



The St Michael Steiner School

# NEWSLETTER

21st March 2014

Park Road, Hanworth Park, London TW13 6PN

Email: [info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk)

## Dates for Your Diary

### SPRING TERM

#### MARCH

Sat 29th - 10am-3pm, Parents' Workday

#### APRIL

Wed 2nd - 10am-2pm, Festival Day

Fri 4th - 12.30pm, END OF TERM FOR ALL

### SUMMER TERM

#### APRIL

Mon 28th - Staff Inset (NO SCHOOL)

Tue 29th - 8.30am, BACK TO SCHOOL

#### MAY

Sat 3rd - 9.30am-12.30pm, AGM

Sat 3rd - 1pm-4pm, Parents Workday

Mon 5th - Bank Holiday (NO SCHOOL)

Wed 7th - Kindergarten Parents' Evening

Wed 7th - Class 8 Parents' Evening

Sat 10th - 11am-2pm, Open Day

Tue 13th - Class 3 Parents' Evening

Wed 14th - Class 1 Parents' Evening

Wed 21st - Class 2 Parents' Evening

Thu 22nd - Class 4 Parents' Evening

Thu 22nd - SCHOOL ENDS HALF TERM

Fri 23rd - Staff Inset (NO SCHOOL)

#### JUNE

Mon 2nd - 8.30am, BACK TO SCHOOL

Sat 14th - Summer Fair

Sat 28th - 11am-2pm, Open Day

#### JULY

Tue 8th - 8.30am-1pm, Festival Day

Wed 9th - 12.30pm END OF YEAR FOR ALL

## Eurythmy evening with Michèle Hunter

When Stella asked me to write a description of Michèle's parent eurythmy session last week for the newsletter, I had no idea how difficult it would be to find words to fit the experience of 'walking' a star as a group, finding myself at the centre of the circle around my body – imagine Leonardo da Vinci's Vitruvian man - and standing with one arm pointing to the ceiling in the deep-rootedness of the 'I am' position.

After about the sixth deleted draft and a chat with Leigha in the garden during toddler group, it struck me that of course the words would not be easy to find because eurythmy is not a path of the mind or to be processed by the head centre; it is not meant to be understood or analysed in the way we are used to. It is about the forgotten parts of us coming together, coming alive and bringing our true essence – so often hidden from us - into a form that we can actually feel and see.

It also makes sense to me, now that I have experienced it, why it seems so mysterious to many of us, why it is so hard to pin down, so impossible to describe. How can we grasp the importance of a practice that is based on so many of the things we do not value in today's society – being, stillness, silence, subtlety and spirituality meeting form?

What I do know is that, having watched the effects of eurythmy on my daughter throughout kindergarten and into Class 1, I am grateful to have experienced - in my own body and system - the work Michèle does with her each week. And I also know that I feel even more confident that this form of movement and practice – delivered with such a balance of authority, joyfulness, depth and lightness - is exactly what she needs to integrate body and soul as she moves along her journey.

Hollie Holden

## Spring End of Term Festival

Dear Parents,

You are invited to come and experience some of your child's work on  
**Wednesday, 2nd of April**

**10:10am Class 4** in Class 2  
**10:10am Class 3** in Class 1  
**10:30am Class 1** in Class 1  
**10:50am Class 2** in Class 2  
**11:00am Class 1** in Eurythmy  
**11:25am Class 2** in Eurythmy  
**12:05pm Class 3** in Eurythmy  
**12:35pm Class 4** in Eurythmy  
**1:00pm Class 5&6** in Eurythmy  
**1:25pm Class 5&6** in Class 2

We would also love to share some hot cross buns together and ask that you please bring a pack along with some butter and help to prepare them whilst you are waiting to see your child.

On Thursday we will be having a normal day until 3pm and would like to ask parents to send their children in with outdoor brooms, rakes and maybe a wheelbarrow or two (which can be brought to school on Wednesday and names should be clearly written on them) so that we can have a whole school spring clean with the children before the holidays. Friday the 4th of April will be a half day for the whole school (12:30pm).

