



The St Michael Steiner School

# NEWSLETTER

13th March 2009

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## Dates for Your Diary

### March

Sat 14th Association Meeting

Mon 16th Open Day 3.30 - 5pm

Fri 27th Term ends 12.30 for all classes

### April

Fri 10th Good Friday

Sun 12th Easter Sunday

Mon 20th Staff INSET

Tues 21st Term starts 8.15am

### May

Mon 4th Bank Holiday - no school

Mon 11th Open Day 3.30 - 5pm

Mon 11th Class 1/6&7 parents evening

Sat 16th Parents' Workday

Mon 18th Class 2&3 parents evening

Thur 21st School ends for half term

Fri 22nd Staff INSET

## End of Term Festival of Work

We would like to invite parents to our end of term festival on Friday 27th March where the Lower school children will show some of the work they have been doing in Main Lessons, Language, Music and Eurythmy lessons.

Presentations will take place in each class' own room, beginning with Class 1 at 11am, followed by Class 2&3 and Class 4&5. Class 6&7 will not be presenting work as they will have shown their play the previous evening (see below)

We estimate that each presentation will last between 15 and 30 minutes, but we can't be more precise about timings, so please make sure you arrive in good time as late arrivals will not be allowed in.

Please note that only parents of children in Class 1 are invited to their presentation. Presentations in other classes are open to all but please give priority to those with children in the presenting class.

Please do not take photographs or record the children's work in any way during the presentations.

The Kindergartens will have their own celebration and details will follow shortly.

We expect the festival of work to finish about 12.15 after which the children will be asked to return to their classrooms to close the term with their teachers and classmates.

Refreshments will be served after the festival and you are free to take your children home from 12.30. The school will close at 1pm.

We very much look forward to seeing you all.

The Teachers

## **TERM DATES 2009 - 2010**

### **Míchaelmas Term 2009**

*INSET Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September*

Term starts Thursday 3rd September

Half term week 26 – 30 October

*INSET Monday 2nd November*

Term ends Friday 18th December

### **Winter term 2010**

*INSET Monday 11th January*

Term starts Tuesday 12th January

*INSET Friday 12th February*

Half term week 15 – 19 February

Term ends Friday 26th March

### **Summer Term 2010**

*INSET Monday 19th April*

Term starts Tuesday 20th April

*INSET Friday 28th May*

Half term week 31 May – 4 June

Term ends Friday 9th July

## **Orchestra**

The orchestra has begun! We are delighted to let you know that our small orchestra of mixed abilities, parents and children began on Wednesday, the 11th of March.

We meet at 3pm and finish at 4.

We would also welcome other instrumentalists to join us.

The cost is £3.50 per session.

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## **Cello Please**

The school would be very grateful for the use of a cello in school. We have a cello player, but unfortunately, no cello! Any ideas welcome!

## **BURSARIES**

As you know, the school is supported financially by contributions from parents in the form of school fees, donations and fundraising. Our fees are low compared with other private schools so that children are not excluded for financial reasons. Even so, there are some who are not able to afford the full fees and so we offer a certain number of bursaries every year. The support we can offer is limited and so, every year, we ask for donations to the bursary fund to enable us to help more people.

## **SPONSOR A CHILD**

In addition, sometimes families fall on especially hard times and find they are no longer in a position to pay at all. Often these are families that have been with the school for some time and we would like to make it possible for them to stay. For the children who are in this position, we look for someone who is able to sponsor them for a period of time, usually between a term and a year.

If you can help with either of these things, please contact The Bursary Group via the school.



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:The School Association will meet this Saturday, 14th March from:  
:10.30 to 12.30. Come along and meet the Trustees, hear updates:  
:from the College and school support teams and discuss how we :  
:can continue to develop our school.  
:.....

