



The St Michael Steiner School

NEWSLETTER

13th May 2011

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Dates for Your Diary

MAY

Sat 14 Parents' workday

Mon 16 - Fri 20 Class 6&7 sailing trip.

Thur 19 Class 2&3 Parents' meeting 7 - 8.30pm

Sat 21 'A Morning in the Classroom': a workshop for parents 9.30 - 12.30

Thur 26 Upper School meeting for parents of classes 4,5,6&7. 7 - 8.30

Fri 27 School ends for half term

JUNE

Mon 6 Back to school

Wed 8 Class 4&5 and 6&7 parents' meetings 7 - 8.30pm

Fri 10 Whitsun festival

Sat 18 Open Day 10 - 12.30

Fri 24 St John's Day

JULY

Sat 2 Olympics at Michael Hall 7.30am - 12 noon

Thur 7 End of term festival

Fri 8 Term ends for all classes 12.30.

Is Steiner Waldorf Education for the 21st Century?

From an interview with Eugene Schwartz

"In the year 2019 Waldorf education will be a century old, so the question comes up, is it old hat? is it old fashioned? can it speak to today's needs? From my point of view, I would say that the 20th century was a dress rehearsal for Waldorf education - that it wasn't really yet Waldorf education, it was just getting underway - that Waldorf education is really poised to take off in this century with the 'Millennial' children, those born in the 21st century. We need only think of all that transpired in this terrible first decade of the 21st century - the wars, the catastrophes both natural and human-created, the fears, the anxieties; the ever-diminishing sense of trust we have in each other and in ourselves; the breaking down of everything that we hold dear institutionally and everything that's meaningful in our web of relationships, and we can ask, how can we prepare our children for this kind of world?"

This is exactly what Waldorf schools are set to teach children; how to relate to the world, to each other and, perhaps most importantly, how to trust themselves. It's not so much that we're teaching them how to be successful in the world of computer programming or we're going to make them top-flight business people or whatever, although we hope that path is open for many, but above all, we're teaching them to be poised to meet whatever comes their way in this very uncertain world. And I would say an education that does that is just going to be more and more necessary with every passing year. And there are, increasingly, studies appearing of successful businesses, of government initiatives, where the key qualities that have led to their success were adaptability, the ability to make decisions in a blink - and how often there are individuals involved whose training is such that they are prepared for a variety of things, rather than expert only in one. This really is what underlies the Waldorf approach. So it's definitely education for the 21st century."

From The Early Years

New Kindergarten Premises opening September 2011

We are very pleased to announce that in September 2011, two exciting events are happening in the early years:

First, we have found new premises for our two current kindergartens at the Open Door Community Centre on Beaumont Road (Southfields), just under a mile from school. This Centre, owned by Wandsworth Council, has previously been used as a nursery and provides two spacious ground floor rooms, toilets and with direct access from both rooms to a spacious outside play area and garden with digging/ planting areas. Although we will have to pack up weekly as the centre is used by a local church group on Sundays and Tuesday evenings, our children will have the great benefit of a garden as well as a further grassy playground at the rear of the centre. We were pleased to be able to show Winnie Mossman, our Early Years advisor from the Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship, around the centre last term, and our Early Years Advisor from Wandsworth Council is delighted with the space. Lastly, Ofsted have given their approval! We plan to offer afternoon care and Parent & Child groups from the Community Centre.

Secondly, we are opening a new third Nursery/ Kindergarten with Rebecca as the teacher in the room currently used by Katie's group. We already have a number of new children applying for this group, which initially will be comprised of mainly younger children. In the longer term, we do wish for all our Early Years work to be based in one venue. In the meantime, we will ensure our kindergarten timings are flexible for our current families, and our hours compatible with the Lower School for ease of dropping off and collection of children from both sites. There is unrestricted parking around the Centre, and it is on bus routes 39 and 493, and close to the 170 bus stop at the top of West Hill.

