



The St Michael Steiner School

# NEWSLETTER

10th July 2009

5 Merton Road London SW18 5ST

Tel: 020 8870 0500

Email: [info@stmichaelsteinerschool.co.uk](mailto:info@stmichaelsteinerschool.co.uk)

## Dates for Your Diary

### July

Fri 10th END OF TERM 12.30 for all

### August

2nd Week Summer Mailing will be sent

### September

Thur 3rd BACK TO SCHOOL 10 am

Fri 4th School as usual from 8.15am

## The Annual Steiner School Olympics

Class 4&5 had a fantastic time at the annual Steiner school olympics held at Michael Hall. We had beautiful weather which made the camping more pleasant. Thursday and Friday were training days and the children were very excited to find out which city they were going to be in. The five hours of training each day plus an hour of large group games were enjoyed but also brought tiredness and sore muscles. There were few complaints at bed time.... On Saturday, the olympic event was held. The opening ceremony took place and the races, wrestling, high and long jumps, discus and javelin throwing took place. It was amazing to see the determination upon children's faces as they ran as fast as they could or when facing another leap over the high jump bar. Each child was given a medal for something they did well. This could have been for the beauty of their running, the flight of their discus, or for supporting their city in the relay race or some other quality that was shown. Winning was not everything.



Many thanks for the support of the parents and especially to Pandora who kept a tidy camp and provided scrumptious meals, and to Tara, Katie, and Jukka for their help with looking after the children, supporting the kitchen arrangements, and keeping the loo tent standing, among many other small and larger tasks.

Brian

## Class 2&3's Camping Trip to Plaw Hatch Farm

Class 2&3 had four idyllic days amongst the cows, pigs, sheep, hens and dogs at Plaw Hatch Farm, and were woken every morning by four roosters who called to each other at dawn (3.45am!)

Everyone was too excited to go to sleep early on the first night and also woke up very early the next morning, so that night, several people were already asleep by the official bedtime. Everyone had a good night's sleep and, next morning, I watched the children come out of their tents, one by one, and run up to the milking shed without saying a word. This mood remained for the rest of our time there.



Farmer Tom pointed out to the children how the cows always come out of the field in a certain order - that the ones with strong personalities are always first and the quieter ones hang back. "Those two old ladies are always last," he remarked, and I looked at my own herd with four excited children running at the front, six walking steadily in the middle and two getting left behind, lost in their own thoughts. "If I brought the quiet ones to the front to have a turn at being first, it wouldn't be right somehow," he said, "That's where they feel comfortable."



Nora, who came to feed the chickens every day, remarked on how well-behaved the children were around the animals and said that everyone was impressed by them. It was amazing for me to watch them slow down and grow quiet and the last two days were so peaceful, the children were so busy and resourceful and interested in everything, I began to feel as if I was on a wonderful holiday with my big family.

We all wished we could have stayed longer and I have promised them a return visit in September.

Amanda Bell

## Summer Mailing

In the middle of August you will receive a mailing from the school containing:

- an updated Parents' Handbook
- a consent form for you to sign and return on the first day of term
- a contact list for the school community
- a calendar of Events for the year

Your invoice for the coming year, and a letter from your child(ren)'s teacher telling you what you will need for the new year, will be sent out separately at about the same time. We hope you have a wonderful summer and we'll see you in September.

### **TERM DATES 2009 - 2010**

#### **Michaelmas Term 2009**

INSET Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September  
 Term starts Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September  
 Half term week 26 – 30 October  
 INSET Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November  
 Term ends Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

#### **Winter term 2010**

INSET Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January  
 Term starts Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January  
 INSET Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February  
 Half term week 15 – 19 February  
 Term ends Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March

#### **Summer Term 2010**

INSET Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April  
 Term starts Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April  
 INSET Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May  
 Half term week 31 May – 4 June  
 Term ends Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July

### **Would you like to see the photos in 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](http://www.stmichaelsteiner.wandsworth.sch.uk)

### **Personal Details**

I am now updating the parents' contact list for September. If your address, phone number, mobile or email address has changed - or will change before September - please let me have the new information as soon as possible. Thank you

Graham

### **Newsletter Contributions**

The first newsletter of the 2009/2010 academic year will be distributed on Friday 11th September. Deadline for contributions is 6pm Wednesday 9th September.

