

The St Michael Steiner School NEWSLETTER

9th September 2011
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Dates for Your Diary

SEPTEMBER

Thu 15: 7 to 8.30pm Class 3&4 Parents Evening

Wed 21: 7 to 8.30pm Kindergarten Parents Evening

Thu 22: 7 to 8:30pm Upper School Meeting

Fri 23: W.O.W. (Waldorf One World) Week

Fri 23: 9:15 to 11:45am Simplicity Parenting Workshop: An Overview

Fri 23: 1:30 to 3:30pm A Gentle Beginning (Parent and Infant Support group)

Sat 24: 10am to 12.30pm Open Day

Mon 26: 7 to 8.30pm Class 5&6/7&8 Parents Evening

Thu 29: Michaelmas

OCTOBER

Thu 6: 6 to 7pm An introduction to Anthroposophy and child development for parents

Thu 6: 7 to 8:30pm Class 1 and Class 2 Parents Evening

Sat 8: NB The Association meeting is being rescheduled. New date TBA

Thu 13: 7 to 8.30pm Growing Down and Waking Up: A course for parents in child development: Part 1

Sun 16: 10:30am Sponsored Bike ride in Richmond Park

Thu 20: 12.30/3pm SCHOOL ENDS FOR HALF-TERM



The Knighthood of the Present Age

There is a knighthood of the present age whose members do not ride through the darkness of physical forests as of old, but through the forests of darkened minds.

They are armed with spiritual armor and an inner sun makes them radiant.

Out of them shines healing, healing that flows from a knowing of the Image of Man as a spiritual being.

They must create an inner order, inner justice, peace and conviction in the darkness of our time.

Karl Koenig

What's happening in the Classrooms?

Class 2 started with children being very excited and certainly ready to get back into a good routine. On the first day the children had a go at some independent writing for the first time in class. This means, they had no help and had to listen to the sounds of words they wanted to write. There were some fabulous spellings including: Sufhuk (for Suffolk), Kuasns (for cousins) and woz (for was). It was very exciting to see how much they were able to write without any help. Class 2 has so much potential for writing and reading and arithmetic.

Our current Main Lesson is Form Drawing and Cursive writing. As there is a lot of movement in this block, we are lucky to have extra space without any desks or chairs in the classroom. The children have plenty of space for manoeuvring around. We will first be looking at the printed lower case letters to make sure everyone can start reading books if they haven't started already. As soon as these have been introduced, we will begin by moving around the classroom getting ready for the cursive lower case letters.

The chilly weather has started to creep in and as we're in a North-ish facing room with single glazing windows and lots of gaps, it's already quite cool in the classroom. If there are any parents who have any wonderful ideas to stop the cold from seeping in or parents who would be available to put some kind of sealant around the edges of the windows that can be taken off if necessary, PLEASE get in touch.

Have a happy start to the Autumn.

Lara Koppers

Class 5&6 is beginning the year with European Geography. Their first task was to build a map of Europe on the classroom floor without reference to any maps - except the ones in their minds, of course. The next day, they made models, again from memory. It was surprising to discover how much they already know and, for the next three weeks, we will build on that, fill some gaps, answer some questions, ask some new ones, go deeper, higher, further ...

Amanda Bell

Several new faces have joined us this term:

Mademoiselle Leroux is teaching French to classes 1 – 8.

Mr Gombos is assisting in Class 5&6 since Mrs. Alexander has taken on the wonderful task of teaching Class 1.

Ms Karakonstanti is assisting in Class 1.

Mr Voss is teaching woodwork to classes 3 – 8.

We welcome all of them and hope they will be happy working in our school.

"By the time they reach us at the college and university level, Waldorf students are grounded broadly and deeply and have a remarkable enthusiasm for learning. Such students possess the eye of a discoverer and the compassionate heart of a reformer, which, when joined to a task, can change the planet." —Dr. Arthur Zajonc, Professor of Physics, Amherst College.



Class 3&4

have begun their first main lesson of the new academic year, house building, which explores the variety of ways in which we find and create shelters. We jumped straight in and built simple shelters on Wimbledon Common. We will be looking at why people build shelters according to their circumstances, such as weather, danger, climate and available resources.

