

# The St Michael Steiner School

Hanworth Park, Park Road, London TW13 6PN

7th November, 2014

Park Road, Hanworth Park, London TW13 6PN

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

Website: [www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk](http://www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk)

## Dates for Your Diary

### NOVEMBER

Sat 8 - (11am-2pm) Open Day

Sat 8 - (2.30-4.30pm) Festival of Light

Wed 12 - (7-8.30pm) Class 11 Parents' Eve

Sat 22 - (1-4pm) Parents' Workday

Sun 30 - CHRISTMAS FAIR

### DECEMBER

Wed 17 - (1pm) Term Ends for All Classes

### JANUARY

Wed 7 - INSET DAY (no school)

Thu 8 - Term Starts

Sat 24 - (11am-2pm) Open Day

### FEBRUARY

Thu 12 - School ends for half term

Fri 13 - INSET DAY (no school)

Mon 23 - Back to School

Sat 28 - (1-4pm) Parents' Workday

### MARCH

Sat 7 - (11am-2pm) Open Day

Fri 27 - (1pm) Term Ends for All Classes

## Diwali in Class 5



After having started the year learning about the ancient cultures of India, Class 5 celebrated Diwali, the festival of lights, just before half term. Diwali celebrates the victory of light overcoming darkness and the story of Rama and Sita is told once more. The whole class designed a Rangoli, which many of you will have seen, first with some chalk and then they added the sand and divas (traditionally oil lamps) that they had made themselves.



In the classroom we dressed up, cooked some indian sweets, cleaned out what was no longer needed, decorated what was there, painted Henna on our hands, lit some incense, spoke about praying to Lakshmi for wealth and health, sang together and feasted on yummy sweet treats.

- Lara Küppers,  
Class 5 Teacher

## The Opening of the Kindergarten: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014

On a bright autumn day with golden leaves fluttering from the trees, the whole school, plus many parents, joined us in an opening ceremony for our new kindergarten building and garden. We were delighted to welcome Erica Grantham who came with her husband John, to cut the long,



pink ribbon. Erica has been involved in Waldorf education for over 40 years, from kindergarten teaching to leading the early years training courses at Emerson College and then in London. She has represented the UK in International kindergarten meetings around the world and run courses in Korea, Germany, Sweden, Finland, America and beyond. Erica helped plant an apple tree in the garden whilst many children assisted with planting daffodil bulbs around the tree.

Erica spoke a few words, in particular reminding us that a garden to play in, such as this, should be the



birthright of every single child. She wrote to us afterwards:

Thank you for inviting me to this very special opening of your Kindergarten, oh! The sun shone so beautifully over the whole school. The leaves were tumbling down, laying a wonderful carpet to walk on, it really had a Michaellic touch to it all and a happy atmosphere. I felt that on the other side of the ribbon was an oasis for your children, it is certainly a lovely space where they can be happy and feel safe at the same time, it has a caring and nurturing atmosphere around it. The children of the whole school seem to be happy to be there and with their contributions of songs and poems it felt that the whole school was part of that moment.

In our first seven weeks of term, we have dressed up in new clothes to celebrate Eid, created chalk patterns outside for Diwali, made Dragon Bread and cooked soup over our new open fireplace for Michaelmas. The autumn festivals of light continue after half term, firstly with Halloween, and then with Martinmas, on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November when we will be making beautiful lanterns for a family walk around the darkening gardens. Perhaps we'll hear an owl hoot, or hear mice under the rustling leaves? We'll quietly walk along our lantern-lit pathway, as the night draws in and darkness falls.

*The sunlight fast is dwindling,  
My little lamp needs kindling  
Its beam shines far in darkest night,  
Dear lantern, guide me with your light.*

## Waldorf One World fundraising event

Following the Opening Ceremony, we began our fundraising event for W.O.W. (Waldorf One World) with stalls selling biscuits, cakes, bread and popcorn, all made in-house by many of the lower school children. A 'white elephant' stall filled with donated books, clothes and toys displayed under gazebos in the autumn sunshine. A busy atmosphere of children and parents raised almost £300 which will be sent to 'Friends of Waldorf Education'. Money is distributed



to a huge range of educational and emergency Waldorf pedagogical projects around the world. These include the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya where over 60,000 children are cared for, many are orphans traumatised by their experiences; Ein Burstan - a Waldorf kindergarten in Israel where Jewish and Arab children are educated together; and the Goderich Waldorf School near Freetown,

Sierra Leone, set up to help educate former child soldiers. These initiatives can only manage to carry on their work with the support of donations. More information on WOW and its work can be found by going to [www.freunde-waldorf.de/en](http://www.freunde-waldorf.de/en).

A huge thank you to children, parents, teachers and friends for helping make the day so special for us all.

## New Nursery Opening January 2015

Applications are now being accepted for our Nursery opening in January 2015.

The Nursery will be led by Leigha Hipkin initially for two three and a half hour morning sessions from 8.30am -12.00 mid-day each week. This group will be for children from three years of age.

It is an ideal next step for children who have been attending Parent and Child Groups and for those taking their first independent steps from home.

This group will grow to become our second Kindergarten. Please speak to Leigha or Katie if you have any questions.

Leigha Hipkin and Katie Sharrock  
For the Early Years Team

## A CRAFT PROJECT FOR PARENT AND CHILD GROUPS

Apart from preparing simple mini festivals, finger knitting was the regular craft on offer for adults during our Parent and Child Groups last year. It is a rhythmical task, pleasing to the senses using thick naturally dyed skeins of wool.

