



The St Michael Steiner School

NEWSLETTER

9th July 2014

Park Road, Hanworth Park, London TW13 6PN

Email: info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

Website: www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

Dates for Your Diary

MICHAELMAS TERM 2014

8 September (Monday) - INSET DAY

9 September (Tuesday) - INSET DAY

10 September (Wednesday) - Term Starts

23 October (Thursday) School Ends for Half-Term

24 October (Friday) - INSET DAY

3 November (Monday) - Back to School

17 December (Wednesday) End of Term

SPRING TERM 2015

7 January (Wednesday) - INSET DAY

8 January (Thursday) - Term Starts

12 February (Thursday) - School Ends for Half-Term

13 February (Friday) - INSET DAY

23 February (Monday) - Back to School

27 March (Friday) - End of Term

SUMMER TERM 2015

20 April (Monday) - INSET DAY

21 April (Tuesday) - Back to School

21 May (Thursday) - School Ends for Half-Term

22 May (Friday) - INSET DAY

1 June (Monday) - Back to School

9 July (Thursday) - End of School Year

PAYMENT FOR OUTSTANDING FEES

Dear Parents,

This is a gentle reminder that all outstanding fees needs to be paid to the school at your earliest convenience. In any other case, please contact Andrea on finance@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

Also to make you aware, invoices for the 2014/15 academic year will be sent by email on the first week of August 2014 and it is expected of you to start payment by 5 September 2014; the latest.

Wish you a lovely holiday!

Andrea

Thank you to everyone who joined us on
Friday for our End of Term
and St John's Festival



SUMMER FAIR

The day before the fair, parents started to work on the school grounds hanging bunting, setting up the gazebos and generally preparing for the fair. There was a real joy in the air, which was enhanced by the beautiful sunshine and the children were eager to help and get involved. When teachers and staff left the school on Friday, there seemed to be a lot of work to be done still but on Saturday morning the school garden was transformed into a place of delicious smells, colour and creativity. Walking around the stalls you could really see the amount of work and thoughtfulness that took place the weeks before the fair.

At the cake stall, the desserts seemed never ending, even though it was constantly surrounded by people buying cake. The burritos, at the food stall, were made to professional standards and the salads were delicious. At the craft stall, the beautiful hand-made crowns soon decorated children's heads all around and Juanna did not stop (literally not for a minute) painting henna patterns on people's hands. (On Monday, most of the younger girls at school had a woollen hair braid and a henna tattoo, which was a sweet reminder of the weekend.)



By midday, more and more people gathered and it was nice to see people from the Hounslow area, who did not have a previous connection to the school, coming in and browsing through the stalls.

Every now and then, parents would call everyone to gather for the next event like the puppet show or the the Threefold Social Order workshop. I found it was better that the microphone did not work, because Danny and Joe had to be more creative in attracting people's attention!

Near the cottage, the real action was happening with children racing in various different contests, next to the hilarious human fruit machine. The fruit machine was such a simple but smart and effective idea! At the staff room, Lara and I reenacted it a couple of times during the week for the people who did not manage to come to the fair! It really was funny.



Towards the end of the fair, Class 5&6 surprised us with their guitar playing, bringing a sweet closure to the fair. As I was walking around, children would run to show me what they won at the tombola or bought

at one of the craft stalls, with real enthusiasm. Two girls from my class gave me as a gift a little knitted cat they bought from the class 4 stall and Hollie bought us bean bags for the classroom. These are precious moments, not because of the beautiful things you buy of course, but because of the purpose standing behind these gestures. Parents worked together for a common cause and this was reflected in the children, who were there to share their joy with everyone. They were happy because they could feel they were part of a community of people who try to take care of each other.

All the teachers and staff members feel extremely grateful towards the parents who made the fair a real success. You really outdid yourselves! But more than that, we are proud of the way the parents' work was imbued with our shared values. Thank you very much indeed and we are looking forward to the Advent fair in December. I am excited to see the wonderful new ideas you will come up with!

Eleni Karakonstanti

News from the Early Years

NEW! Nursery opening in September 2014

Applications are now being accepted for our new Nursery opening in September 2014. The nursery will be led by Leigha Hipkin and will offer two three-hour sessions each week for three and four-year olds. Interested families should contact the school as soon as possible, as places are limited. We plan for this group to develop into a second kindergarten in the future. It offers a gentle progression / next step for children who have been attending Parent & Child groups, and for younger children taking their first steps from home.