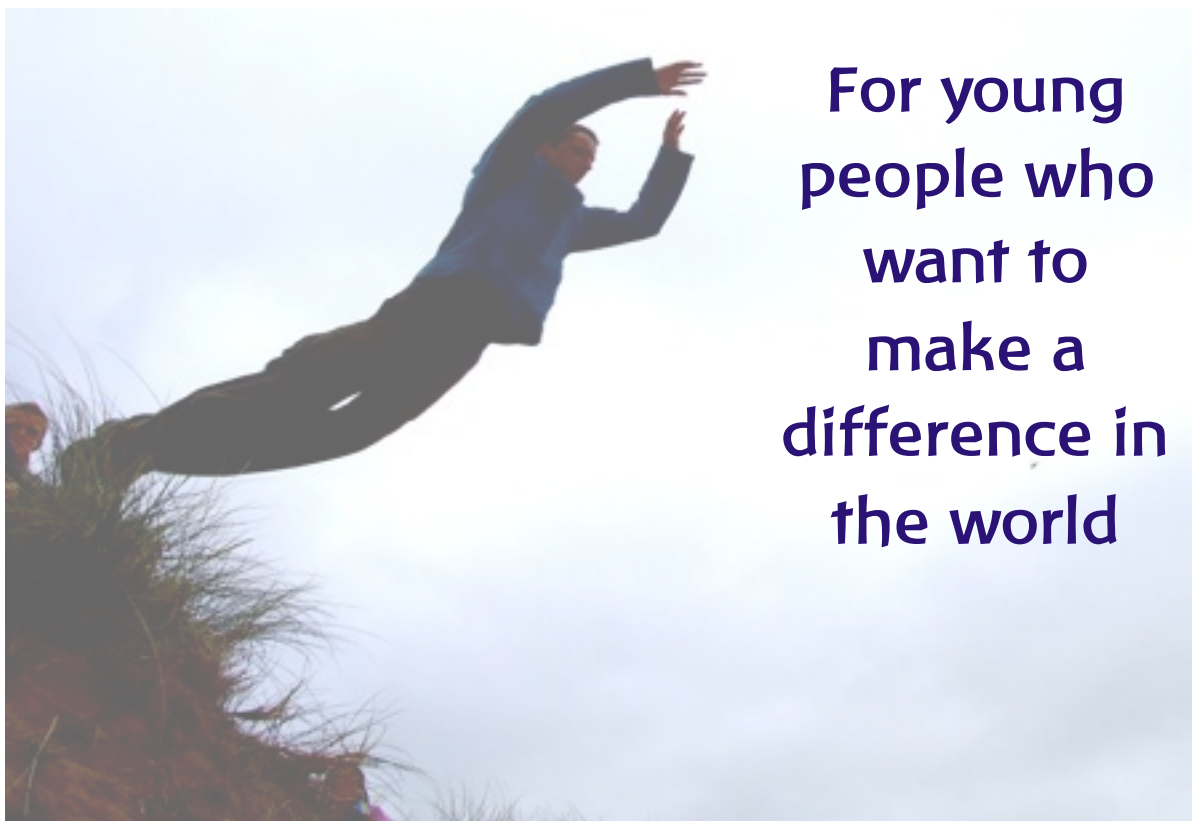
Edwin Ladaga

[p.s. Mr and Mrs Ladaga's beautiful baby girl, Esme, was born at home on 13th August. Mr Ladaga has photos.]



The St Michael High School

A Steiner Waldorf School



For young
people who
want to
make a
difference in
the world

At The St Michael Steiner School, we have been working since 2007 to prepare for the founding of a Steiner Waldorf Upper School in London. The world in which our children will have to play their part is not the one we know. We believe that the early specialisation, prescriptive, exam-led teaching and emphasis on memorising, rather than understanding, that characterise mainstream education in this country, will not develop in our young people the range of skills and personal qualities they will need to meet the challenges of adult life in the 21st century.

We are offering a programme that meets the developmental needs of our High School students without compromise, in the way that our Lower School does, since this is not available anywhere else in London. Generally, we will support our pupils to develop independence, resourcefulness, responsibility, initiative and an active interest in their own education and in the world. With these things in mind, the programme includes a broad range of subjects with a balance between experiential and intellectual learning, recognising the need for academic subjects, practical work, arts and a scientific approach to be integrated across the curriculum. A special emphasis on the resources that London has to offer, such as art, theatre, music, architecture, museums, libraries, sports facilities and easy transport to Europe and the rest of Britain, are characteristic of the school. Many of our lessons will be held off-site in order to take advantage of these resources as much as possible and to provide those elements that are not readily available in the city, such as facilities for crafts and larger work projects.

The curriculum in Class 9 will include:

English: *'Myth into Literature' and 'History of Drama'*.

Maths: *Algebra, Probability, Permutations and Combinations, Statistics, Euclidian Geometry and Trigonometry.*

Science: *Organic Chemistry, Human Biology, Physics (Acoustics, Electricity, Magnetism, Heat, Thermodynamics).*

History: *19th and 20th centuries and History of Art.*

Geography: *Earth Science, Plate Tectonics, Ecology.*

Drawing, Painting, Metalwork, Clay modelling, Woodwork, Basketry, Bookbinding, Orienteering, Mapmaking, Music, Choir, Eurythmy, German, French, Current Affairs, and P.E.

