



The St Michael Steiner School

Hanworth Park, Park Road, London TW13 6PN

NEWSLETTER

17th March, 2017

Park Road, Hanworth Park, London TW13 6PN

Email: info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

Website: www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

Dates for Your Diary

MARCH

Saturday 18th: Open Saturday (11am-2pm)

Saturday 18th: AGM (3-4.30pm)

Friday 31st: Eurythmy Festival at Steiner House

Friday 31st: End of Term

APRIL

Monday 24th: INSET DAY (no school)

Tuesday 25th: First Day of Term (8.30am)

MAY

Monday 1st: May Day Bank Holiday (no school)

Saturday 6th: Open Saturday (11am-2pm)

Wednesday 10th: KG Parents' Evening (7pm)

Monday 15th: Cl.5 Parents' Evening (7pm)

Thursday 18th: Open Day (11am-1pm)

Monday 22nd: Cl.4 Parents' Evening (7pm)

Thursday 25th: School Ends for Half-Term

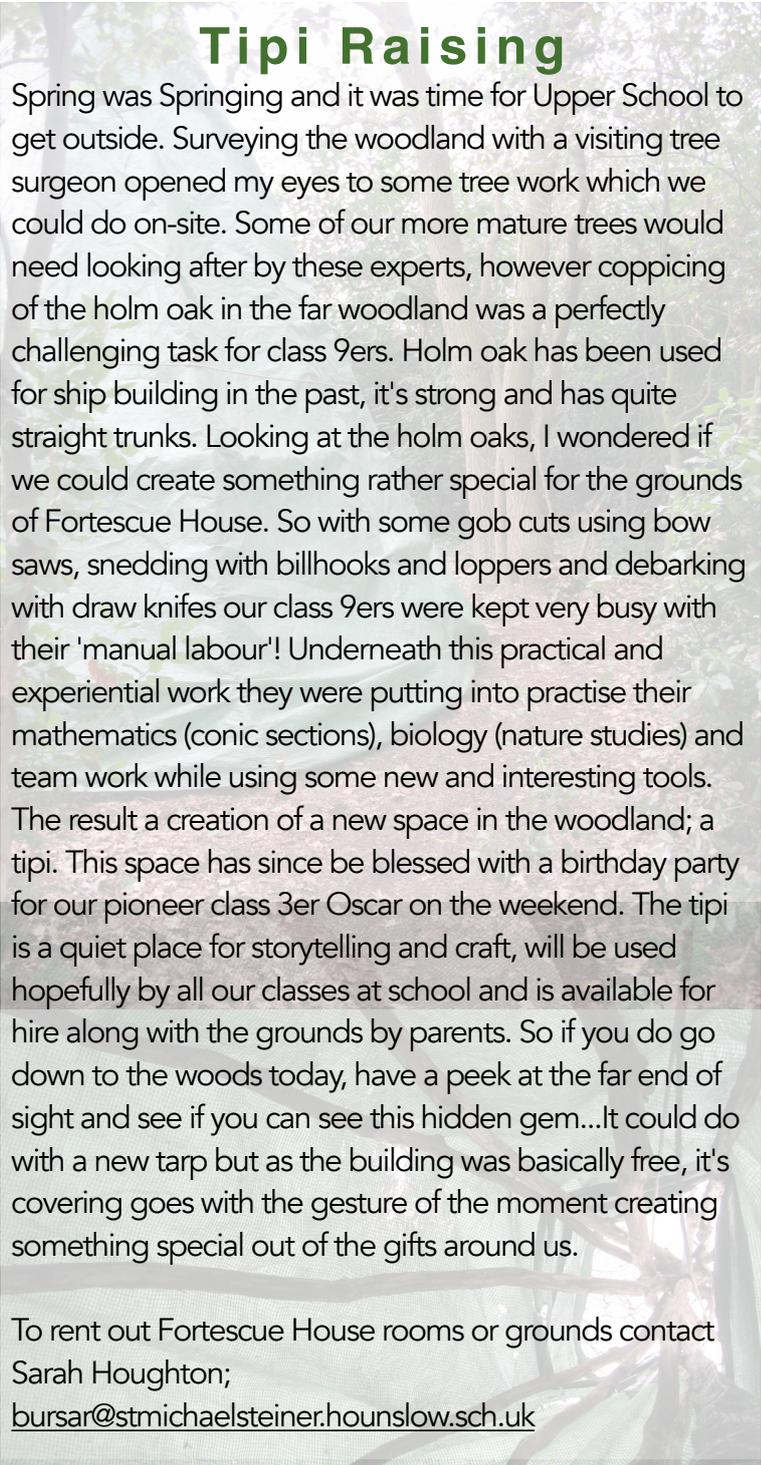
Friday 26th: INSET DAY (no school)