## Parent & Child

Here are a few very helpful books and websites:

**A Guide to Child Health**  
*Michaela Glocker,  
Wolfgang Goebel.*  
Floris Books

**You are Child's First Teacher**  
*Rahima Baldwin Dancy.*  
Celestial Arts.

[piklercollection.weebly.com](http://piklercollection.weebly.com)  
[www.pikler.co.uk](http://www.pikler.co.uk)



*"Cooking" in the Parent and Child room and in our outdoor sand kitchen.*

### Date for your Diary

An Introductory Parent and Baby Session will be hosted by Dorothy Marlen and Leigha at School on *Sunday, 6th April 2-3.15pm* For more information and booking details please see our School website/Facebook page or call us. You can also visit Dorothy's website: [www.agentlebeginning.co.uk](http://www.agentlebeginning.co.uk)

## News from the Early Years

### Kindergarten Places for September 2014

Applications are now being received from parents with children aged three and above wishing to start in September 2014 and January 2015.

Following meetings with prospective parents, we have now begun offering places to children in our early years. To apply for a place in kindergarten, please use the 'kindergarten application form', available from the office or downloadable from our website. If you need to speak to a member of staff before applying, please contact Katie or Leigha.

As the need arises, we will be opening a nursery that will, as it grows, become our second kindergarten.

### Early Years Staff Vacancy

Due to expansion, we have a temporary position for an afternoon club assistant, starting as soon as possible. This position is for term time only until the end of the summer term and is payable on an hourly basis. Ideally, you have Steiner kindergarten training and/or experience, but we also invite applications from early years practitioners

with an interest in Steiner Waldorf education. Hours are Monday to Thursday, 12noon to 3.00pm, but fewer days may be negotiated. Please initially apply in writing to [k.sharrock@me.com](mailto:k.sharrock@me.com)

### Garden News

We would like to thank parents who have donated plants for our garden which is looking very beautiful. The children continue to love watching the guinea pigs and their antics, now regular visitors to our garden. Next steps for the garden are to install a water butt and stand where the children might fill their watering cans easily, and to put up some simple 'outdoor' shelving at the back of the gazebo to help keep our work tools tidy – please speak to me if you can help.

In our parents evening last week, Dorothea spoke about the importance of real work for the older children, and for us, as adults around the children, to be worthy of imitation. In the photographs here, we can see Maria engaging the older children in raking leaves in the garden – many hands make light work!

And finally, one evening last week Leigha, Jeannette and I sat on the steps of the house, contemplating the day, and watched a green woodpecker, a lesser-spotted woodpecker, a blue tit, a parakeet, a thrush, robins, a jay, and heard so many more birds singing in the trees. What a beautiful environment for the children, a real country school in London.

Katie Sharrock  
For the early years team

In the springtime garden,  
Rosy morning glow,  
Sunshine calling, falling, calling,  
Flowers awake and grow...



## Conversations in the kindergarten...

### Around the lunch table...

*Child 1:* God made us all.

*Child 2:* Some people don't believe in God.

*Child 1:* God first made two people, and then they made people, and they made people.

*Child 2:* So we're all part of the same family.

*Child 1:* Yes, so we're all brothers and sisters.

*Child 2:* Yes, so (*pointing to each child as he speaks*), you're my brother, you're my sister, you're my brother, (*a pause and nothing is said when he comes to an adult at the table, then continuing*), you're my brother, you're my sister.

*A contented silence ensues after this is said, by all seven children around the table.*

### On a foggy kindergarten morning...

...excitedly: "Katie, Katie, the clouds have fallen down!"

## EURYTHMY DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

2nd April 11.00am

Classes 1 to 6 End of Term Eurythmy Festival, at school.

3rd May PM

London Eurythmy perform 'The Fifth Gospel' at Steiner House.

(Music and poetry on the theme of the Fifth Gospel)

9th May 12.00pm

London Eurythmy perform the fairytale 'The Juniper Tree' at Steiner House.

13th June (Time TBC)

Class 8 and Class 10 (ISSC) perform at Steiner House.

