

The St Michael Steiner School

NEWSLETTER

January 2018



Drawings by Class 2 with Mrs Romeo showing the Fable The Ox and the Frog about the proud frog who became jealous of the ox's great size but when he puffed himself out to try and become as big as the mighty ox, he exploded!

Also drawings from the infamous story of St. Francis and the wolf, of the moment when the wolf agrees to no longer torment the people of the city and shakes St Francis's hand with his giant furry paw.



Kitchen Garden - work day

*This Saturday 27th January 2018 from 10-3pm
Bring lunch to share.*

The kitchen garden will support the school with 'school-grown' biodynamic food. Any surplus will be sold to further support the schools gardening projects. This is a parent led initiative which will also be used in school gardening lessons.

Please contact Sarah Houghton at sarahhoughton@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk for more information or Tess Fiorucci (parent kindergarten/class 1).



A monthly biodynamic gardening club will also be set-up to go into more details about biodynamic principles. Speakers will be brought in to aid with the club. If you would like to join please contact Sarah directly. We will start with another work day and study on Saturday 10th February 10-4

News from the Early Years



Welcome back to the Spring Term and although the weather is still decidedly chilly and damp, the snowdrops are beginning to show their white heads above the wet muddy ground, reminding us that Spring is truly on the way. They are protected from running feet by branches from your Christmas trees, making a leafy boundary around their delicate flowers.

Snowdrop, Snowdrop, little drop of snow
What do you do when the cold winds blow?
Shake your little bells and say:
Cold winds, cold winds, go away!



The children have returned full of enthusiasm for work and play and have settled into our daily rhythms and routines smoothly. We have been joined this term by five new children: in Maria's room we welcome Kay, Mickey and Amy, and in Katie's room we welcome Ayoub and Noah. We wish you and your families a warm and gentle start into our early years community. Lastly, we welcome back Jeannette, who has returned after a sabbatical term travelling the world. Jeannette is working in Katie's room on Monday to Wednesday, and in the afternoon club.



Here are some of the children at work and play last term in our kindergarten and garden. We wish you all a very happy Spring Term.

Katie Sharrock
For the Early Years team



“Building a Solid Foundation in a Digital Age” - a public talk by Joan Almon

Earlier in January, Maria and Katie went to Deptford to hear Joan Almon speak. Joan was the founder of the Alliance for Childhood in the US, which addresses a number of childhood issues including the overuse of digital technologies and the need for restoring play. She was also a Waldorf early childhood educator for thirty years. It was a rare occasion to hear her speak in the UK.

Joan first discussed what is needed to lay the foundations for a healthy childhood, including having a relationship with a significant adult, a connection with nature, language and artistic opportunities, time for free movement and free play, and a sense of the sacred.

Joan then addressed the challenges facing us with digital technology, noting that games and apps are marketed to be deliberately attractive to children. The earlier children use them increases the likelihood of “screen addiction”, which was noted as becoming a major problem for some cultures where screens have been actively promoted, notably in south Korea.

How can we support our children?

As adults, we need to be mindful and awake to what is happening in our time regarding technology. It is important to establish healthy boundaries, such as no screens during meals or in the bedroom, saying no screens in the week, and only at the weekend. During the first seven years, it is recommended that 30 minutes a week is enough screen time.

Giving a good foundation in the early years by focusing on the above healthy essentials means that the effects of the digital world do not go so deep and children are able to develop their full human capacities before being swamped by digital experiences. As parents and educators, we need to continually be awake to what boundaries continue to be appropriate as children grow and develop into young adults and beyond.

It was an inspiring talk attended by a wide range of people, not just those involved in Waldorf education. The full notes can be found at: <https://allianceforchildhood.org.uk/files.wordpress.com/2018/01/joans-talk-11jan181.pdf> .

The Alliance for Childhood has a new London website: <https://allianceforchildhood.org.uk/> .

Katie Sharrock
For the Early Years Team



EURYTHMY

WORKSHOPS:

- London: 18th February 2018

Where: Steiner House 35 Park Road

Time: 2-4pm (music from 2 to 3pm/ speech 3-4pm)

Booking essential/ All welcome.

Price: £20.00

- Goetheanum: 2-6 April 2018

Where: International Eurythmy Conference in Dornach

Festivals:

- School Festival: 23d March 2018

Time: 11-12.30pm

Where: Steiner House

- YEF: 23d March /24th March 2018

Time: 3.30- 5.30pm (Friday pm)- classes 6-7-8-10-12 (tbc)

2.30- 4.30pm (Saturday pm)- classes 5-10-12 (tbc)

Where: Steiner House

Family and friends are all welcome

Price: £2.00 for participating children and staff/ £7.00 per day/£10 both days for visitors, parents and friends.

Retreat:

- Lake District: 16th -20th July 2018

Where: Rydall Hall

Booking essential: £150 non-refundable deposit.

All welcome.

For more info on prices, location and times, please email Michèle: mhunter1life@gmail.com

Community Pages

Would you be interested in before and after school care with a kindergarten parent and Ofsted registered childminder?