Kindergarten news

We have a very few spaces in our kindergarten starting in September 2014. Children may attend for up to five mornings, plus four afternoon club sessions. Please apply using the kindergarten application form on our website.

A special feature of our kindergarten is its wonderful garden, offering the children such a magical and enriching play environment. This year, the children have been captivated by the guinea pigs who have enjoyed much attention and care from kindergarten children and in the Parent & Child groups. We have also managed to grow a range of vegetables and flowers, many from seed, including sweet corn, strawberries, tomatoes, radishes, rhubarb, pumpkins and butternut squash. We may look forward to a bumper harvest, or at least the local slugs and snails will be content! And who knows, perhaps our animal menagerie will continue to grow in the autumn...!

We have many new families joining us in September but until then, have to say goodbye to some familiar faces:

We send our love and good wishes to Dino and his family who are moving to Switzerland, and Hendrix and his family, now off to pastures new. Thank you for all your help and support over the past three years. We say goodbye to Kai and his family and wish you all the best with your move to the USA. Lastly, we bid goodbye to Henry and his family, and hope to see you at our weekend family workshops and fairs in the coming years.

We are also saying goodbye to Wendy, who has been assisting in kindergarten for three years and been a wonderful team member. We wish Wendy and her family much happiness for the future and good wishes from us all.

And another new building...

Over the summer, we will be creating a beautiful kindergarten room in the cottage, together with a garden all around. We would appreciate any help, especially with developing the garden over the summer, and decorating towards the end of the holidays. Please let us know if you would like to help with this exciting project during July and August.

Lastly, we would like to thank all our parents for your kind and generous support over the year, and wish you and your children a very happy and relaxing summer holiday.

With love from

Katie, Leigha, Jeannette, Maria and Wendy

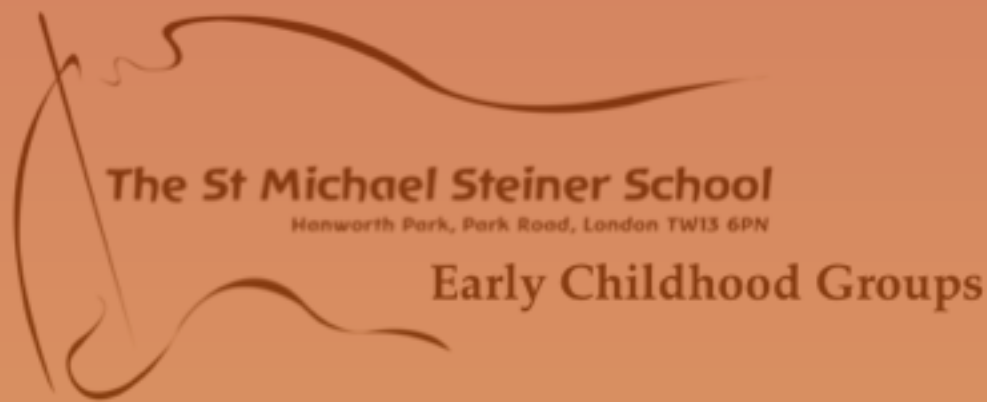
Scenes from our Summertime Garden



All photos courtesy of
Maria da Costa

Photographs from Parent and Child





For September 2014

Kindergarten (Monday to Friday, 8.30-12.30)

(with Afternoon Club available), for 3 to 6 year olds. Part-time places are also available.

Part-Time Nursery (Tuesday & Wednesday morning)

for 3 to 4 year olds, 8.30-11.30.

Parent & Child Groups (Thursday & Friday, 10.30-12.30)

for children from birth to 3 years, and their parents / carers.

Parent & Baby Group

for children from birth coming into uprightness.

Outdoor Forest Group (Thursdays, 13.30-15.30)

for children from birth to 6 years, and their parents / carers.


To apply for places in our Kindergarten and / or our Part-Time Nursery, or to learn more about the groups, please contact the school (on the details below) with your email address.

Tel: 020 8893 1299

info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

Park Road, Hanworth Park, TW13 6PN



The St Michael Steiner School

Hanworth Park, Park Road, London TW13 6PN

Early Childhood Groups

Parent & Baby Groups / Talks

*For parents/carers and their babies from birth to first steps, beginning in
September 2014.*



To be notified of
information regarding these
groups, please contact the
school (below) with your
email address, and we will
add you to the Early Years'
mailing list*.

Tel: 020 8893 1299

info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

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Park Road, Hanworth Park, TW13 6PN

* We are prohibited from sharing contact details with third parties or using them for advertising.