JUNE

Monday 5th: Back to School (8.30am)

Saturday 10th: Summer Fair

Tipi Raising



Spring was Springing and it was time for Upper School to get outside. Surveying the woodland with a visiting tree surgeon opened my eyes to some tree work which we could do on-site. Some of our more mature trees would need looking after by these experts, however coppicing of the holm oak in the far woodland was a perfectly challenging task for class 9ers. Holm oak has been used for ship building in the past, it's strong and has quite straight trunks. Looking at the holm oaks, I wondered if we could create something rather special for the grounds of Fortescue House. So with some gob cuts using bow saws, snedding with billhooks and loppers and debarking with draw knives our class 9ers were kept very busy with their 'manual labour'! Underneath this practical and experiential work they were putting into practise their mathematics (conic sections), biology (nature studies) and team work while using some new and interesting tools. The result a creation of a new space in the woodland; a tipi. This space has since be blessed with a birthday party for our pioneer class 3er Oscar on the weekend. The tipi is a quiet place for storytelling and craft, will be used hopefully by all our classes at school and is available for hire along with the grounds by parents. So if you do go down to the woods today, have a peek at the far end of sight and see if you can see this hidden gem...It could do with a new tarp but as the building was basically free, it's covering goes with the gesture of the moment creating something special out of the gifts around us.

To rent out Fortescue House rooms or grounds contact Sarah Houghton;
bursar@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk



Parent and Child Groups

We invite you to join us in our Woodland Garden (which includes sand, fire pit, a Yurt and other special nooks and crannies). Our peaceful room has simple toys made from natural materials with access to an small adult reference library of Waldorf, Pikler, parenting, craft and gardening books. We work out of a Steiner / Waldorf understanding of the developing child and are also inspired by the work of Emmi Pikler.

We offer several weekly groups:

FAMILY GROUPS for children up to 4 years old and their parents/carers.

Each of these groups has up to 8 families who gather regularly, where new and often lasting friendships are born.

We start off in the garden where the emphasis is on free play for the children. There is gardening and sometimes seasonal and festival crafts. After about an hour we go inside where there is time for more play and a healthy snack to share. We finish off with songs and a simple puppet show.

BABY AND PARENT GROUP

This is a dedicated group for new born infants and those exploring independent movement and practicing, turning, sitting, crawling, coming into uprightness and taking their first steps. While we give time to honour the children in their individual development we also support each other as parents. We talk about challenges and developments during the past week, spend time quietly observing the children's uninterrupted play, offer lullabies/songs, nursery rhymes that we sing to our child we offer to the group in our own Mother tongues and share a healthy snack.



WOODLAND GARDEN OUTDOOR GROUP for families of children up to six years of age.

This is a drop-in weekly session. During our time together there is free play, the opportunity for gardening, some simple crafting from natural materials, a healthy snack cooked or warmed and shared around our crackling fire. We finish with seasonal songs and/or a simple Puppet show.

There is a relaxed rhythmical feel in all our groups and it is fine to come and “just watch the day.”

Contact Grace at reception to book a visit. Your first session is a free gift and if you would like to return speak with Jeanette or Leigha who facilitate the groups.

