



# The St Michael Steiner School

Hanworth Park, Park Road, London TW13 6PN

3rd October, 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

### OCTOBER

Mon 6: 7-8.30pm Class 4 Parents' Eve

Wed 8: 7-8.30pm Kindergarten Parents' Eve

Thu 9: 7.30-9pm Class 1 Parents' Eve

Thu 9: 7.30-9pm Class 5 Parents' Eve

Wed 15: 7-8.30pm Class 9 Parents' Eve

Wed 22: 7-8.30pm Class 6&7 Parents' Eve

Thu 23: School ends for half term

Fri 24: STAFF INSET (no school)

### NOVEMBER

Mon 3: 8.30am BACK TO SCHOOL

Sat 8: 11am-2pm Open Day

Wed 12: 7-8.30pm Class 11 Parents' Eve

Sat 22: 1-4pm Parents' Workday

### DECEMBER

Wed 17: 1pm END OF TERM FOR ALL

### JANUARY

Wed 7: STAFF INSET (no school)

Thu 8: 8.30am TERM STARTS

## Parent and Child Groups and Michelangelo: Summer Reflections

During a visit to Florence our first port of call was the Galleria dell' Accademia to revisit Michelangelo's "David". Almost as soon as you enter the main gallery you are in the presence of the Sculpture, with all its youthful beauty, balance and strength.

As you approach the "David", on both sides of the gallery stand sculptures that truly took my breath away and brought tears springing to my eyes, such is their raw immediacy. These are the series of unfinished sculptures known as the 'Slaves' or the 'Prisoners'. Originally created in order to adorn the tomb of Pope Julius II, their effect is profound as they seem to struggle to break free from the hard marble mass from which they have begun to be chiseled.

The 'Prisoners' are prized as examples of the way in which Michelangelo worked: he believed that the intended work of art was given by God and already within the marble. He saw it as the task of the artist to 'release' the sculpture. This Michelangelo did by carving freely, starting at the front of the block and working towards the back. These statues have long been the inspiration for the oppressed, whilst the 'David' has been a symbol of youth, vigor, and righteousness with the ability to overcome the oppression of the giant Goliath.

Is it too fanciful to compare the task of Michelangelo and Renaissance art with the loving work of parents? I don't think so. Their work speaks of the growth we

all share as we seek something better for each new generation.

Mothers bring their precious, soft, helpless, newborn infants into this world. Mothers and Fathers protect, nurture and work to remove hindrances, to provide the best environment, so gradually their child can grow into an independent upright human being who, when reaching adulthood, is hopefully equipped and ready to fulfill her or his destiny.

In Baby and Parent groups and Parent and Child groups we have the privilege of walking alongside parents at the beginning of this long journey.

As we know, historically Pedagogues never work in isolation. Within the Early Years movement here are four who continue to greatly influence our work and a tiny glimpse of what they brought to the world.

**Friedrich Froebel** (1782-1852) was the first set up a Kindergarten and recognized that children learn through play. He was also a great advocate of life-long learning.

**Margaret Macmillan** (1860-1931) was a champion of the undernourished children in London's East End. She started her 'Open Air School', spoke of the importance of a health-giving diet and ran groups for mothers.

**Rudolf Steiner** (1861-1925) who, at the invitation of Emile Molt, began the first Waldorf school for the children of the workers of the Astoria cigarette factory, and gave us the picture of the developing human being in relation to the cosmos.

**Emmi Pikler** (1902-1984), opened the orphanage 'Loczy' after the Second World War and gave us, 'Respectful Care' and the practice of enabling the young infant, in an unhurried, natural way, to come into uprightness out of her/his own efforts.

Rudolf Steiner likened the body of a newborn infant to an ill-fitting glove, which you would wish to cast off. Infants come into the world as total sense beings. In the first seven years the child is strengthening the will and making her or his physical body her/his own until the inherited body has been replaced. Children are developing their four lower senses, becoming social beings. In the first three years children focus on coming into uprightness, walking, and developing speech.

My long time colleague Katie Sharrock and I had many years ago agreed that Parent and Child groups were often a gateway to Waldorf Education, and many parents have told us that they had found what they were searching for and felt they were part of the school. For others it was a quiet nourishing place to come to with their children until moving on to home schooling or another form of education. Some sadly would love to give their children a Waldorf education but the cost prohibits them. (Our School Community is looking at ways to strengthen our bursary system for the future by looking more deeply into the Threefold Structure.)

