

The St Michael Steiner School NEWSLETTER



11th February 2010

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Dates for Your Diary

FEBRUARY

Thu 11th School ends for half term

Fri 12th Staff INSET

Mon 22nd Back to school 8.15am

Fri 26th Deadline for bursary applications for 2010/11

MARCH

Tue 2nd Class 3&4/5&6 parents' evenings 7 - 8.30pm

Sat 13th Association AGM 10.30 - 12 noon

Tue 16th Open day 3.30 - 5pm

Thur 25th End of term festival

Fri 26th Term ends 12.30pm

APRIL

Mon 19th STAFF INSET 10-4pm
No school

Tue 20th School starts 8.30am

Mon 26th Class 7&8 and Kindergartens' Parents' evenings 7 - 8.30pm

MAY

Mon 3rd Bank Holiday
No school

Mon 10th Class 1&2 Parents' evening 7 - 8.30pm

Tue 11th Open Day

Class 7&8 Trip to Switzerland

Das Skilager war sehr schön! Vielen dank für die wunderbare zeit. Wir haben sehr viel spass gehabt und werden uns für immer an die tollen Tage erinnern.

Our class has just finished a *Mountains and Meteorology* main lesson, looking at some of the causes of our climate and weather. While we were in Switzerland on our class trip, we stayed in a chalet in Kandersteg with a class from the Rudolf Steiner Kleine Klasse Schule from Berne.

The class had skiing lessons from Monday to Friday and by the end some were skiing down very steep slopes, quite independently! There was also lots of fun to be had with sledges and on the ice rink!

The classes managed to eventually become a single group and to share friendship and language and the slopes! Thank you to everyone who has made this experience possible.

Juanna



Earthchakra

You shook yourself
Readjusted your flow
It just so happens that
In your movement
You shattered the lives
Of millions
Destroyed an entire
Nation
Earthchakra
You crushed my life
Deep in silence
I now turn myself
To my human family
I pledge
I will yell it
Onto eternity:
"My Brothers
My Sisters
May we shed light
Onto those millions souls
Linked energetically
By this event
May we be light
In our daily lives
To relieve and aid
The disturbed souls
Who have left their
Bodies
Under unimaginable
Traumatic circumstances
Excruciating
Physical

Emotional
Pain
May we shine light
To make sense
Of this earthquake
May we evolve to
Embrace the divinity
Of all acts
Including this one
May we hold light
To see our own shadows
So we can free ourselves
May we treat Mother Earth
With respect and love
She too is suffering
I swear I will always shine hope
No matter what
May we align our chakras
To earth chakras
So that we can live
In harmony
And sustainability"

Suzanne

*(To Micha, who died after 24 hours,
buried alive, conscious, completely
crushed under the Haitian Ministry of
Justice, Port-au-Prince.*

*To Marc and Bruno, Dulcie's cousins who
dug their dad out with their bare hands,
carried his body and buried him with
love.*

*They are 18 and 21 years old and did this
miracle with their teenage friends)*

From The Early Years

We had a very positive response to our recent Parents Evening when we read together a section from our own study, "You're not the boss of me!", looking at children and the six-year old change. Some parents were relieved and recognised the behaviour of their own children, and others were glad to simply be able to study together. We continue to work from the book, and would like to share the following section with you which explores some of the ways in which we work with your children at this school.

Emotional and Social Changes

Probably the most individual differences are seen in the emotional and social changes that children undergo at this age. Some children respond with more bravado, and some inwardly ferment their six-year old brew.

One of the most common responses I have witnessed is the need of the children to be the boss. Parents, teachers and their peers are no longer safe from being corrected at every mistake. This, coupled with the arrival of a sense of time (before, after and so on), can show itself at circle time when the child speeds up the verse to be finished before the others. Going along with what everybody else is doing is no longer an unconscious priority. Some children love to play at being different.

With their friends they have long conversations about who is the boss ... and often their playmates and those who stand as authorities in their life will hear 'You're not the boss of me!' A matter-of-fact response is needed then, 'teacher knows the rules of the land', or, 'it is my job to be your helper'. Children benefit immensely by being met directly at this time and a neutral, informing tone of voice can reassure them that the boundaries are still in place even though their whole being is in upheaval. What a relief this is for them.

Another aspect of this time of transformation is that the children's consciousness changes ... This can be frustrating for the children, they may become watchers or listless in the play for a while until they can find their way with this new capacity.

This is not necessarily a bad thing. It can be a graceful transition time if the children do not become too anxious. However, if the teacher feels it has gone on long enough, then bringing the children to help with the teachers work can be enough of a jump start to propel the child back into play. From that perspective of helping the teacher and watching others play, the children can often see something interesting that they want to join. It is often the play of the younger children that encourages the older children to re-enter the play. Sometimes the older children like to help set up the creative activities and arrange props for dramas or puppet plays. They can also be valuable in helping the younger children tying shoes, holding hands on walks, threading needles, helping with handwork projects etc. It is also a thrill when the older children can get to the point in the course of the year when they can make the bread, prepare the soup and clean the kindergarten all by themselves.