## What's Happening in the classrooms?

**The Kindergartens:** As you will know, Leigha fell on the stairs on Monday afternoon and has broken a bone in her forearm. It's too soon to say when she will be fit to return to school, but in the meantime, Alejandra is holding the Early Years very ably with her assistants, Semana, Joy, Stella, Gos'ka and Hannah. The College is supporting them in making the best possible decisions for the children, including how best to deploy staff and allocate space. This means that arrangements will vary from the usual and from day to day and this could be a little unsettling for some of the children. We ask you to please be as flexible and patient as possible while we manage this difficult time. It is very likely that the morning Parent and Child groups will be affected, so please check with Graham to find out whether or not they are running. We apologise for the disruption and will get things back to normal as soon as possible.

**Class 1:** Edwin has been off school with Chicken Pox for the last two weeks. Lara Kuppers has been teaching his class during that time. Lara is a fairly familiar face as she has been working with Class 6&7 every Wednesday since October. Lara is from South Africa and has worked in mainstream schools. She is now a student on the Steiner Waldorf teacher training course at Emerson College. Lara has been working with Class 1 on their writing. The children are happy and well held and we are very grateful to Lara for stepping in. We hope Edwin will be back next week.

**Class 2&3:** In Class 2&3, the second half of this term is devoted to the first of several blocks on ancient mythologies about Creation from different parts of the world. This first block consists of stories from the Old Testament, Torah and Koran. These stories are an account of the early history of the 'People of the Book'. They are the earliest complete document we have that is intended as history (although this has been a topic of dispute amongst parents) and so is a very good place to start.

**Class 4&5:** Class 4/5 have been learning about the culture of ancient Egypt beginning with the myth of Isis and Osiris and have begun working on a play based on the central part of this story. In addition, the class has begun training for the Class 5 Olympics held at Michael Hall in Sussex at the end of June. They will practice the five classic Greek events of running, jumping, wrestling, javelin, and discus during the weekly training sessions and are very enthusiastically joining in.

**Class 6&7:** The year is 1137. The place is Aquitaine, a wealthy, pleasure loving, province, in what is now known as France. Eleanor, daughter of the duke of Aquitane, is brought up as an unusually well educated and determined girl. At fifteen years of age, she marries King Louis, a depressing and religious man, who shows no outer feelings for her. Thirteen years later, Eleanor meets a young nobleman, named Henry Plantagenet. They fall in love.

Eleanor persuades the church to annul her marriage. She does not hesitate to marry Henry, ten years her junior. They have many children, the most famous of which was Richard, The Lionheart.

To hear more, we invite you to join us at Steiner House on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March at 7pm to see **Eleanor, The Queen**, a play by Eugene Schwartz, performed by class 6&7. Doors open at 6.30. Tickets £3 for adults, £2 for children.

*Unsuitable for children under five. The play will last approximately one hour and fifteen minutes.*

## From the Parents' Handbook

### *This month: Attendance and Punctuality*

Steiner Waldorf Education depends on continuity. All children should come to school every day unless they are ill. **THE SCHOOL OFFERS 35 WEEKS OF EDUCATION AND THIS IS THE MINIMUM ALLOWED BY LAW, SO THERE IS NO LEEWAY FOR HOLIDAYS TO BE TAKEN DURING TERM TIME.**

*We are legally required to inform the Education Welfare Dept. when any child has ten unauthorised absences in one school year and we may do this without warning.*

Please ensure that your child arrives on time in the morning so that he/she is able to take part in the welcoming and the morning verse and generally to begin the day well. It is very disruptive for the class when a child arrives late and unsettling for the child him/herself, especially if it happens repeatedly, and can have a seriously detrimental effect on his/her education.

If lateness is persistent, the teacher may ask that the child be kept at home until the problem is resolved. On occasions when it is unavoidable and you know that your child will be late, please phone the school as soon as possible. Latecomers will have to ring the bell at our door and then bring their child(ren) upstairs.

## Newsletter Contributions

The next newsletter will be distributed on Friday 8th May. The deadline for contributions is Wednesday 6th May. Email them please, to: [amandabell@mac.com](mailto:amandabell@mac.com) or put them in the 'Newsletter' box at reception.