Over the last few years my Early Years colleagues and I have attended the two most recent 'Birth to Three' Conferences at the Goetheanum and workshops facilitated by Dorothy Marlon and her guest speakers at Steiner House. I am just about to complete the second year of the Pikler U.K training in York and have learnt much from our Dutch course leaders as well as from experienced Parent and Child leader colleagues taking part in the course.

As kindergarten teachers within the Early Years team we work very closely with parents during their children's time in our setting. Together we share the settling-in period, festivals, parents' evenings, one-on-one meetings, observations, child studies, home visits and so on. We support their children unfolding and developing. As adults together we watch and give the children time or maybe a helping hand to

remove or minimize hindrances on their journey. Parents entrust their precious young ones into our keeping for four hours a day (with afternoon care/club longer.)

### **Parent and Child Groups**

When facilitating Parent and Child groups we continue to study in greater depth the developmental stages of children from birth to three. Family Groups are met in a different way.

### **What can we offer?**

For the young, we provide a beautiful inclusive environment inside and out, where:

- children can move and play freely and independently and naturally develop their balance and fine and gross motor skills;
- babies, under the gaze of the adults, can lay on their backs and gradually through their own efforts and with help from above bring themselves into uprightness.
- A place where imitative forces and imaginations can thrive
- The opportunity to engage/play with other children

For adults, we can offer:

- a child centred space for their young ones to play and develop;
- a space where they can slow down and relax, observe their young child and the other children;
- a place where they can just be, breathe out;
- where we can hopefully nourish the families with lovingly-made food and surround them with people who care for them as parents.
- Where they and their children can live into the simple rhythms of the seasonal year and its festivals.
- sometimes join in communal craft projects or gardening

What can also happen?

- New friends can be made , a small child-centered community can develop out of the group who offer support and friendship and knowledge to each other both during and away from the session.
- We hope to create a guilt-free environment: there is no such person as the perfect parent - we do the best we can with who we are and what we know at the time. It is true that our children are our teachers.
- There is the opportunity to arrange to speak to the other parents, or arrange to meet with the Group Facilitator or another member of the Early Years team to speak about parenting concerns after the session. When needed a member of staff or parent can take care of your child.
- We support each other through the difficult times, around sleep related issues, feeding, mealtimes, perceived milestones, and expectations of others around children's behavior within the group.

There is always a basket filled with up to date information, short articles, helpful addresses, websites, catalogues, books, recipes, craft materials and up and coming courses. Parents can contribute to these resources that are shared across the six Parent and Child/Baby groups. Parents (with their children), can be carried through the gentle rhythm of the session, take notice, and, if they wish, can find out more about the philosophy behind the sessions we offer or just enjoy their time with us.