It's portable nature; wool slipped into pockets, up sleeves and on laps means it can be worked equally well sitting inside on a sofa, outside by the sandpit or standing by a swing, allowing Parents to be present for and observe their children. The children sometimes showed interest wrapping themselves in loose lengths of wool or in imitation wrapping wool around their fingers; and before long they were off, playing again.

The increasing number of finger knitted balls were used communally, kept in a big basket and could be picked up and worked on by anyone in our five groups. For some parents crafting was new and this shared project was a good place to begin.

Others hadn't done any handcrafts for a long time, some since school. Without laboring the point (pun intended) Rudolf Steiner said that using our hands to create in many different ways is what makes us truly human. Added to this, taking on a task of an artistic nature on a regular basis strengthens and replenishes our etheric forces, something that is much needed for the work of caring for young children.

A talented crafting parent showed us a link to a project of a very large playhouse made by hanging strips of cloth from a large frame. We decided to make our own version. We used an old bed canopy, the net was torn and so it was cut away. Over months, parents gradually sewed on the finger knitted strings and decorated the canopy.

During our sessions it hung at "working" level in our room and our garden. When not in use it was hoisted by a simple pulley and became a mobile to adorn our window.

We left it to the imaginations of individuals of all ages as to what it would be called and how it would be used. The parent and child group children loved to twist in the strands and play in and out of it whilst the adults sewed. A girl aged 2 ½ called it her house and sat inside with her doll, later inviting her Mother to "tea" Sometimes there was chasing and laughter and to others it was a quiet place to hide.

The children from Kindergarten and Lower School called it a rainbow and made wishes inside. One called it a giant woolly jellyfish and pretended to be scared. Another took a "shower" inside. One parent carrying it upside down and back to our room remarked that it looked like a big bowl of woolly spaghetti.

We have since had further suggestions from a handwork teacher, we could make another with beads threaded on the top, or add felt cut outs. We could make finger knitted string curtains for doors and windows. The possibilities are as endless as the imaginations of children and adults alike.

- Leigha Hipkin

p.s. For this half-term we will be felting balls as presents for our children.





## FAMILY FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

### **Martinmas Lantern Walk**

Saturday 8th November 2.30 - 4.30

For Children from 3 -7 years of age and their Parents/Carers

We warmly welcome you to come and enjoy our Woodland Garden:

Lantern making workshop, Fireside food, Songs, Storytelling/Puppet show.

As darkness falls and the stars come out we will set off on our candle lit lantern walk.

Cost: £12.00 per family

**Booking essential: by phone or email**

**Tel: 0208 8931299**

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

# 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.

## TRE and The Work of Byron Katie - Sessions in December

Barbara Küppers, mother of Lara Küppers, will be in London from 4th - 17th December. She is a qualified practitioner in TRE (Tension and Trauma release) and the work of Byron Katie and can offer either private or small group sessions including a Byron Katie enquiry circle.

Please e-mail her directly if you are interested on [bsassy@telkomsa.net](mailto:bsassy@telkomsa.net) or speak to Lara after school.

For more information visit [www.tregauteng.co.za](http://www.tregauteng.co.za) and [www.thework.com](http://www.thework.com)

## HOUSE WANTED

*2/3 house required to rent.*

*Unfurnished*

*All locations considered.*

*Short term or long term.*

*Please Contact Michelle (Class 1)*

*07734 57 57 87*

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 have a selection of photos! - send your contributions to [admin@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk)  
The deadline for the next newsletter is Sunday 30th November.



# WALTER WHYNOT OF HOWDIDO HALL

NORMANSFIELD THEATRE  
SATURDAY, 15. NOVEMBER  
AT 3.30 PM



## WALTER WHYNOT OF HOWDIDO HALL

An ideal opportunity to introduce children to the magical world of classical music. Join Walter Whynot of Howdido Hall on his musical journey. Performed by Ester Kosar (Mezzosoprano), Lilly Dufter-Wimmer (Flute) and Roy Stratford (Piano) together with actors Moir Leslie and Alister Cameron. For ages 4 and above.



### TICKETS

Tickets £ 5

Box office 0333 1212 300  
lesly.alabaf@downsyndrome.org.uk

### VENUE

The Langdon Down Centre  
Normansfield  
2A Langdon Park  
Teddington  
Middlesex  
TW11 9PS



## ENSEMBLE



LILLY DUFTER-WIMMER  
FLUTE



MOIR LESLIE  
VERSE



ALISTER CAMERON  
VERSE



ROY STRATFORD  
PIANO



ESTER KOSAR  
MEZZO-SOPRANO



DVORAK  
DEBUSSY  
REINECKE

# FLUTE & VOICE VERSE

NORMANSFIELD THEATRE  
SATURDAY, 15. NOVEMBER  
AT 7.30 PM

## FLUTE, VOICE & VERSE

After performances at the Orleans House Gallery, South Kensington and Hindhead, Ester Kosar (Mezzosoprano), Lilly Dufter-Wimmer (Flute) and Roy Stratford (Piano) are coming together with actors Moir Leslie and Alister Cameron to the Normansfield Theatre. A sequence of music including works by Debussy, Reinecke and Dvorak interspersed with well-loved poems.

### TICKETS

£14/£12 concessions  
advance bookings £12/ £10 concessions

Box office 0333 1212 300  
lesly.alabaf@downsyndrome.org.uk

### VENUE

The Langdon Down Centre  
Normansfield  
2A Langdon Park  
Teddington  
Middlesex  
TW11 9PS

## ENSEMBLE



LILLY DUFTER-WIMMER  
FLUTE



MOIR LESLIE  
VERSE



ALISTER CAMERON  
VERSE



ROY STRATFORD  
PIANO



ESTER KOSAR  
MEZZO-SOPRANO