UPDATE FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL



We are now more than half-way through the year, and the High School is a-buzz with activity. After half-term, most of Class 9 returned to school for two blocks with Roy Allen: Conic Sections, and Copper Work. Afternoons were spent raising a tipi with Ms Houghton (see front page of Newsletter), weaving together the craft and mathematics they undertook with Mr Allen. Meanwhile, one Class 9 student has been enjoying an exchange in France, brushing up on her languages before she returns at the end of term.

Following the break Class 11 spent two weeks scattered around London for their work experience. Placements included: Arcturus Publishing, Rudolf Steiner House Theatre, Rude Health, and Kingston Hospital, amongst others. All the students reported having had very good experiences during their placements, and their hosts sent back wonderful feedback on the students. Now back to school, they are working hard on Eurythmy, Life Drawing, Parzival and Algebra.

While Class 9 worked with Mr Allen, and Class 11 enjoyed their placements, Gail and Jasper (Classes 13 and 12, respectively) worked on a play as part of the final year

curriculum. Together we produced Nick Payne's *Constellations*, a story about a relationship played out within multiple universes, where different words and different decisions create entirely different results. With just the two of them on the project, we spent two intense weeks rehearsing full time, preparing for performances over the weekend of 4th March. Both Gail and Jasper did exceptionally well, receiving wonderful feedback for their performances, and looking quite exhausted beneath the happiness of their achievement.

After Easter all our students will be back to a full, High School curriculum, gathering the last of their points for their SSC certificates (Class 11) and undertaking their Building Project (Class 9), before everyone gets stuck into our High School Summer Play (watch this space!), to be performed at the end of the school year.

- Stella Ottewill



If you have something you would like to contribute to the Newsletter - maybe you would like to write something about a school event, or maybe you have been to an interesting talk outside the school, or perhaps you've a selection of photos! - send your contributions to admin@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk



OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB

With Spring coming we are warming up to new activities outdoors. Class 3 are busy with their farming and gardening. Class 9 are working on preparing and planting a herb garden and erecting a tipi. Class 7 have worked on their lime kiln and made charcoal outside. Class 5 are helping prepare another charcoal burn for an interesting metalworking project at the end of term.

To complement this work, I would like to offer an Outdoor Nature Club to children and students on Tuesdays from 3 – 5pm next term.

We will be outside observing nature and working and crafting with it. Activities will depend on the age of children joining the group. e.g. planting up a 'herb' garden near the pedestrian entrance to the site, working in the woodland creating a log pile home for bugs, clearing undergrowth to create a space to plant a willow bed and a hazel coppice and a space and fencing for an apiary.

This will be a mixed age group between 7 and 18. Children under 8 will need to be accompanied by an adult. Places are limited to 12 children/students.

At this stage, I am asking for expressions of interest so that I can plan in more detail. If you are interested, please email me at sarahhoughton@stmichaelsteinerschool.hounslow.sch.uk or call 07870 898175

The cost will be £10 (concessions available). Fee will go towards materials and general school fundraising.

News from the Early Years

At the beginning of this chilly term, we protected sleeping snowdrop bulbs from running feet with a 'Christmas tree-branch fence' made from your donated trees. We returned after half term to a whole bed of delicate snowdrops, bravely flowering despite the cold. Now, the sun has warmed the earth enough for dancing golden daffodils to be showing us that Spring is truly here.

Since the new year we have welcomed many new children and their families to our kindergartens: in Katie's room we warmly welcome Henry, Da-yu, Joel and Isabella, younger sister to Thomas, and in Maria's room we warmly greet Ari and his family.

The children have enjoyed lots of (very!) muddy play in the garden and recently enjoyed a visit to our old garden where they showed their climbing skills. Thank you to parents for ensuring your children have strong, warm and waterproof clothing – it has really helped enable them to enjoy playing outdoors this winter. We are also enjoying more regular walks in the park where we are starting to care for small area of woodland by litter-picking, bramble clearing and planting bulbs. Already the children are beginning to make it their own and relax into play amongst the trees.



