



The St Michael Steiner School

NEWSLETTER

17th January 2014

Park Road, Hanworth Park, London TW13 6PN

Email: info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

Website: www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

Dates for Your Diary

JANUARY

Tue 21 – Class 3 Parents' Eve

Tue 21 – Class 8 Parents' Eve

Sat 25 – OPEN DAY

Wed 29 – Kindergarten Parents' Eve

Wed 29 – Class 4 Parents' Eve

FEBRUARY

Tue 4 – Class 5&6 Parents' Eve

Wed 5 – Class 2 Parents' Eve

Wed 12 – Class 1 Parents' Eve

Thu 13 – SCHOOL ENDS HALF TERM

Fri 14 – Staff Inset (no school)

Mon 24 BACK TO SCHOOL

MARCH

Sat 1 – OPEN DAY

Thu 6 – Class 10 Parent's Eve

APRIL

Thu 3 – Festival Day

Fri 4 – 12.30pm END OF TERM

THANK YOU & HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Thank you to the parents who organised our Advent Fair and made the school so beautiful. If you would like to see more photographs, please do have a look at our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheStMichaelSteinerSchoolLondon>

To the rest, Happy New Year and welcome back to school!

Class 10 and the International Steiner School Certificate

Students and teachers have been working in Class 10 with the International Steiner School Certificate (ISSC) since September. Assessment tasks have been set in English, History and Chemistry Main Lessons and in the regular Maths lessons. There are also ongoing programmes in German and French, Craft, Art, Eurythmy, Bothmer Gymnastics and Music that will be assessed by tests, portfolio, exhibition and/or presentation later in the year.

As those of you who attended Karen Brice-Geard's talk in September will know, we have chosen this way of assessing our students because, rather than prescribing what we teach, it works with the curriculum that we have developed for our students. For example, in History, the two assessments - 'Carry out a report on a historical investigation' and 'Demonstrate research skills' - could be applied to any lesson content. The tasks involved students learning how to do research on a chosen topic by first developing research questions, then finding relevant information from various resources and finally using the APA referencing system to cite sources used. These are skills all students need, and they can be applied in all subjects.

Similarly, in English, the tasks were 'Produce formal writing', in which students had to use specified elements of formal essay writing and structure the essay to a particular context, using appropriate language, and 'Respond to texts studied', where students demonstrated understanding through interpretation of narrative, structure and language and through appropriate choice of examples used to support their arguments.

Assessments in Chemistry and Maths have been through written tests so far, as we feel this is appropriate for these subjects.

If you would like more information about the ISSC, High School teachers are available to speak about it at parents' evenings in any class. Please let your class teacher know if this would be of interest.

Amanda Bell, Class 10 Guardian



The Early Years Parent and Child Groups "Well I Wonder?"

Looking forward to our groups meeting up again this week. Details of our new Thursday morning Woodland Group will be available from next week.

Please contact School by email or phone if you are interested in joining this and we don't already have your details.

Dorothy Marlen is facilitating some very interesting birth to three workshops at Steiner House this Spring Term. Please see next two pages for details.

Hope to see you soon,
Leigha

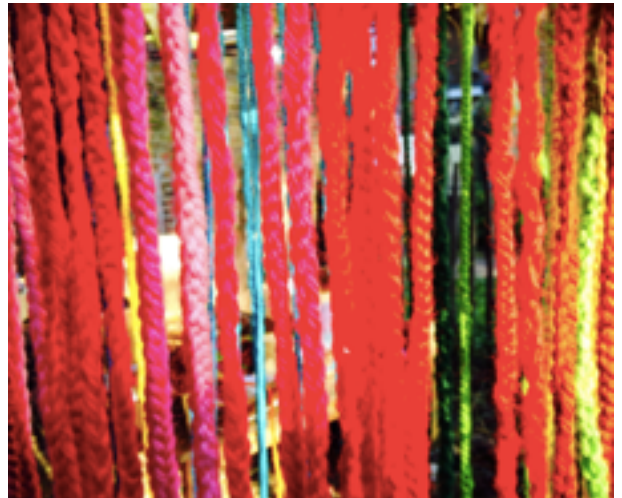


Photo by Hollie Holden

Kindergarten

Welcome back to all our families, including two new families with their children Eduard, Katia and Laurie who are settling into our early years community. Thank you for all your kind greetings, gifts and cards at Christmas time.