Last week Classes 1 and 2 spent the day at Bushy Park...



Class 3

This term Class 3 have been doing bushcraft, and have just returned from a week camping at Plaw Hatch Farm...



Good bye Gloria!

It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to Gloria Garbujo. It has been wonderful having her in class three and the school in general. We will all miss her and we wish her all the very best with her budding career as a Drama Therapist.

Pat Alexander and Class Three

Class 4

A Year in Pictures...



Baking Breads



Backstage



Ancient Writing



Concentration



Misty Swing



Pop-Up Lake



Marshmallows



The Crazy Gang



Ladies...



...and gentlemen



Humphrey



Teamwork Required

Diary of the Class 8 Projects

8th July 2013

Gave Class 7 the task of producing a personal project. The brief is to research a topic that they don't already know a lot about, to learn a new practical skill, to produce an illustrated book including at least 1000 words, and to prepare a 10 - 15 minute illustrated presentation. The deadline is 30th June 2014. They are pleased and rather excited about the challenge.

11th September 2013

Everyone has submitted a title and a brief outline of the project. No-one will be allowed to change their mind about the subject now. Some people are working, others are procrastinating. Almost-a-year is a very long time, they think.

4th November 2013

Half term is over. I reminded the class about their projects and checked in with them. Photographs are being taken and collected, notes are being made, Grannies are being interviewed, eyes are being tricked, electric violins are being carved. Some continue to procrastinate, while others beg me desperately to be allowed to change their minds because the first idea is *rubbish* or they are just not interested in *that* any more so they won't be able to write *anything*. I gave in.

9th December 2013

I suspect some have still not really started their projects. When challenged they say things like, "I've changed my mind" or "I started again" Five months is a long time, it doesn't have to be done until the very end of June, so it's practically six months and anyway there will be lots of time to work during the Christmas holiday.

8th January 2014

Back to school. Some vaguely remember that they were supposed to be doing a project, but there are still almost five months, so no problem. That's twenty weeks. Has X changed her project again or am I imagining it? We began work on our play, *Murder on the Orient Express*.



24th February 2014

We have designed posters and worked on costumes, developed characters through workshops with the wonderful Ms Caswell-Robinson, rehearsing intensively for weeks and finally we will be performing the play at Rudolf Steiner House this Friday, 28th February! Well, there was

no time to work on projects during January and February was there? It wasn't even a leap year. So, four months left to go. Sixteen weeks.

4th April 2014

Last day of term. I noticed a flurry of nerves when I told the class that they would be presenting their projects in less than three months. There was some muttering about getting it done during the Easter break and slightly hysterical cries in reply. Something about being away for the *whole* holiday. My heart goes out to them, poor things. How can they be expected to work when they're not even at home? It's not as if they have laptops or iPads or books or anything at all portable. Their parents probably won't allow them to work when they're on holiday anyway.

1st May 2014

Almost three weeks before we go to Hungary and another four after half term before the projects are due. That's forty-nine days! If they write twenty words a day between now and then, it'll be done. Of course, then there's the presentation to work out, and the illustrations... I detect a frisson of anxiety. I'm sure that isn't the same project Y was working on before Easter...



1st June 2014

Back from Hungary - interesting, enjoyable, exhausting and eventful in equal measure. Half term was welcome. I hope the projects are nearly done.

2nd June 2014

Back to school. I drew a calendar on the blackboard to show how many days we have left until the project presentations. Thirty days, minus today and the Friday we will be doing Eurythmy at Steiner House, minus weekends because ... well ... minus weekends, that's eighteen days.

Apparently I never told them the deadline, they haven't had enough time, I can't expect them to do that much work in eighteen days, I should have given them time to do it at school because they have so much to do at the weekends and after school and they're *really exhausted*. No-one is going to be ready on time and it's all my fault. I am a terrible person.

18th June 2014

From today until 2nd July, we are dedicating the whole morning to projects. The fact that they will have to stand in front of their parents and other people's parents and speak coherently about something interesting in two weeks time has finally become a reality. The classroom is a hive of focused activity. No-one is making excuses any more. No-one wants to start again. Finished page after finished page begins to emerge. There is a

phone/iPad/laptop amnesty in the classroom and for two hours this morning the only sound was the tapping of keyboards and the scraping of pencils on paper. Occasionally, someone would come to me and whisper "Which picture is better?" or "Where's the spraymount?" "Do you think I have enough pictures for my slideshow?" We had break, followed by another hour and a half of silent work. To be honest, I started to get a bit bored and even considered doing my own project.