The next High School development meeting is at 7pm on Thursday 22nd September. All welcome.

From The Early Years

Welcome to our Michaelmas Term

*Wind in the wood, blow, blow,
All the leaves are rustling.
Sing a song of autumn leaves
As the trees bend high and low.
Wind in the wood, blow, blow
All the leaves are rustling.*

*Michael, angel bright,
Flaming sword is guiding,
Sing a song of twinkling stars
As they sparkle in the night.
Michael, angel bright,
Flaming sword is guiding.*

We wish to thank everyone who has supported us during our move and setting up our new premises. Thank you also for the financial donations. We have purchased two sandpits and a big climbing frame.

We have had a wonderful, busy first day. As we write, we have had our Golden Key handover to Rebecca. We then celebrated our Rainbow Bridge festival in Rebecca's new kindergarten, sending off the Class 1 children and their parents.

Our current kindergarten children spent the morning picnicking and playing in King George's Park. In the afternoon, the families about to join Rebecca's kindergarten had a welcoming gathering, whilst we set up the St Michael Steiner School Centre for Early Childhood. It looks lovely and we look forward to opening our doors tomorrow. Everything is ready and now all we need are our children.

We welcome our new children and their families as well as new staff members: Claudia Zeb, who is assisting Rebecca and Maria da Costa, our volunteer for the year.

We look forward to meeting you all at our first Parents Evening on Wednesday 21st September, on the main school site from 7-8.30pm. Please note the change of date.

Leigha Hipkin

Parent and Child groups

We have two very experienced guest early years practitioners complementing our team this year.

Erica Grantham will run a weekly Friday morning Parent & Child group at the St Michael Steiner School site and Dot Male will run a monthly Parent & Baby group and facilitate Simplicity Parenting, a course for parents with children of all ages on Fridays at the Open Door Community Centre. The first date with Dot Male will be on Friday, 23rd September. We will confirm Erica's first session shortly.

Katie and Leigha will lead a weekly Parent & Child 'drop-in' group at the Open Door centre on Tuesday afternoons. This group will begin on Tuesday 20th September from 2-3.30pm.

Katie Sharrock



Waldorf One World Day

Our School will be participating in Waldorf One World Project during the week September 23rd-29th 2011.

Each Class will be organising its own fundraising event/activity. This from Jane Avison at the Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship:

WOW DAY 2011

This yera we are celebrating 150 years since Rudolf Steiner's birth.

In recognition of this, *Die Freunde der Erziehungskunst*, in close cooperation with the ECSWE (European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education), who together started the WOW Day initiative, are proposing that all European schools take part in a global fundraising event to provide help to projects and children in need in less advantaged countries. We feel that this is a good opportunity for SWSF member schools to work collectively towards a goal of this sort.

The German school movement, having raised over 250000 euros in 2010, has committed to a full-scale fundraising drive on Michaelmas Day, 29th September. However, schools in the UK and Ireland may wish to hold events or activities at any time in the autumn term that best suits your school and locality.

We feel sure you will want to take part and suggest that a representative from each school undertakes to co-ordinate an event to make this occasion. I have offered to be the representative on ECSWE for SWSF members and would ask for a named representative from your school, so that I can help and ensure that the WOW Day organisers are informed. I am asking each school wishing to take part to confirm the day that their fundraising will be held and what activity is planned. I will provide information as to how to pay funds raised at the end of the event.

A useful link for WOW Day information is www.wowday.eu

This is an opportunity for all Steiner schools in Europe to demonstrate their solidarity and the positive contribution they can make to the world. We hope you will agree that concentrating on WOW Day during this year could be a valuable experience for your children as well as a force for good in providing much needed help to people living in far poorer circumstances than those we are used to in the privileged West. WOW events each year have made a great deal of difference to improve what the selected projects throughout the world are able to achieve.

JANE AVISON - SWSF

Study Group

If you would be interested in joining a study group to learn more about Anthroposophy, please let Andrea or your class teacher know

Newsletter Contributions

The next newsletter will be distributed on

Friday 14th October. Deadline for contributions is 6pm Wednesday 12th 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.

Email please, to: 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.

Our new woodwork teacher, Mr Kilian Voss who lives in Herefordshire, is looking for a place to stay on Tuesday evenings so he is here for his lessons on Wednesdays. Does anyone have a spare room or a sofa where he can unroll his sleeping bag? Please contact Kilian on 01989 565965.

A Steiner school pupil from Germany has decided to cycle from his home town to London for his Class 8 project. He and his dad are looking for accomodation from October 12-16. A room with a family of a garden to set up a tent would be welcome. Please contact Brian Jacques on 07759917112 for contact details

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