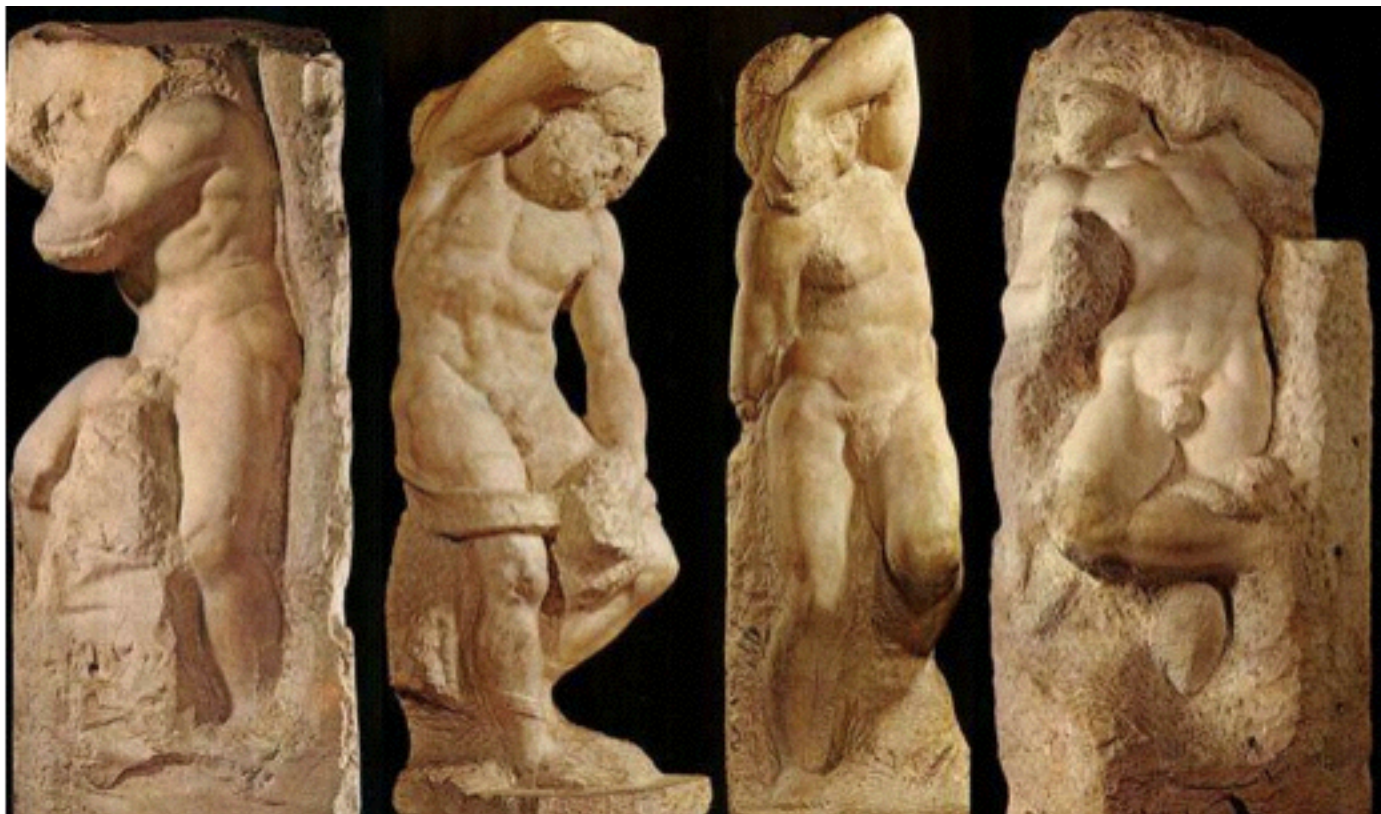
Some parents come to us specifically because we are part of a Steiner School setting and they want a Waldorf education and community for their child/children . Other parents find us through a friend's personal recommendation or 'stumble' across us in the nearby park. However they find us, all families are

equally welcome.

As always, there is much afoot in the world of Early Childhood and in the continuing development of work with birth to three year olds and their families.

We never stop learning from wherever that learning may emerge. Long ago my tutor at the Froebel Institute, Tina Bruce, reminded a group of us of something very simple and relevant, "We build on good practice and never throw the baby out with the bathwater".

- Leigha Hipkin



Dear Parents,

When we did the fairytale - **The Juniper Tree**, see poster on next page - last year and school came along, classes 6/7, 9 and 11 were on time restricted projects or outings and therefore unable to attend. This term we are putting it on again (for anyone who wishes to come of course but especially for the people on the teacher training seminar in Steiner House and classes 6/7, 9 & 11). I encourage them to come along for the surprise firstly, then pedagogically because they need to see some to be and feel inspired by it. (We haven't got the facilities at school presently for shows like this...) and finally for the gifts that are received in silence from the spiritual beings at work during those performances. There lies much wisdom within them for all ages. You also might find reading "The Wisdom of Fairytales" of interest.

I look forward to seeing you there if you can make it.

Michèle

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 2nd November.

LONDON EURYTHMY PRESENT

# THE JUNIPER TREE

A Grimm's fairytale brought to life through  
movement, colour and live music




Music composed by Anne Ayre

**Saturday 4th October at 4pm**

**Rudolf Steiner House Theatre**  
35 Park Road, London. NW1 6XT

Tickets on the door: Adult £7.50 Child £4 (Suitable for children from 8 years old)

 London Eurythmy

# The St Michael Steiner School

Hanworth Park, Park Road, London TW13 6PN

## Parent & Child 2014-15

### PARENT AND CHILD GROUPS

A supportive space for Parents/Carers with babies and children up to 3 years. In each session we divide time between our new Parent & Child room and Woodland Garden.