Although each child is an individual, each kindergarten group different, and each school reflects the families and communities it serves, children's development is archetypal in the sense of the different stages of play they go through in the early years. Knowing child development and what is soul food for that child at that stage enables us to creatively accompany the child through their kindergarten years. Archetypal play can be affected by trauma, exposure to media or over-intellectualising: 'too much too soon'. Waldorf education in the kindergarten years, however, has a strong curative element.

We will be going to an Early Years Steiner Waldorf National Conference on Saturday to meet with colleagues from around the country. On these occasions, the work we are doing on a national and international level reinforces how Waldorf education has grown out of a true understanding of the human being and the developmental stages of childhood from birth to twenty-one.

The first hand-out, given out at the Parents Evening, is available from Rebecca on request. Other handouts from the book are available on request, as follows:

The importance of warmth
The importance of breakfast
The importance of sleep
The meaning of illness
Fever
Earache
Parenting a young child: what my formal education never taught me
Confronting our shadow
Product versus Process

"You're Not the Boss of Me!: Understanding the six-seven year old transformation". Edited by Ruth Kerr, published by Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America, 2007.

The children have been listening to the story of the Snow Maiden, a Russian fairy tale, and the older children helped with the simple puppet show. Some of the children are remembering the song:

When the snow falls soft and lightly
Down to earth, I fall so brightly,
Shining like the stars on high
Daughter of the snow am I.

See me dancing, fast and faster,
Wind shall be my dancing master,
Up and down and round I go,
Little daughter of the snow.

(Words: L. Bittrich)

We would like to welcome Zadie and her family to our kindergarten.

We hope you all have a very happy half term.

Katie Sharrock and Leigha Hipkin
For the Early Years team

Please note the following changes to the phone list:

Jahmai Wright Anderson's home number is actually 020 8673 6991 and not what I stated in the last newsletter.

Karen Ogo has moved and her new address is:
43 Burghley House
Somerset Road
SW19 5JB
and phone number: 020 8944 5301

We would also like to welcome to Katie's Kindergarten:

Zadie Mabrouk
110 Standen Road
Southfields
SW18 5TS

Her mother is Helen Mabrouk 0798 462 2862 and her father is Ali Mabrouk 0796 249 1962

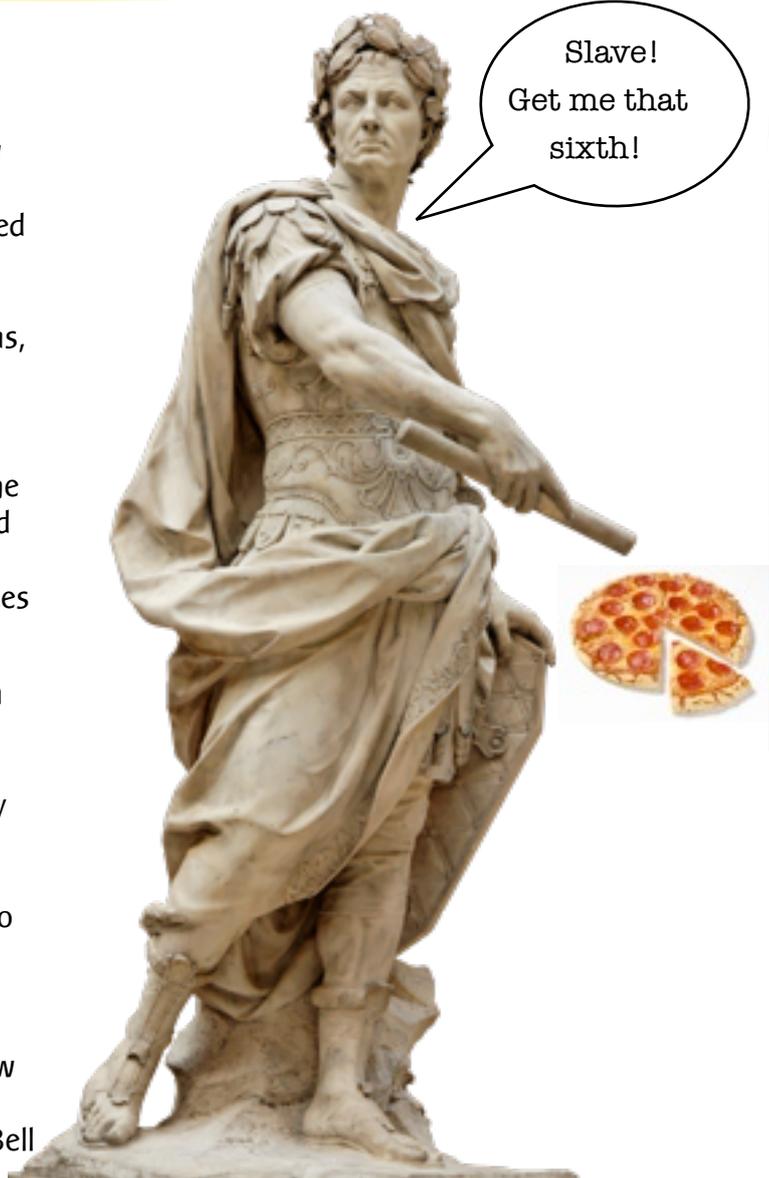
What's Happening in the Classrooms?