25th June 2014

One week to go until project presentations. They have never worked so hard or so quietly. Some have nearly finished. After break, we had some practice presentations and feedback. They all found this very useful and the feedback was supportive, constructive and encouraging. I am very impressed. Class 10 parents' evening tonight. We talked about the SSC and I realised how much I am looking forward to teaching two classes in the High School next term. Once the projects are over, I'll talk to the class about Class 9.

30th June 2014

The deadline arrives and I have two finished projects on my desk and one has been emailed. Others come 'almost finished' with various pleas: "I just need to stick in these pictures!" "I left half my project at home by mistake!" "My printer ran out of ink!" "Can I just search for a bit more information on this?" I comfort myself with the thought that I only set the deadline at Monday so that there wouldn't be a mad panic at the last minute. Slideshows are composed, equipment is tested. We need a different lead to connect the laptop to the projector. Three people promise to try to bring one. One of them will be the right one. Fingers crossed.

1st July 2014

Got the right lead. Today Class 7 from St Paul's came to see the rehearsals of some of the project presentations. They were impressed and asked useful and interesting questions. There were some gaps in the slideshows, so we have to put that right by tomorrow. Several people stayed until 5pm tonight finishing things. There were a lot of pins and scraps of material on the floor.

2nd July 2014

Today is the day. Rehearsal presentations this morning - McLaren cars from Vik and the Marine Cadets from Ewan - The real thing tonight.