#### Morning Sessions

Morning sessions are for up to 8 families to attend on a regular basis and commit termly.

Wednesday 10am - 12 Midday

Thursday 10am - 12 Midday

Friday 10am - 12 Midday

#### Drop In Session

Drop in sessions provide a space for families to come regularly or from time to time.

Wednesday 1.30pm - 3.30pm

### OUTDOOR WOODLAND GARDEN SESSION

An outdoor session for children from birth to 7 years and their families.

Thursday 1.30pm - 3.30pm



### BABY AND PARENT GROUP

A group for babies and Parents/Carers from birth to uprightness.

(A creche is available for older siblings up to 7 years.)

Friday 1pm - 2.15pm

All groups £6 per family, per session  
Concessions available

Please call or email the school for further information or to  
book places

Tel: 020 8893 1299

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

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

Park Road, Hanworth Park, TW13 6PN

# Our new Cottage Kindergarten

From this .....

to this.... in just seven weeks!



A beautiful  
space for  
work and  
play...



Many hands helped shape our harvest loaf.

We all enjoyed sharing the warm bread, fresh butter and home-made jam whilst sitting in the warm sunshine of our new garden.



Here are some more pictures from our first few weeks...



We would like to welcome all our new children and their families: Carlos, Arun, Frederick, Kuba, Jonah, Dayu, Theo, Finley, Musa, Gabriel and Yuta – we are so glad you have joined our early year community. Already, new friendships have blossomed and children are settled and playing together.

Huge thanks to Andrea for project managing the whole project, and to Ches, Dominic's grandfather, for his skilful building work in creating this beautiful space we now enjoy.

Also grateful thanks to parents for helping with the fence!

All Parents and friends are warmly invited to our Official Opening on Friday, 17th October at 12 noon.

Katie Sharrock  
for the kindergarten





# The St Michael Steiner School

You are warmly invited to

the official opening of our new

Cottage Kindergarten and garden

On Friday, 17th October at 12 noon

Refreshments will be served

Plus Waldorf One World (WOW) fundraising stalls

We look forward to welcoming you. RSVP to the office.

The St Michael Steiner School, Park Road, Hanworth Park, London TW13 6PN Tel: 020 8893 1299  
[info@stmichaelsteiner@hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:info@stmichaelsteiner@hounslow.sch.uk) [www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk](http://www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk)

Dear All,

First of all, I want to thank all members of the community, children, parents and colleagues, for the warm welcome that I and my family have received. I am very happy to be the class 1 teacher and my children are adapting well with their wonderful teachers and new friends.

I would also like to ask you a favour. When we came from Spain one month ago, British Airways lost part of our luggage and it's going to take a very long time until we get compensation from them for the loss. All of our children's clothes and some other things are gone and I had bought many new things for them before coming (pyjamas, tights, slippers, shoes, etc). Such a pain!

So, if you would have clothes and shoes that your children don't need anymore and you are not giving away to anyone else, we would be very glad to have them. Celia recently turned 8 years old and Carlos is 5, almost 6. They are both middle sized, not very big.

At the same time, we would be happy to give our children's small clothes to other families in the school that may need them.

Thank you very much in advanced and see you around!!

Warmly,  
Beatriz Liñan

Class Four are enjoying their new classroom and warmly welcome Keene Owen into their fold.

