (half term).

We are delighted to offer a second 'Forest' group on Friday afternoons, starting at Michaelmas on Friday 1st October, from 1.30 to 3pm until 10th December, excluding Friday 29th October (half term). We will meet on Wimbledon Common near to the Windmill.

Please ring school to book your place for either session. The fee is £5.00 per family with concessions available upon request.

Sessions will usually be led by Leigha and Katie. We hope to offer a morning group in the new year.

*Leigha Hipkin
For the Early Years*

What's Happening in the Classrooms?

So much is happening in the classrooms that we haven't yet found a moment to sit down and write about it. Watch this space and come to your class parents evening to find out more!

New Faces

You will have noticed some new faces around the school as well as a few people working in different roles. Our 'new Lara' is Andrea Ladanyi, assisted some of the time by our new receptionist Deborah Scholtz. The real Lara is now happily teaching her own class 1 of course.

Teaching music and running the orchestra for classes 4 - 7 (during the school day for this term at least) is Daniel Davies.

We now have a team of three Eurythmists working in our school! Eve Macgregor continues her therapy work on Mondays; Hannele Greenhalgh is teaching classes 1 - 5 and Michele Hunter takes class 6&7.

Finally, Julia Wallace is helping in Handwork lessons in classes 1 - 5.

Welcome to everyone.

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

Amanda Bell
On behalf of the Management Team

FREE SCHOOLS

You will be aware that of the coalition government's intention to set up 'Free schools', starting in September 2011. We have submitted an application as a way of investigating what this would really mean, and met with two members of the 'Partnership for Schools' dept during the summer. We are being cautious but open to the possible opportunities for the school to expand. We will keep you informed of any further developments.

Amanda Bell
For the College

From the Parents' Handbook:

Procedure for arriving and collecting children

In the morning:

Children should not arrive at school before 8am.

PLEASE DO NOT GO INTO OR WALK THROUGH THE CAR PARK AT ANY TIME.

Children and parents should wait in the back playground for the bell to ring. Some teachers may have given their children permission to come inside early. Otherwise, unless the weather is very bad, they should not come inside until the bell rings. *Please note that before 8:15am all children must be supervised in the playground by an adult.*

When the teacher comes to collect the children in the morning, Kindergarten parents may come inside with their children to settle them; *PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN OTHER CLASSES SHOULD NOT DO SO UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.*

At the end of the school day:

Lower School children will be brought to the front playground and should be collected from there: Children on half days at 12:30pm and those on full days at 3pm or 3.30pm. Kindergartens have their own arrangements for collection.

Please note that the school gates will be opened at 12.20 and again at 2.55 in the afternoon. *PLEASE DO NOT RING THE BUZZER BEFORE 12.20/2.55 UNLESS YOU HAVE SCHOOL BUSINESS OR NEED TO COME INTO THE BUILDING FOR SOME OTHER REASON.*

If your child is going home by him/herself, please inform your class teacher in writing.

Please make sure the teacher on duty knows that you have taken your child and anyone else's. If your child is going home with someone other than you, please let his/her teacher know in the morning, preferably in writing.

If children have not been collected within 15 minutes of pick-up time, they will be taken back inside and parents must then come upstairs to collect them. *Please note that for lateness beyond 15 minutes, financial penalties may apply.*

Would you like your child to have a hot school lunch?

Starting next week and until half term I will be offering a hot meal for the children and staff every Thursday lunch time. The food will be organic and I will be charging £4 for a main course and dessert. I will be at the school each Monday at break time so that I can take orders and payment for meals in advance. I am offering this at first for a limited time as a trial, but if it's popular, I would like to offer it on more days and through the winter. Feedback welcome!