This expansion, importantly, will strengthen the whole school. The growth of the early years is fundamental to enabling the Lower School and ultimately the Upper School to flourish. We look forward to offering kindergarten parents a site visit to the Open Door Community Centre in the

very near future. As we don't start there until September, all visits will be organised by appointment with us.

Other Early Childhood News

Our Forest Fridays now take the form of a hike with stops, rather than a camp. The children enjoyed opening their packed lunches deep in the forest last Friday, and all managed to negotiate the hills and valleys, mud and meadows with great gusto! Rebecca gave a last telling of our Easter Hare story whilst sitting on the grass under the greenwood tree, and the (mostly) tired children sat quietly, enjoying the warmth of the sun filtering through the leaves.

Goodbye to Juanna

This will be Juanna's last week with us before taking her maternity leave. It has been wonderful to have such an experienced class teacher with us, giving her insights into child development. The children have grown to love her, we will all miss her, and we send Juanna all our love and best wishes for her future.

Parent and Child Groups

This term, we will continue to offer a Parent and Child group drop-in on Tuesday afternoons from 2pm to 3.30pm, led by Leigha and Katie. We will be offering two Forest Parent and Child groups on Friday 13th May and Friday 17th June, from 1.30pm to 3pm, meeting near the benches on the grassy area to the right of the Windmill car park on Wimbledon Common. Please book in advance for all of the above sessions by telephoning the school. The sessions are £5 and concessions are available.

Friday 20th May, 1.30pm to 3pm: Gentle Beginnings – a workshop for parents with babies led by Early Years specialist Dot Male. A free crèche for toddlers and kindergarten children will be available. The workshop fee is £10 and concessions are available. It is essential to book in advance for the workshop and crèche with Andrea at Reception.

The Early Years Team

School Lunch Next Week

While Stella is away sailing with Class 6&7 next week, Class 4&5 will be offering lunch for classes 1, 2&3 on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th May. As usual, ingredients will be organic as far as possible and the cost will be £4 per meal (a main course and a dessert).

The class has devised the menu and the budgeting, book keeping, calculation of quantities, weighing and measuring will form the content of their maths Main Lesson next week. The cooking, serving and washing up will continue a longer term project that we might call 'Becoming independent and learning how to live in the world as a civilised human being.'

Proceeds will go towards the cost of their trip to the Olympics at Michael Hall at the end of June.

Tuesday's menu: Sausages and mashed potato with peas. Strawberries and cream.

Wednesday's menu: Vegetable soup with dough balls and garlic butter. Pancakes with lemon and sugar.

Orders *must* be received by Class 4&5 (not Andrea) and paid for, by Monday morning so that we can buy the food.

Please email your orders to Amanda or send a note with the money via your child, in a sealed envelope with your child's name written on it.

Thank you for your support.

ATTENTION ALL KNITTERS!

We are looking for knitters to help us create beautiful and simple (you only need to be able to knit a square) animals for us to sell at the Barnes fair on 9th July.

If you know ANYONE, mothers, friends, relatives etc who enjoy knitting please contact Sarah Michael for a pack- wool, stuffing and patterns included!

If you would like to learn to knit please come to our craft group on Thursdays from 9am to 11.30am:

19th May, 26th May, 9th June, 16th June, 23rd June, 30th June

If you cannot make the craft group please contact Sarah Michael and she can arrange a time to help you.

Class children are also welcome to participate as we know what beautiful crafts people you are.

We are using beautiful organic naturally dyed wools. If you are happy to sew up rather than knit that would also be very welcomed.

We have stalls at the Salvation Army fair at our school on the 1st June and also at the Barnes fair on 9th July. Any volunteers to help on the stalls are most welcome. Please contact Sarah Michael if you are available.

We are also looking for material to make bunting and beanbags so if anyone has any material off cuts or scraps they would be gratefully received.

Looking forward to hearing from all our crafters so we can make these events a success.