- Pat Alexander

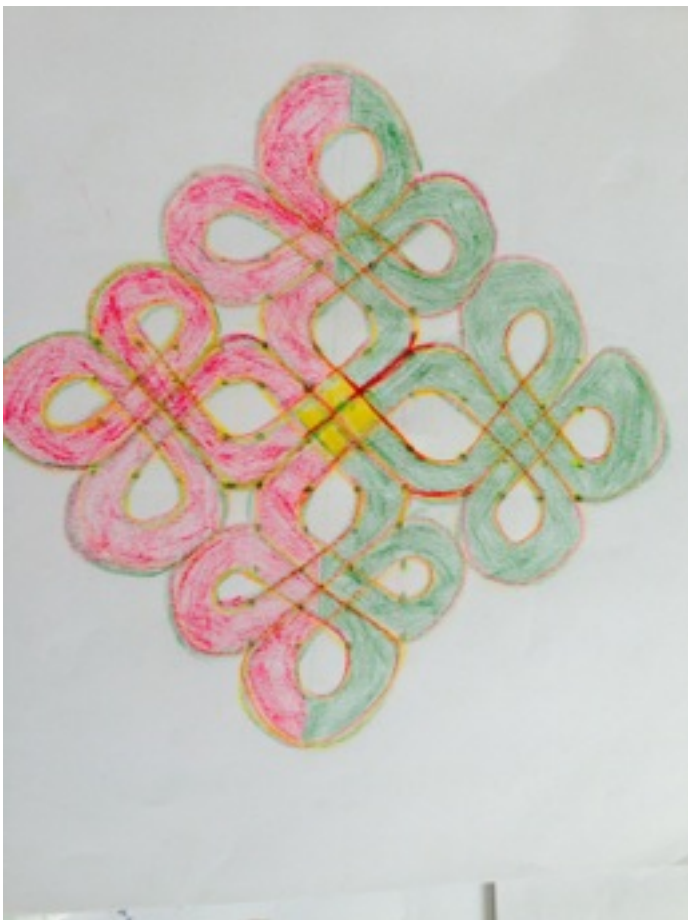


## CLASS V

Class V started the year learning about Ancient India. They created some rangolis, talked about the gods and heard the stories of the Mahabharata and the Ramayana. They have been singing songs with that theme and also songs for Michaelmas. Soon they will hear about Zarathustra from Ancient Persia and also the epic of Gilgamesh will be told.

Class V are currently also working on a mosaic project in the school grounds. If you have any left over tiles, broken plates, buttons, marbles, beads, old lego pieces, or any small object that you can think of, that you no longer need and think might be appropriate, please have us in mind and send it in to school. We hope to complete the project before the half term and would have much more fun if we were upcycling unused bits and bobs to make our school beautiful.

- Lara Küppers



## **Latest Science Suggests How We Give Birth Impacts Lifelong Health of Children And Could Affect Future of Humanity**

Hi! I am Akiko, Sara and Yuta's mother and we have just joined the school community in Class 5 and kindergarten. I would like to share how successful my private screening of the film 'MicroBirth' was last Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> September, for school fundraising.

*"Microbirth" is a new feature-length documentary looking at birth in a whole new way; through the lens of a microscope. Investigating the latest scientific research, the film reveals how we give birth impacts the lifelong health of our children and potentially could even affect the future of humanity." - <http://microbirth.com>*

I originally helped translate the film into Japanese subtitles, so knew its theme well. It was wonderful to see how others received its message at the screening - everyone was very inspired by the film. Just eleven of us raised £64 for the school!

It was such a joy for me that a nationally known midwife, Brenda Van de Kooy from Independent Midwives UK and based in Teddington, came to the viewing and got to know everyone there. Following the film, we had a great discussion for at least two hours - everyone was so lovely - great positive people! Despite having only just moved to the UK and still in the process of



unpacking, this last minute decision to show the world premier screening of MicroBirth felt just right. I'm definitely up for organising another viewing as we really need to get the message out. Photos are shared on my facebook page (Nomadoula Akiko Kimura), or you can just click the top page of my website to connect me on facebook to see the photos from the event.

I would love to share about how we, parents, can do school fundraising events in this way, in very casual settings.

Our second 'Micro Birth' screening will be at 12:45 on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November** at Akiko's house, 6 Montrose Ave, Twickenham TW2 6HB.

The film itself lasts one hour, followed by a talk by Beverley Beech (AIMS). The event ends by 14:40-45 so that parents can go to the school to pick up their older kids if they have to. Akiko's house is only 5 minutes from the school.