Stella Bell Ottewill

Fundraising Report, 2009/2010

Our target last year (2009 – 2010) was to raise £10,000 from primarily within the school community. We ultimately raised over £14,500 over the year to April 2010. This money supported the school's need for specific items, detailed on a 'Wish List' compiled by the College of Teachers, ranging from scientific equipment to books and furniture, and currently includes our ultimate need of a new school building. Steady progress was observed by the growing number of felt cherries on the Cherry Tree painting in the school stairwell, with every £100 raised bringing a new felt cherry. We pooled the resources of the Social and Outreach group who are responsible for the fairs, end of term sales and social gatherings.

We encouraged each family to raise £100 over the year through a variety of means including a sponsored walk, selling hand made items and shopping via the Giving Machine. In brief, money was raised as follows:

£9,270: table top sales, martinmas fair, sponsored walk, auction
£5,274: trusts, grants, donations and the Giving Machine
£14,544: total raised 2009/10

Beneficiaries

Around £5,000 will be spent on items for the school, with the remaining amount allocated to the new premises fund.

Objectives for this forthcoming year April 2010- 2011

Our target this year is to raise £28,000. We aim to widen our fund-raising activity from within our school community to the local community and beyond. We will seek to raise funds in particular for bursaries and specific equipment from grants and trusts. We will continue to hold regular table-top cake sales and aim to offer four cooking workshops over the year. A percentage of our takings from table-top sales will go to other charities. Recipes are also being collected for a cook book full of recipes that reflect our ethos of food provenance, the seasons and sustainable farming.

Details of all our Fundraising events will be advertised in this Newsletter, on the school community notice board, website, and via email to our school community.

The Team

Our Fundraising team is comprised of a small group of parents together with a member of the College. Last year (Sept 2009 – July 2010), the team comprised: Camilla Barnard, David Bloomfield, Magda Devaris, Tania Galindo, Mihiri Lim, Katie Sharrock (College representative), Leila Steeds, and Janelle Wright.

We would like to warmly thank David, Magda, Tania and Leila for their time, energy, enthusiasm and skills in raising a fantastic amount of money last year.

This year, the smaller but no less enthusiastic team of Camilla, Mihiri, Katie and Janelle will continue to build on the work already done and hope to raise even more money this year. Since April 2010 we have already raised £7,500, so we are off to a great start.

Thank you

And lastly, a tremendous **Thank you:** We would like to thank every single one for their contribution in effort, in kind, and for the very generous donations received whether large or small. Every single penny helps our school to grow and achieve its long-term plan to expand and create a Steiner Waldorf upper school for London.

If anyone would like a detailed fundraising report, please contact the Fundraising team via Camilla Barnard.

The Fundraising Team

Forthcoming Fundraising Events

Friday 8th October: Cake sale in the front playground, 12noon – 12.40.

Saturday 20th November: Advent Fair

Contributions to our family Recipe Book please email to Sarah Woods at sdoowharas@googlemail.com or place your recipe in the envelope soon to be seen on the school noticeboard.

ACCOMMODATION NEEDED

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.

Our visiting Eurythmy Therapist, **Eve Macgregor**, needs somewhere to stay from about 10pm every Sunday during term time until first thing Monday morning. Please let Andrea know as soon as possible if you can help.

Thank you.

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 8th October .

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 6th October

Email them please, to: amandabell@mac.com

Community Page

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.

Dear St. Michael Steiner School

We write you, because we need accomodation from Nov. 15 th 2010 till Jan 5 th 2011 in London, for me and a fellow parent from Marburg Waldorf school, Germany.

Is there a possibility for a hang out at your school or school Newsletter announcement to find someone who has a room for rent for that time.

I would be very happy if you could give us a hand.

Lars Volkmar
larsvolkmar@web.de

"A Time for Childhood"

Autumn Programme of Parenting Workshops.
Sunday 17th October *Healthy Boundaries as a Preparation for Life* looks at how limits can enhance children's healthy development.
Sunday 31st October *Biographical Learning and Parenting*.

This is the first meeting of a Development Group which will meet two times each term for one year. It will provide a space for continuous learning and support for the task of parenting.

For further information go to www.atimeforchildhood.com or call Lourdes Callen on 01342 826727. Cost £85/60, booking essential. Venue: Steiner House, London.