The Social and Outreach Group.

Eurythmy Performance of Rudolf Steiner's Cosmic Verse from 1915

As some of you may be aware, 2011 is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Rudolf Steiner, founder of Steiner/Waldorf education. To celebrate this fact and the forthcoming centenary of eurythmy in 2012, the Eurythmy Association of Great Britain and Ireland are staging a number of Rudolf Steiner's own verses. These were written in 1915 and show in artistic form a depiction of the forces active in our solar system that underly our existence. The majority of these have not previously been performed in English and a company of 19 eurythmists, 4 speakers, musician and stage crew have come together to produce these for the first time in their entirety. We have commissioned new or revised translations of these verses: Planet Dance, Twelve Moods and its accompanying Satire: A Song of Initiation and commissioned new music by Andrew Dyer and Dan Maslen (both Steiner/Waldorf teachers) to accompany them.

We will be performing these verses at Rudolf Steiner House, 35 Park Road NW1 6XT on Friday 3rd June at 8pm (tickets will be available on the door – suggested donation £20/£15 concessions). The Company includes a number of eurythmists and speakers active around London and Kings Langley (Chas & Elisabeth Bamford, Pat Hague, Michele Hunter, Roxanne & Tom Leonard, Michael Mehta, Christa Parkinson & Zlata Zaludova). We hope many of you will be interested to come and support this venture and to see a large eurythmy performance with some of the original choreography created by Rudolf Steiner.

Michael Mehta 020 7638 3202

michael.mehta@eurythmyassociation.org.uk

The Management Team meets approximately every two weeks to monitor and co-ordinate the School Support Teams. If Support Team members have items for our meetings, please put them in the box in reception or email them to Jin Yee Lim.

ACCOMMODATION 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 of notice, please let us know.

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 and she will forward them to you.

School Fees - please pay now!

Fee invoices may be paid either:

- 1 Annually in advance by September 10th or:
- 2 Termly by the first day of each term or:
- 3 By regular monthly Standing Order commencing in September with financial commitment to be met in full not later than the following 30th June.

Cheques should be made payable to:
The St Michael Steiner School Ltd.

Information for BACS payments:

Account name:
THE ST MICHAEL STEINER SCHOOL LTD.
Account number: 65098413
Bank: THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK
Sort code: 08-92-99

Please quote your family name as a reference so that we can identify your payment.

Newsletter Contributions

The next newsletter will be distributed on Friday 10th June. Deadline for contributions is 6pm Wednesday 8th 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. Email please.

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.

From:
Tamalone van den Eijnden
Mittlere Str, 13b
70597 Stuttgart
Germany
Email:
Tamalone@gmx.de

Hello dear reader,

I'm Tamalone and I would like to come to England to do aupair work because I really want to learn to speak English more fluently and I like children!

I was born the 24th of July, 1993 and I'm now in the 11th grade at the Rudolf Steiner school Uhlandshöhe. I have two younger brothers, the youngest is four years old and I do a lot of babysitting and at the age of 14 I spent two weeks in London sitting the children of friends of my parents. So I have had a lot of experience with children of different ages.

If I could come to England as an aupair, I could take care of your children in exchange for room and board. But if you have some other jobs for me, for example work in a restaurant or other jobs which make it possible to learn a language, that would be great, too.

I'm really motivated and ready to work hard, but it is important for me not to be alone too much because I want to hear and speak a lot of English. I have no problems with adopting my habits, on the contrary, it would be great to get to know new people and an English household..

I would like to do this aupair somewhere during my summervacations. It starts the 28th of July and ends the 10th of September.

I would be very glad and thankful to find an interested family

With kind regards,
Tamalone

French family seeking au pair girl

Waldorf school family from
Verrières (Paris suburb)
with 3 children 8, 5 and 18 months
old

looking for au pair girl for one year
starting from august 2011.

Please contact us at :
sophieshankland@gmail.com or
0033160192382