Akiko Kimura

Nomadoula Wellness in London

<http://nomadoula.wordpress.com/> or email: [todoakiko@outlook.com](mailto:todoakiko@outlook.com)

# Report from The High School

## Class 9

Class 9 are halfway through a very practical first half-term. They began with some work in the grounds, finishing the carved wooden signs they have made for the school. This was followed by a week of blacksmithing with Bernard Graves and a week of survival skills at Trackways in Sussex. During the Trackways week, the pupils learned how to make fire with a bow drill, build a shelter, stalk quietly through the woods, track animals, flint knapping, cord making (using willow bark), archery and birdsong interpretation. These outer skills were complemented by many teaching stories told by Thomas, the course leader, that addressed the inner connection each of us has to nature, to the Earth, to each other and to our own lives and the choices we make. There were many deeply profound moments and experiences which will continue to ripple through the thoughts and feelings of these pupils for many years if not for the rest of their lives.

This week they began a four-week block of building, during which they will build a shelter at the end of the playground for woodwork, clay modelling and other activities that can be done outside. They will also build some more benches and continue some of the landscaping work they began at the beginning of the term near the pedestrian gate area.

## Class 11

Class 11 students have been developing research skills this term, working towards a report about the situation in Gaza, and researching for a project about a chosen art movement. They have also been designing and making copper and silver jewellery in their Morning Module, which is like a practical Main Lesson that takes place every day from 8:30 to 10:30, before the Main Lesson itself.

As well as being a parent in our school (Adam in Class 6), Ahron Bregman is a lecturer in War studies at Kings College, University of London. He fought in Lebanon with the Israeli army in the 1980s and has written several books about the wars and conflicts in the Middle East and, on Monday 29th September, he came to answer some questions that had arisen for the students while they were writing their essays. Speaking to someone with first-hand knowledge brought the whole subject to life for them. He told us that, at the very moment that we were sitting discussing the situation between Israel and Palestine, the leaders of these two nations were sitting together in Egypt discussing the same questions.

Students in Class 11 are working at Levels 1 and 2 of the Steiner School Certificate this year. Two students achieved Level 1 certificates with Distinction, and one with Merit, in June. One has completed Level 1 but was too young to be registered last year. Three others were also too young and will be completing level 1 this year. These younger students were able to take and 'bank' some Level 1 assessments last year, which will now be submitted for external assessment. Feedback from New Zealand is that we are setting tasks and assessing at the right levels and our students are doing very well.

## Steiner School Certificate

In December 2013, some of the students in New Zealand who had graduated from Steiner Waldorf schools there with the Steiner School Certificate (SSC) at level 3, applied to universities in Europe. We now have some information about these applications.

The Federation of Rudolf Steiner Waldorf schools in New Zealand reports that a trial to enter universities in Germany by a German citizen with an SSC from New Zealand was very successful: she was accepted at the Georg-August Universität in Göttingen for the subject "Staatsexamen Rechtswissenschaft" and at the Goethe-Universität Frankfurt.

The Bavarian Recognition Authority gave a "Bescheid über die Anerkennung ausländischer Bildungsnachweise"

(a "Decision on the Recognition of Foreign Qualifications") in June 2014 and they have converted the points achieved into a German grade: A 1,0 which is the best possible grade, on the basis of the achievement points. This led to acceptance at three more universities: for Biology at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, for Geography at the Humboldt-Universität in Berlin. and for Psychology at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität in Freiburg.

Trying to enter universities in Switzerland, a Swiss citizen with an SSC at level 3 with Distinction was admitted to the prestigious HSG in St. Gallen in business administration after some difficulties. Initially, she was informed that

according to CRUS (the Swiss agency charged with the recognition of foreign qualifications) an SSC would not suffice. She would first have to do two additional years at university before being considered at a Swiss university. This is the regulation CRUS had in place for the NCEA (the National Certificate of Educational Achievement, the standard NZ state qualification). Concurrently, a federal court decided that the Lisbon Recognition Convention overrode all other regulations and is "self-executing", i.e. needing no further basis in Swiss law to be directly applicable, since this was an International Convention Switzerland had ratified. Consequently, the student from New Zealand was admitted unconditionally to the HSG in St. Gallen. The ruling can be found at [http://www.servat.unibe.ch/dfr/bger/140313\\_2C\\_457-2013.html](http://www.servat.unibe.ch/dfr/bger/140313_2C_457-2013.html)

Another New Zealand student who has attained a Level 3 SSC will be applying to UK universities for engineering. We will keep you posted on the response to his applications.

Amanda Bell & Brian Jacques

## Advent

As in previous years, we would love to celebrate Advent together by creating a small gathering for the friends and families of the St Michael Steiner School.

