



# The St Michael Steiner School NEWSLETTER

20th January 2012  
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## Dates for Your Diary

### JANUARY

Sat 21: 10.30 am VISIT TO FORTESCUE HOUSE. (See right)

Tue 24: 7 to 8.30pm Class 3&4 Parents Evening

Sat 28: 10am to 12.30pm Open Day

Tue 31: 7 to 8.30pm Class 5&6 and 7&8 Parents Evening

### FEBRUARY

Thu 2 : 7 to 8:30pm Growing Down and Waking Up: A course for parents in child development: Part III

Sat 4: 9.30am to 12.30pm A Day in the Classroom (a workshop with teachers for parents)

Wed 8: 7 to 8.30pm Class 1 and Class 2 Parents Evening

Thu 9: 12.30/3pm SCHOOL ENDS FOR HALF-TERM

Fri 10: 10am - 4pm STAFF INSET (no school)

Sat 11: 10am - 12.30pm Parents Workday

Mon 20: 8.15am BACK TO SCHOOL

Fri 24: 9:15 - 11:45am Simplicity Parenting Workshop

Fri 24 - 1:30 - 3:30pm A Gentle Beginning (Parent and Infant Support group)

### MARCH

Thu 1: 7 - 8:30pm - Growing Down and Waking Up - A course for parents in child development - Part IV

Sat 3 - 10am - 12:30pm - Open Day

Sat 10 - 10am - 12:30pm AGM

## Visit to the proposed new site for the school

Saturday 21st January 10 am

All Parents are invited to look around Fortescue House and the site's other buildings and grounds between 10 and 11.

At 11:15, we will gather in front of the main entrance, or in the entrance hall if it is raining, so that you can ask any questions you may have.

Please note that there is building work going on there and the site is not suitable for children. There is a park and playground next to the site.

The address is: Fortescue House, Park Road, Feltham, TW13 6PN

## The Green Snake and the Beautiful Lily A Eurythmy Performance

On Saturday the **24th March @ 7.30pm**, there is the premiere of Goethe's very famous and special fairytale; "*The Green Snake and the Beautiful Lily*" at The Steiner House Theatre. This will be performed by London Eurythmy Stage Group, of which I am a member.

Steiner said of this work : "*it is an extraordinary piece of work and one should not just read it, one should experience it!*".

Michele Hunter

## What's happening in the Classrooms?

### Class 3&4: Fractions and blackberries!

We began our work with fractions by making a fruit salad! The baking of a Three Kings Galette with Miss Laroux and the subsequent cutting of the cake into fractions was a satisfying (and delicious) activity for the children.

The following step for the children was to learn to name, write and read fractional parts with fluency, as well as taking steps towards understanding equivalent fractions, proper, improper and mixed forms of fractions. Next came the more complicated stage of actually doing something with the fractions. Students began learning how to add and subtract fractions with similar and dissimilar denominators. In the coming weeks, they will learn to multiply and divide fractions, reduce fractions into simpler forms or to expand them, and to rename fractions as mixed numbers and convert mixed numbers into fractions.

The visual component of adding or subtracting fractions is given emphasis in this main lesson block. Some children can already abstract and work out the underlying principles behind these visual explanations and transform them into rules and procedures in calculating fractional problems.

### Goose-feather quill pens and blackberry Ink!



The children spent an afternoon making ink to be used with their newly cut goose-feather quill pens. This was a prelude to the advent of fountain pens! We used a concoction of blackberry juice for our ink, though many of you may know other recipes which you could share with us...

#### Study Group

The study group with Philip Martyn is now going strong, every Wednesday morning from about 8:40. Speak to Andrea if you would like to join.

#### Education News Clippings

The Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship office sends out regular media clippings about education issues to anyone who is interested. Some of them are controversial and not all of them are complimentary about Steiner education, but we're all grown up aren't we? So if you are interested and not scared of a little criticism, email Jasmin at [forjasmin@googlemail.com](mailto:forjasmin@googlemail.com) and she will forward them to you.

#### Newsletter Contributions

The next newsletter will be distributed on Thursday 9th February. Deadline for contributions is 6pm Tuesday 7th February. 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. Email please, to: [amandabell@mac.com](mailto:amandabell@mac.com)

# Community Section

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.

## **HANDMADE NATURAL SOAP AVAILABLE**

Lavender

Rose Geranium

Clary Sage and Lemongrass

Orange Geranium

Price: £3 each or two for £5.

Please contact Brian Jacques

(Class 7&8 teacher) 07759917112

## **Holiday Cottage, Pembrokeshire, Wales**

Situated in the heart of the National Park, for 2-6 people with a large garden for children to play in.

2 minutes to the sea or

mountains. **Quote Newsletter for  
20% off.**

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