In February, some of our team made the journey to the national SWEYG conference where the theme of Puppetry was presented by a visiting speaker from America, Janine Ping, who inspired us with her wonderful puppet apron and beautiful puppets. At our February Inset day, most of our team joined a London-wide Steiner School Inset Day held at the Greenwich Steiner School. Kindergarten staff discussed many aspects of our work, in particular how to create a supportive environment for children to rest and play in our afternoon clubs. It was also noted that many children go from kindergarten to other activities and have very little 'down-time', when it is possible to recuperate from a busy kindergarten day, the result of which can be exhaustion in the young child.



This theme of rest and sleep was reiterated at the national SWEYG (Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Group) annual meeting in February. There has been a great deal of international research undertaken on the theme of sleep and the vital importance of sleep for children. A number of papers are available on line for teachers and parents to read for information at the IASWECE (International Association for Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Education) website: <http://www.iaswece.org/home/> . This is a rich resource for both the teachers and parents/carers of young children and parents are warmly invited to have a look at the wide-ranging research papers available.

Crocus, crocus, open up!
Catch a sunbeam in your cup!

Katie Sharrock, for the early years team
And thanks to Leigha for the photos

COMMUNITY PAGES

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.

Workshop : **Working on one's biography in a group.**



This workshop will consist of three Saturday afternoons: **1, 8 and 22 April 2017**, 1-6pm (tea break at 3)

The workshop will facilitate a process where you can begin and deepen the exploration of your life-path, get in touch with your life questions and acquire tools to work consciously with your life events and meetings, turning points, hindrances and achievements. There will be short talks about life phases and archetypes of human development, biography exercises in small groups, artistic explorations, a gradual building of your life-chart and conversations. Through this work we can learn actively to create our future individual development and face our life.

Working in a biography group requires willingness to participate in exercises and a degree of openness to share your experiences.

The workshop consists of three afternoons. For the work we will be doing it is important that you attend all three. Places are limited.

Email: juliadv@counsellor.com

Fee: £105 for the whole workshop (£90 conc.) **Place:** *Rudolf Steiner House, 35 Park Road NW1 6XT* Julia Dvinskaya - Biography Work and Biographical counselling in London MBACP (Accred), MPABC

Email me if you would like to join and if you have any questions at this stage.

<http://www.counselling-directory.org.uk/counsellors/julia-dvinskaya>



**25% OF THE PRICE
GOES TO ST MICHAEL
STEINER SCHOOL!**



In today's internet age the connections you and your company can build with your current or prospective customers are the most valuable assets. You can benefit greatly of having professionally made portraits of you and your key personnel on your website. This way you can build trust with your prospective clients even before they contact you. This can be the perfect first impression that your business needs.



I photograph business portraits in your office or any other place chosen by you. This can be indoor or outdoor. This means you don't have to waste time travelling to a studio and back because I come to your business. I work quickly and effectively making sure your time is valued on the highest level.



Some key points you can benefit from by choosing my services:

- Complete flexibility with photography appointment
- 100% money back guarantee
- Fast turnaround time

Two hour session

£149.-

This includes 1 retouched picture of your choice per person.

Four hour session

for up to 10 people

£297.-

This includes 1 retouched picture of your choice per person.

Extra retouched pictures can be ordered for £10 each.

Don't see what you are looking for? Please feel free to contact me for bespoke offers.

**25% OF THE PRICE GOES TO
ST MICHAEL STEINER SCHOOL!**



All sessions include the following:

- Basic posing and facial expression training
- Review of all photographs
- Chosen photograph(s) retouched in both color and black&white

For your consideration:

- For quality control purposes, I don't give out non-retouched pictures in high resolution, only the final retouched version will be sent in high resolution and all the originals in the contact sheet.
- Deposit and cancellation: there is a £50 non-refundable deposit (will be deducted from the session fee on the day) payable for booking.

Please read the full terms and conditions on www.icsimages.co.uk

Children's Garden Kindergarten Spring Fayre

Sat 25 March 9:30 - 13:00

St Mary's Church Hall

Twickenham

TW1 3NJ

Craft Stalls, Home Baking,
Refreshments, Children's
Activities, Silent Auction,
Live Music