## 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 9th May and the deadline for contributions is Sunday 4th May.

Email them please to Stella on: [info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:info@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.

My name is Nele Dierks and I'm 15 years old. I was born at the 30th of November in 1998. I have a sister who is four years older than me. Her name is Ronja and we live together with our parents at Bochum, Germany. Bochum is comparable to the south of Wales. With two years I was visiting the playgroup, which is right next to the nursery school where I was up to the age of six. And now I've gone to the Widar School In Höntrop for nine years. I've known some of my friends for 13 years and that's really nice. I've played the violin for five years and I also dance ballet according to the method of the Royal Academy of Dance in London. I would describe myself as a friendly person who is open and cheerful.

I'm looking for a family where I can stay during my school exchange in autumn 2014.

Yours, Nele



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invites applications for its 4-year part-time course starting  
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A movement training enabling one to develop the ability to experience space as a  
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space is not a void  
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Introductory dates in 2014:

12<sup>th</sup> April, 17<sup>th</sup> May

contact Martin Baker  
email [office.uk@bothmer-movement.co.uk](mailto:office.uk@bothmer-movement.co.uk)  
website [www.bothmer-movement.co.uk](http://www.bothmer-movement.co.uk)  
tel +44 (0) 1342 826 677



YouTube

flickr

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# ***Raising Children from Birth to 7 Years***

## **How to make children feel secure?**

**Sunday, 23 March 2014**

**From 10:30am to 5pm**

**As parents and professionals we would like children to feel understood.**

To know more about childhood we can ask,

**What is it like to be a child in the first years of life?**

This question is not easy to answer for a busy adult in today's world.

In this workshop we will have the opportunity to understand our children's world and their specific needs in each situation. We will look at experiences that can benefit and enrich the young child's journey through the early years.

We will also learn about:

The developments that take place during this time.

How to work with rhythm and transitions in everyday life.

How children learn through imitation and repetition.

Caring for the environment. The development of the senses.

Encouraging and supporting play and imagination.

The changes that takes place from 2-4 years.

We will have time for questions and observations arising from everyday living with children.



**Venue:** Rudolf Steiner House, 35 Park Road,  
NW1 6XT. Tube: Baker Street

**Cost:** £85/£65 Conc. *Please bring your own lunch.*

Contact Lourdes on 01342 826727

lcallen@atimeforchildhood.com



A Time for Childhood

[www.atimeforchildhood.com](http://www.atimeforchildhood.com)

**Lourdes Callen** has been working for 18 years supporting families to work with their questions, recover from difficulties, work out conflict, and readdress the balance with their children. In her experience, we can turn situations around to feel happier and more peaceful while we take relationships forwards. She is a Biographical Counsellor with a background in Steiner early years education, working in England and Spain.

## Would you like some help?

Au pair: Virginie Chauffete, 19 year old musician, native French speaker with good English, based in London for the last 6 months.

A friendly, creative and enthusiastic person, Virginie is seeking a new Au Pair position as her current family have sadly sold their home and are leaving London.

Virginie has experience working with children both in France and in the UK. This has included a supportive role in school, music camp, and caring for children in their home. She also has catering experience.

Virginie's own schooling was at a specialist school for young people gifted in music or dance (her school friend is currently in Covent Garden with the Royal Ballet Company), however Virginie also has an awareness of Steiner Education through another friend (who has recently travelled to the New Zealand school).

Virginie is interested to be of support to our children at the school.

Please get in touch if you would like to find out more or if you might have a need for her to help you at home.

Please contact Josie's mum in the first instance, my e-mail address is: [arnoldmichelleblue@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:arnoldmichelleblue@yahoo.co.uk)

# Traditional Waldorf Doll Making Workshop

The two day workshop will take place at

THE ST MICHAEL STEINER SCHOOL

Park Road  
Hanworth Park  
London  
TW13 6PN

May 24<sup>th</sup> and May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014

9:00-5:00

Limited space available. Cost is £110

Registration must be received by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014

For more information please contact Rachel at  
[oastcraft@gmail.com](mailto:oastcraft@gmail.com) or 07899863009