Class 5 & 6 have been learning about the civilisation of ancient Rome. We began by following Aeneas as he escaped from the burning city of Troy and sailed to what we now call Italy where Romulus, one of his descendents, founded Rome. He was succeeded by the six other kings of Rome before the Republic began. This week, Julius Caesar, a well-known name, has finally appeared but alas, the Ides of March approaches.... The class has also been learning some Latin phrases, reviewing Roman numbers, and hearing about the different forms of government, the laws, the way people lived, the structure of the army, and the desire for power by some individuals

Brian Jacques

Class 3&4 's introduction to Fractions this term was sweetened with cake and pizza by Mrs Alexander, who took the first two weeks of the block - not that the class needed bribing. They did, though, need something to cut up and share. Once they got the idea, they started to add and subtract them and were very happy to discover that multiplying them is easy and dividing is equally simple - and involves a mysterious trick. We have also been experimenting with painting and drawing snow scenes and 'cold' landscapes.

Amanda Bell



FROM THE SUPPORT TEAMS

In every newsletter we would like to highlight the work of one of the Support Teams, so everybody can get the most up-to-date information about what is going on, what to do, and where to help. So please, do not hesitate to ask and show your interest.

If you have any questions for any team which you think the whole school community would be interested in reading about in the monthly newsletters, please contact Agnes Donazy-Bloomfield at donazyagi@cintra.fsbusiness.co.uk or at the school gates of by phone.

Planning Meeting of the Support Teams

The main role of the Management Team is to support, facilitate, and co-ordinate the work of the Support Teams. This also means that we can help the Support Teams to put their annual plans together and co-ordinate the teams.

On the 23rd of February, the week after half term, the Management Team has invited all the Support Teams for an annual, long term planning meeting prior to the Annual General Meeting of the school Association which will be held at the school on the 13th of March.

We are very excited about this meeting and looking forward very much to sharing and bringing ideas together. If you would like to contribute to this meeting, please contact the leader of the relevant Support Team.

Finance Team - Stephen Torr (stephentorr@hotmail.com)
Fundraising Team - Magda Devaris (mdevaris@yahoo.co.uk)
Social and Outreach Team - Leila Steeds (leila@skyax.net)
Premises Team - Stephen Mcbean (stephen.macbean@gmail.com)
Publicity and Communication - Jasmin Forster (forjasmin@gmail.com)

Agnes Donazy-Bloomfield

School Term Dates 2010 - 2011

Michaelmas Term 2010

Monday 6th September

Staff INSET (no school)

Tuesday 7th September - Friday 17th December

Half term: 25th - 29th October (INSET Friday 22nd October - no school)

Spring Term 2011

Monday 10th January

Staff INSET (no school)

Tuesday 11th January - Friday 8th April

Half term 21st - 25th February (INSET Friday 18th February - no school)

Summer Term 2011

Monday 25th April

Easter Monday (no school)

Tuesday 26th April - 8th July

Half Term 30 May - 3 June (INSET Friday 27th May - no school)

Bursary Applications for 2010 / 2011

The deadline for bursary applications has been extended to Friday 26th February.

Applications will be considered by the bursary group and applicants will be informed of their decision by the end of March.

We hope that making these decisions earlier in the year will help parents to plan ahead more effectively.

Bursary Application forms are available from Lara at reception.

Active Kids Vouchers

We have decided to give it another go with the Sainsbury's "Active Kids" vouchers this year.

So if you're shopping at Sainsbury's, please remember to get your vouchers and bring them into school as we might be able to get some great goodies from them.

If you're not a Sainsbury's shopper, but a M&S food fan instead, remember to use www.thegivingmachine.co.uk when you shop online, as the donations will come to the school at no extra cost to you at all.
Happy shopping!

Lara

Walking in Beauty

Here's a reminder about the brilliant book that many of you might have seen on my desk called: 'Walking in Beauty'.

This book is filled with the beautiful pictures taken by Chrys Campos throughout the year. If you have not yet seen it, please come upstairs to have a look.

We are currently selling the book at £45 for 1 hard cover or £80 for 2. There is also the option of having the book in a soft cover for £35 for 1 or £60 for 2.

Thanks, Lara

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 12th March.

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 10th March

Email them please, to: amandabell@mac.com

Community item

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

Tania, Liliflor's mother, is looking for a therapist to substitute her for 5 Sundays (March-April) from 2-5pm at Neal's Yard (Wimbledon Village).

People that are interested should have a minimum of 2 years of experience, diploma(s) and insurance.

The clinic is very busy on Sundays and the staff are lovely to work with. If you would like to find out more please contact Tania by email at: gadotigallindo@yahoo.co.uk