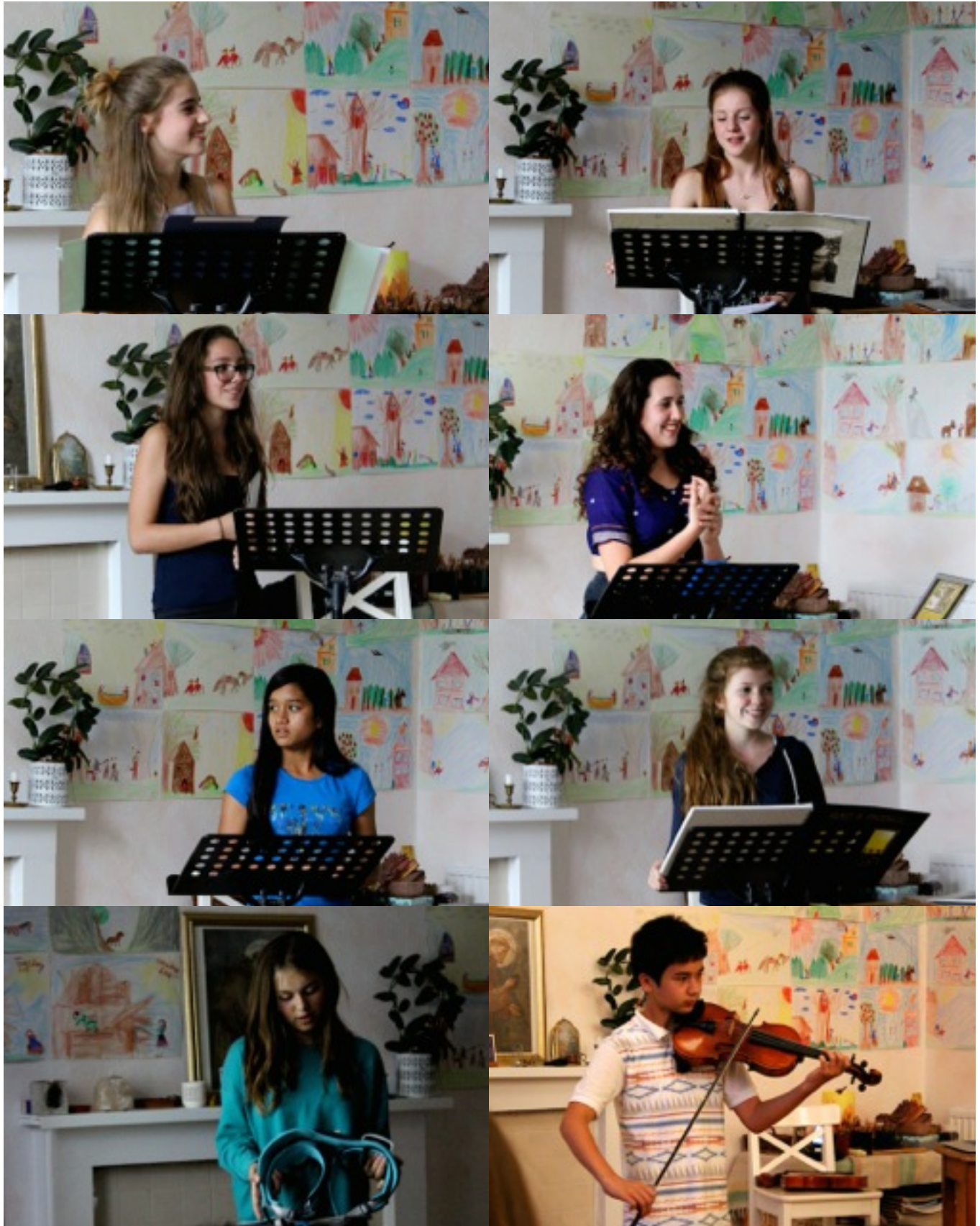
3rd July, 2014 1:05am

The class presented their projects tonight in front of an audience of parents, friends, brothers and sisters. Some, having been worried that they wouldn't have enough to say, spoke for 20 minutes; others who thought they wouldn't be able to say anything spoke clearly and calmly and demonstrated things without any sign of nerves. We, the audience, learned about and experienced Eshaya's strangely disorientating optical illusions, Ines' glamorous dress and story of 1950s fashion, Raga's history of photography (who knew that cameras were invented in the Renaissance?), the evolution of Art from the ice age to the 20th century and Daisy's copy of Van Gogh's self portrait, the story of Maya's fascinating

Granny and her rather racy early life, how to put on a climbing harness and to 'belay' from Phoebe, the electric violin and Thomas' amazing performance. I am so proud of them all.

Next is graduation, when we will review the last eight years together and move on, with a little sentimentality and a great sense of achievement, to the next stage of our lives.

Amanda Bell
Their Class Teacher from 2006 to 2014



Eurythmy 2014, St Michael's

From the dizzy heights of Summer, an overview of this year's work in Eurythmy.

Well we have been through a truly memorable year with all that we as a school are doing. As I plough through the harvest of this year's Eurythmy work, seeing the whole school, I have planted little seeds in Kindy's garden. They call me Princess and Ballerina... I knew I wasn't born for small things! Hmmm! Well the smallest ones have already fulfilled my dreams really!

As for the rest, as I journey through the year with the children, we struggle, we sweat, we smile, we delight, we cry, we fight, and we rejoice! We know all the pains and struggles in our horrific lives doing Eurythmy, we shout and fume, we growl and grunt, we think, we feel, we move... but as for the children's souls, now there is another story!

It skips and dallies, laughs and dances, it swishes and swathes, swirls, and gallops over itself... whatever that looks like in the soul's land! Its expression is pure Joy!

All the while, quietly working on the children's physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing.

If I look at the wholeness of the school, I see its soul through the children on their pathway to their own greatness.

I see its sweet innocence in class 1, its temerity in class 2, the rising 'I' in class 3, its struggles in class 4, a harmonisation in class 5 and their structuring and order as they close in on class 6. It must have sneezed in class 7 as there is a little blurr there for now....then onto its painful onset of social ill ease in class 8 before sneezing up another blur in class 9 growing towards a somewhat satisfying relief in class 10.

That's what I have witnessed this year through Eurythmy.

Have a beautiful summer everyone.

Michèle



Farewell Juanna and Edwin

As we jumped over the fire during our St John's Festival last Friday, the expansive mood of Midsummer was apparent. Now, as we come to the end of the school year, and head off in all directions even stretching across the globe, St Michael's expands in other ways, too, as we say goodbye to members of our teaching staff.

Juanna and Edwin Ladaga have been part of the fabric of the school for many years. Miss Corcoran took Class 1 in September 2002, a year after the school had been started, whilst Mr Ladaga began assisting Leigha in the kindergarten in 2007 before taking Class 1 in September 2008. When Juanna finished taking her class through Class 8, she then became an assistant in the kindergarten... An interesting mirror image!

Both of them have brought a love of music to the school and Juanna, especially, has brought the gift of singing to many children over the years. Edwin brought strength in maths and sciences and worked with classes as a games teacher. Juanna's exquisite blackboard drawings, although ephemeral, live on in the memories and souls of many and particularly the children in her classes who gazed upon them day after day. With the echoes of Julius Caesar and Mark Antony still ringing in my ears, I must also mention not only that dramatic production but also the countless plays performed by each of their classes over these years.