Email them please, to: [amandabell@mac.com](mailto:amandabell@mac.com)

### **School CDs**

The long awaited "Songs for Autumn & Winter" and new "Songs for Spring & Summer" CDs are now available from Graham at reception. These are collections of songs from the Kindergarten and Lower school, sung by the teachers and parents of the school! All proceeds to the school. £8 each, £14 for 2, £6 each for orders of 10 or more.

### **Sponsored walk 2009**



It was a beautiful day in Richmond Park when the children, parents and teachers from our school gathered for their sponsored walk. The blue sky with puffy white clouds and grasslands with nestling deer provided a perfect setting. The walk was around the pen ponds, which is home to numerous families of ducks, geese and elegant swans and many varieties of birds. Most of the older children walked around with their friends as their parents could hardly keep up. Few parents were stationed as stewards who stamped their stamp books, and rewarded them with a cookie, some cherries or strawberries. After a few rounds most sat under a shady tree and had their picnic lunch. The

gentle breeze was refreshingly soothing as the day gradually became hotter. Upon completing the walk the children received a beautiful star medal made with felt to mark their achievement. Thank you to all the mums who got together on Sunday morning to make those delicious lunch boxes, to our wonderful stewards who took their role very seriously indeed, everyone who helped organise and our delightful participants who made it all possible and worthwhile. At the point of writing the total received stood at £2,250 with more forms to be collected.

The Fundraising group

# Community Page

Please note that the school does not endorse or recommend anything offered on the Community Page

## IN AID OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING FUND

**CHARLIE KENNEDY IS OFFERING A WORKSHOP FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN HEALING, HELPING OTHERS AND THEMSELVES on Sunday 26 July or Thursday 6 August 2009.**

**10am – 5pm. Bring food to share.**

Are you working as a Homeopath, Healer, with any of the many alternative therapies, or are you simply looking for spiritual help in your personal development? Join us in a day of understanding about how to work within the spiritual realms to bring about a good understanding of who we are and how we can become a truly grounded and good source of spiritual energy. This day will help anyone connect with spiritual impulses safely. You will be able to learn how to connect with your spiritual helpers and guardian angels. You will work to assist yourself in becoming a better therapist, or individual. **Cost is normally £50.00 but a donation to the Schools Building Fund please on the day.** Charlie is a Healer, Astrologer, Spiritual Teacher, Accountant and Management Consultant. For more information or to book call: 020 8671 4756. For more information about Charlie see [www.charliekennedy.co.uk](http://www.charliekennedy.co.uk)

## Threshold Theatre

In Spring 2008, a group of former and graduating Michael Hall Students got together to discuss the idea of putting on a play that summer. It would be a creative way to unite their social group before everyone left for university or travelling. Thus, over cappuccino and pizza, Threshold Theatre was founded, and the decision was made to perform Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. By the middle of June, the cast and production crew were set - formed of siblings and friends, three of whom were St Michael pupils in their earlier days - ranging in age from 14 to 20. Preliminary play readings and production meetings were soon underway, despite busy schedules, and a venue, the *Chapel* at The Old Convent in East Grinstead, was decided on, with the kind permission of all its residents.

The early part of the summer sped by, with licenses, costumes and lighting being organised and by the beginning of August, the whole cast was assembled, having returned from all their travels, to begin rehearsing. Soon a regular structure was formed: the mornings began with warm-ups, led by the youngest Threshold member, and music practice with the music director. The rest of the day would be spent rehearsing an act or two, while those at a loose end pulled together the production. The day was only ever interrupted by lunch; a sprawling picnic on the lawn outdoors.

First performance; everyone in costume, people beginning to take their seats, nerves so intense that it feels like no one backstage is breathing. Lights go down and there is no turning back. Before we know it, the audience is clapping wildly, Threshold unite, screaming, in the green rooms.

Friday has an air of buoyancy after last night's success, but it is bittersweet too. After tonight, it'll be all over. Each of us savour every moment; Tituba's desperation, the girls' petrified screaming, Parris's wild anxiety, Abigail's seductiveness, Giles Corey's dry wit, Elizabeth's sadness, Proctor's despairing disbelief, Rebecca's wisdom. Until at last we all stand, ready to bow. And there to our amazed eyes, the audience has risen to their feet. This is it.

With this memory still warming our hearts, we are thrilled to announce that Threshold Theatre is returning this Summer with Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* at the Freshfield Hall in Forest Row. On Behalf of Threshold Theatre, we hope to see you there.

Anna Durdant-Hollamby  
Producer of *The Crucible*  
Head of PR for *An Ideal Husband*

Stella Bell Ottewill  
Musical Director for Threshold Theatre