I am considering starting the (lengthy) process of registering as a childminder with the local authority and Ofsted but before I start would like to know if there is demand for childcare at the St. Michael's Steiner school.

I would be offering:-

- Breakfast before school from 7.30am
- Pick ups from school at 12.30pm or 3pm
- 8 minute walk to and from the school
- Home cooked, healthy food
- Steiner home environment, exclusively working with St. Michael's
- Large garden
- Dogs, cats and chickens!

Please get in touch by Friday 2nd February if this is something you could potentially be interested in. I would hope to have completed the registration process and training programmes by summer 2018. Email: elizabethlee0101@gmail.com tel: 07879401911 or see me at Kindergarten pick ups!

DEVON. Beautiful 5 bedroom Arts & Crafts house in one acre garden,
15 minutes from South Devon Steiner School. Wonderful location next to large National Trust woodland on edge of Dartmoor. £850,000.

See <https://photos.app.goo.gl/sAPIkqa8HmUqY2OA3>
07967 735067
judycomercalder@gmail.com

TENT FOR SALE
(QUECHUA)

**ONLY USED FOR TWO DAYS*

**COMES WITH INFLATING PUMP USUALLY
SOLD SEPARATELY*

**1 BEDROOM - SLEEPS 4 PERSONS*



**WEIGHT: 8.7KG*

**PRICE: £100 (including pump)*

PLEASE CONTACT : 07944447009





I Believe in Unicorns

Back by popular demand and not to be missed!

This enchanting, interactive show is perfect for all the family (from 6+) and is set in a library full of books that hold more than stories within their pages. It is a tale of the power of books, and the bravery of a young boy called Tomas. Tomas hates reading and school, but his world is turned upside down the day he meets the Unicorn Lady in his local library...

'Illuminated by magic and conducted by an artist'

LONDON THEATRE

'Taps into the inspiration that books can provide. Its beauty is that it allows us to share those imagined new worlds together'

THE GUARDIAN

'Breathtakingly beautiful and utterly charming...a must see'

PRIMARY TIMES

Solo performer Danyah Miller entrances her audience of children and adults with a spell-binding, multi-layered and surprising show that celebrates the universal joy of stories and books.

I believe In Unicorns by Michael Morpego

Danyah Miller is a wonderful storyteller whom some of us know from attending Lifeways over a number of years. There we were treated to one of her first presentations of this beautiful tale.

“Danyah’s performance is a tour de force. The show is moving and memorable, a glorious example of the magic of storytelling. I didn’t like it, I LOVED IT.”
Michael Morpego

Danya is appearing at the Polka Theatre, Wimbledon over half term.
See: polkatheatre.com

Check out her website to watch the trailer : wizardpresents.co.uk

Other interesting up and coming events:

Puppet show Kika’s Birthday, The Little Angel Theatre 25th April to 20th May
Story telling Course: “Begin It Now ...Specifically with Children In Mind”, (for adults) 22nd-24th June

Leigha Hipkin

The St Michael Steiner School

The only school in London offering Waldorf Education for children and students from 3 to 18

Open Day

Saturday 27th January
11am - 2pm

Drop in for education workshops and Q&A sessions; speak with the teachers, see the children's work and talk to parents about why they chose this unique school for their children

This month's workshop:

a practical introduction to the way we develop writing and work with language in the school

Park Road, Hanworth Park, London TW13 6PN

Tel: 020 8593 1299 Email: info@st-michaelsteinerboardingschool.org
website: www.st-michaelsteinerboardingschool.org Follow us on Facebook & Twitter
The St Michael Steiner School is a registered charity no. 1049644.



Children's Summer Camp

An initiative of The Christian Community in Stroud, Glos.
For children from 7 to 14 yrs of age of all backgrounds

21st July – 31st July 2018

Colin Godman's Farm, Furners Green nr Forest Row, Sussex

Games, Singing, Art and Craft projects, Organic Farm food, Treasure Hunt, Hiking, Improvisation, Swimming...

WWW.CC-CAMPS.ORG

The Helper team comprises mostly experienced Waldorf Upper School & College Students and Parents under the leadership of Dominic Corbett, Hagar Geula and Aaron Mirkin. Aaron has 18 years of experience running such camps in South Africa and England. The children grow in social awareness and confidence through shared initiatives and activities together with 70 other children. They gain new skills, and experience the challenge and joy of taking a creative project through from beginning to end.

Aaron Mirkin 01453 299311 ccstroud@talktalk.net

Creating experiences for children where they can most wholly and truly be themselves. Every child is precious and has something important to bring to the world, regardless of their apparent challenges.





WALDORF EXCHANGE
SEASONAL PROGRAM

WESP 2018

KURZEME, LATVIA

7.08-16.08

A summer program
for 7-14 year olds from all
around the world.

**JOIN THE SUMMER
ADVENTURE!**

Summer days stretch into
starry nights. Beaches are
empty and the forests are full.

RUN. EXPLORE. LAUGH. LIVE.

Eat berries right from the bush.
Swim in pure lakes and rivers.
Make friends with people from
around the world. Enjoy nature
in all it's glory.

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www.natureproceed.com