Although their paths now lead away from us, the gifts they have given to the children, parents and colleagues through their work at St Michael's remain as gleaming gems along the school's journey.

We thank them for their work and wish them all the best for their next steps.

*Brian Jacques
Chair of The College of Teachers*

New TEA Films Video for the St Michael Steiner School

A couple of weeks ago, Adam and Daniel Hipkin, of TEA Films visited the school to make a video about the Lower School. This is the second in a series of videos they are making for the school, and we would like to thank them both for the time the time and skill they give to these projects.

The Lower School video is now available to watch on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6n2wGFgs7A4>

Hello to Beatriz and Elisa



From across oceans and lands afar, will come a new teacher to gather together our new Class I in September. Mrs Beatriz Liñán will come to us from the Guanacaste Waldorf School in Costa Rica where she has been the lead kindergarten teacher. Prior to that, she was teaching in the lower school classes at the Escuela Waldorf La Casa del Sol in Spain since 2007.

Beatriz and her family will be moving to the UK in August and are excited to become part of our school community. We look forward to welcoming them here.



We will also be welcoming another new teacher to our school who will be stepping into a unique position. Elisa Laera, originally from Ancona, an Italian city on the sunny Adriatic Sea, has a background in and a love for sciences, music, drama, literature, languages, swimming, surfing, climbing, cycling... in short, she is a Renaissance woman.

Elisa will be joining Amanda and I in teaching Class 6&7 and will also be supporting Classes 9 and 11 in maths and sciences. She is currently coming to the end of her teacher training course at The London Waldorf Teacher Training Seminar and

has already been working with Class 10 this year during their drama lessons with Romeo and Juliet.

Elisa is looking forward to joining the school community, taking part in the future development of the high school as it grows and in guiding Class 6&7 at this important time in their development. We look forward to working with her.

Brian Jacques
Chair of The College of Teachers

The College of Teachers received 3 formal complaints in the academic year 2013-14.

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 19th September and the deadline for contributions is Sunday 14th September.

Email them please to: admin@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

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.

A note from Elmer Postle

I offer Biodynamic Craniosacral Therapy – an holistic therapy modality based in Osteopathy - to parents and children from age 0-100+. This simple, gentle and profound approach engages with the innate intelligence of the human system to work to resolve a wide variety of conditions. Preferential rates are available for St Michael's families. See website for details: www.owlcranial.com

Also offered is work with families with issues arising from early bonding and big life events such as birth. In this approach a therapeutic environment is created where healing of core connections can take place. The results can include a slower pace within relationships and a greater opportunity for growth between family members. Contact me (below) for more details.

And...

I'd like to think about / do / have a fathers group. I have had great experiences in Men's groups before and noticed I am now quite a long way into my son Lucien's presence at the school and want to know more about what other men are finding as they father. The point of getting together is also to have fun, eat meals, etc. Do please get in touch if you'd like to go in this direction also.

Contact me on [07785 926796](tel:07785926796) or email elmerpostle@gmail.com

Thanks,
Elmer

Anthroposophic Psychotherapy Psychiatric Disorders in Children and Adults Psychosomatics

Dear Teachers, parents and friends of the Rudolf Steiner Waldorf Schools in the UK,

We have a unique Anthroposophic training course starting in November 2014. The course is especially for psychotherapists, medical doctors, psychiatrists, counsellors and other qualified mental health professionals who are seriously interested in an Anthroposophic approach.

The course is mainly directed towards people who are well-qualified and have experience of working at an academic level. However, if you are interested but not quite sure if you are suitably qualified we would like to hear from you. The main criteria for entry will be an ability to:

- think and work psychotherapeutically
- work with serious psychological problems
- study and think in a postgraduate manner

For more information about the course content contact John Lees on

Fjohnlees@aol.com

and view further details on

<http://www.emerson.org.uk/anthroposophic-psychotherapy/>

Lifeways 2014

Living with Boundaries



. . . . Working with Fr^eedom

**A summer week with workshops, activities, music and adventure
for men, women and children**

Emerson College Sunday 27 July – Saturday 2 August

Lifeways Organising Team
Ann Druitt, Christine Fynes-Clinton
Emerson College, Forest Row, East Sussex RH18 5JX, England

Telephone: +44 (0)1342 822238
Email: bookings@emerson.org.uk
Website: www.emerson.org.uk