We have begun the year with the festival of Epiphany, when the three Kings or wise men gave their gifts to the baby Jesus. Rudolf Steiner said that this Festival links the past with the future for human beings and the cosmos, and it will be understood more deeply and will gain importance as time goes on. The children have enjoyed wearing colourful new tabards and crowns and taking the part of the Kings and star bearer in our morning ring time. Later each morning the Russian story of Baboushka has been listened to reverently.

Three kings came riding to follow a star,
Over mountain and valley and crag,
They travelled along to a country far,
Three gifts they held in their bag.
Gold for a king, as merrily we sing,
And incense to burn on the fire
And myrrh for his parting in sorrow we sigh,
And the little child bids us come nigh.

The grassy area of our garden is looking the worse for wear, so we have been creating a mini 'fence', with the children sawing off branches of donated Christmas trees and poking them into holes made in the grass. With rest, a little warmth and dry weather, and maybe some new seeds, we hope our lawn will be able to recover. Bulbs are already starting to lift their heads through the soil, we hope Sister Rain will not drown them, nor Jack Frost freeze them! Other ideas for developing the garden include creating a 'stumpery', (yes really!) with ferns and other plants (donations of soil and woodland plants gratefully received), and installing a water barrel for easy water access.

Please check the Calendar for the date of our forthcoming Parents Evening - we would like all the children to be represented if possible.

Katie Sharrock
for the Early Years team

The First Three Years

One day workshops Spring 2014

AT RUDOLF STEINER HOUSE, 35 Park Road, London NW1 6XT



February 22 2014

What makes a childminder “Steiner inspired”?

A gathering for those who are or wish to be childminders and who feel drawn to work from an Anthroposophical understanding of the young child and the practical wisdom of the Pikler approach. The day will include presentations by Dorothy Marlen and two Steiner inspired childminders. There will be video/slides, singing, a seasonal craft and plenty of time for questions and discussion.

Dorothy Marlen, Nicole Wickenden, Una Archer

The workshop is from 10-4.00pm. Cost: £40

For concessions please email. For more information and a booking form please contact DorothyMarlen

dorothy@dorothymarlen.net www.dorothymarlen.net

The First Three Years

One day workshops Spring 2014

AT RUDOLF STEINER HOUSE, 35 Park Road, London NW1 6XT



January 18 2014

Primitive reflexes—key to effortless movement

Katy Dymoke from Move—Embody Centring will share her insights, through demonstration and experiential exercises, into the progression of primitive reflexes and how more advanced movement patterns can be hampered by incomplete integration. There will be craft work in the afternoon. With Dorothy Marlen

February 8

Caring for a toddler— A profound journey inspired by Rudolf Steiner and the Pikler approach.

Rosie Stockes will share her experiences and profound learning journey as a childminder for her grandson, working with insights from Rudolf Steiner and the principles of “respectful care” from the Pikler Institute. There will be singing in the morning and craft in the afternoon with Dorothy Marlen

March 8th

Supporting parents in parent and child groups. What is our role?

Dorothy Marlen and others. This day is for parent and child group leaders. We will explore what our parental support role needs to be, share and reflect on our experiences and learn new interpersonal skills. There will be singing in the morning and craft in the afternoon

Workshops are from 10-4.00pm. Cost: £40 a day (£105 total if booking for all three.) For concessions please email. For more information and a booking form please contact: DorothyMarlen dorothy@dorothymarlen.net

The St Michael Steiner School

Park Road, Hanworth Park, Hounslow TW13 6PN

Saturday family afternoon workshops, 2-5pm

Family festivals of light for children aged 3-7 with their parents/carers

Come and enjoy our Woodland Garden and prepare for our festivals, making lanterns, advent gardens and dipped candles.

Each afternoon also includes a fireside snack, songs and a story/puppet show.

Saturday 16th November: A lantern walk festival

Saturday 21st December: Advent spiral festival

Saturday 8th February 2014: Candle dipping festival

Cost: £10.00 per family per workshop (concessions available)

Please book in advance by telephone/email
or ring for further information.