If you would like to take part in making this day happen, please contact:

Lara Koppers (Class 5 teacher) on [larakoppers@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:larakoppers@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk) or come and find me in the playground after school.

## New Parent & Child Video from TEA Films

As many of you may be aware, there have been several short videos made about the school. TEA films have kindly volunteered their time to make this happen!

We now have a Summer Festival video, Lower School video, a High School video, and a brand new Parent & Child vide, which you can see on our website:

<http://stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk/steiner-education/parent-and-child-groups.html>

Watch this space for a new Kindergarten video, coming soon...

Find out about TEA films on their website: <http://teafilms.com>



# 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.

My name is Emelie Ulrich, I am a 16 year old girl from Germany. During my 10<sup>th</sup> class of Waldorf School in Potsdam I would like to do my internship in England. This internship has to take place at the beginning of February 2015 and should last three up to eight weeks.

If necessary I would also work additionally as a babysitter or even pay for my stay. It really would be a pleasure for me if anybody could help me.

Please do not hesitate to contact me:  
[emelie.ulrich@gmx.de](mailto:emelie.ulrich@gmx.de)

Thank you in advance!

We are sisters and we are looking for a student exchange 2-3 months in the period October 2014-December 2014 or January March 2015, maybe later. Then we will be 16 years old. We are living at the famous Chiemsee Lake near by the pretty beautiful Chiemsee mountains. Its about 50 Km from Salzburg and 100 Km in the south of Munich and we are joining the Waldorfschool in Prien. We are living in a house with our parents an we are able to offer one Guestroom. Please contact us by email [vagdatopoulos@gmx.de](mailto:vagdatopoulos@gmx.de). Then we can meet each other by skype or something like that. By writing this offer we have had help by our parents.

Hello, we are a humorous, ecologically aware and open-minded family living in Holzmaden. That's a village in south-west Germany near Stuttgart. We have 3 sons (2, 12 and 14 years old ). My husband is a social worker and I am a mother at home. Our eldest son Elias (attending class 8 "Freie Waldorfschule Kirchheim/Teck") would love to take part in a school-exchange with an English speaking pupil, boy or girl, from another Steiner/Waldorf School. He is a kind boy, uncomplicated ( not picky at all ), reliable and interested in everything. He loves reading, horse riding and playing board games! Who would like to learn more about our country, our family, a foreign waldorf-school, about the German language and, most important, which family would be interested in interchanging their child for at least 6 weeks up to 4 months? Interested?! We would be very happy if you send us an e-mail: [nadja@elpanama.de](mailto:nadja@elpanama.de)

I am looking for a nurturing, responsible and registered childminder to look after my child, on Saturdays, in Steiner House while I am training, from 9.00am-6.00 pm. I would be very grateful if you could please share this message if you know of any person who might be interested. [justelene@hotmail.com](mailto:justelene@hotmail.com)

My name is Célestine Hofmann and I'm fifteen years old. I would like to make an exchange with a girl from your class this year. I am very motivated so I hope it's still possible. I live in Alsace in France and I'm in class 10 in the Steiner school « Mathias Grünewald » in Colmar. I was born in Denmark, my mother is Danish but she speaks French (and English) and my father is french. My mother works in an institute for handicapped people and my father is musician. My mother's family live in Denmark so I go often to Denmark during the holidays. Beside the school, my activities are horse riding and dance. I like going to Colmar to meet friends and sometimes to go shopping. I love shopping! My parents are separated, but still friends, so I live half and half in two houses, with guest room for you in both places. My father's apartment is near the mountains and my mother's house is in a village. Both are 25 minutes going by train or car away from my school in Colmar. If it's possible, I would like to make an exchange of 2 or 3 month. I know that in class 10 some of the English schools have exams, which makes it difficult for you to make an exchange, but maybe we could find an arrangement. For example, you can come during the summer holidays. I'm ready to come when you want from now. I still have many things to say if a girl is interested by my request... If you would like to contact me, this is my mail-adress : [celestine.hofmann@gmail.com](mailto:celestine.hofmann@gmail.com) Thank you to answer fast if you are interested because it is quite urgent for me to find a solution.



Kindest regards, Célestine