Note: these events are not for children currently attending the school

info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk tel: 020 8893 1299

www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

Venue: St Michael Steiner School, Park Road,
Hanworth Park, Hounslow, London TW13 6PN

Term Dates 2014-15

The term dates for the next academic year have been confirmed and are as follows:

MICHAELMAS TERM 2014

SEPTEMBER

Mon 8 - STAFF INSET (no school)

Tue 9 - STAFF INSET (no school)

Wed 10 - BACK TO SCHOOL

OCTOBER

Thu 23 - SCHOOL ENDS FOR HALF-TERM

Fri 24 - STAFF INSET (no school)

NOVEMBER

Mon 3 - BACK TO SCHOOL

DECEMBER

Wed 17 - END OF TERM FOR ALL CLASSES

SPRING TERM 2015

JANUARY

Wed 7 - STAFF INSET (no school)

Thu 8 - BACK TO SCHOOL

FEBRUARY

Thu 12 - SCHOOL ENDS FOR HALF-TERM

Fri 13 - STAFF INSET (no school)

Mon 23 - BACK TO SCHOOL

MARCH

Fri 27 - END OF TERM FOR ALL CLASSES

SUMMER TERM 2015

APRIL

Mon 20 - STAFF INSET (no school)

Tue 21 - BACK TO SCHOOL

MAY

Thu 21 - SCHOOL ENDS FOR HALF-TERM

Fri 22 - STAFF INSET (no school)

JUNE

Mon 1 - BACK TO SCHOOL

JULY

Thu 9 - END OF SCHOOL YEAR FOR ALL CLASSES

**Stella Ottewill
Administrator**

The school was inspected by the Schools Inspectorate Service in November 2013. The report is now available on the website. The Early Years was highly praised and many good and outstanding elements were noted in the rest of the school. The judgments, however, are disappointing, particularly as the teaching in the lower and upper school has been reinforced since the last inspection by the appointment of three new strong class teachers and two subject teachers who together bring much expertise and experience to the overall teaching of the school. Although there are aspects of the report which we do not intend to change, as they simply run contrary to the ethos of Steiner education, the College has already discussed some of the other comments made, and will continue to develop these areas; indeed some have already been addressed since the publication of the report (for example: Safeguarding training which was already booked at the time of the inspection and has now been completed).

If you have any questions about the report, please ask your Class/Kindergarten teacher to put them on the agenda for Parents' meetings this term.

We would like to thank the inspectors for their time and input.

High School Film

Thank you to Adam and Daniel Hipkin (of TEA Films) who came in last term to film in class 10 and have provided us with a fantastic film about the High School, including some conversation with Karen Brice-Geard, from the New Zealand Federation of Steiner Waldorf Schools.

If you would like to see the video you can go to our website and visit the High School page - http://www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk/steiner_education/upperschool.html or visit our Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/TheStMichaelSteinerSchoolLondon>

And while you're there, don't forget to click the 'like' button for updates from the school.

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.

KINDLING



The Journal for Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Care and Education.

For everyone interested in the young child Pre-Birth to 7 years.

For more information, please contact:
The Editors, Kindling, 3 Church Lane, Balsham,
Cambridge CB21 4DS.
Tel: 01223 890988 E-mail: earlyyearsnews@aol.com

Newsletter Contributions

If you have attended a workshop or parents' evening that you particularly enjoyed or your child has come home enthusiastic about something he/she has done at school, why not write a short article about it for the newsletter? The next one will be published and distributed on Friday 14th February and the deadline for contributions is Sunday 9th February.
Email them please to Stella on:
info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

Dear Community of the St. Michael Steiner School,

The Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain has its centre at Rudolf Steiner House near Regent's Park in London, and offers a variety of cultural activities and events as well as hosts two of Britain's Waldorf Teacher Trainings. One aspect that often stops members and friends from out of town partaking in these activities is the cost of accommodation in London. We are therefore trying to compile a list of privately offered accommodation - in other locations also called 'Friendly Beds Lists' - where private homes open their door to the occasional visitor at an affordable rate. This year, we are especially looking for accommodation from May 3-4 (our AGM) and from August 21-25 (a conference). If you are able to offer a 'Friendly Bed' (or a space for someone to pitch their tent!) and would like your contact details to go on our list, please contact Ilona Pimbert for details: [<admin@anth.org.uk>](mailto:admin@anth.org.uk) or phone the office at Steiner House, Tel: 020 7723 4400

Would it also be OK to send you this notice as a hard copy for your noticeboard?

Many thanks for your time and help.

With Best Wishes,
Ilona