

The St Michael Steiner School NEWSLETTER

12th October 2012

Park Road, Hanworth Park, London TW13 6PN

Email: info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

Website: www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

Michaelmas

There is a knighthood of the present age
Whose members do not ride through the darkness of physical forests of old,
But through the Forests of darkened minds.

They are armed with spiritual armour
And an inner sun makes them radiant.

Out of them shines healing,
Healing that flows from a knowing of the image of man
As a spiritual being.

They must create an inner order,
Inner justice, peace and conviction in the darkness of our time.

Karl Konig





Photos from the school's official opening, 29th September 2012

From The Early Years

Early Years Michaelmas Festival

Our Festival began in the garden where we lit a fire in our new fire pit and prepared and cooked "dragon stew" in our giant cauldron.

Later as we sat and enjoyed the warm glow of the fire, whoever found carrot flames in their bowls could make wishes as they ate them up.



Afterwards we gathered around "Mother Earth's helper in her beautiful bower and put the bulb children to bed for their Winter rest. She thanked us for our help and gave us gifts of crispy apples.

I saw a dragon, a spiky dragon
Breathing fire and smoke.
We brought him home,
Gave him some milk
And gave his back a stroke.
He sat on the mat
Just like that
And he began to purr.
His spikes and spines all gone away
And changed to nice soft fur.
Instead of breathing fire and smoke,
He'd whiskers long as that!
Our spiky spiny dragon,
Is now a pussycat.



We are enjoying settling into our beautiful new surroundings.
Thank you to everyone who helped to make this a reality.
We welcome Melina, Elisa, Mark and their families to our School Community.

*Leigha Hipkin on behalf of the Early Years Team
(photos Wendy Hewitt & Maria da Costa)*

Rudolf's Diner

PROGRAMME
FOR ADULTS
AT THE ST
MICHAEL
STEINER
SCHOOL led
by Steiner
Waldorf
teachers and
other specialists.

Sock Knitting

With Birgit Moller

6th, 13th and 20th of November, after drop morning off

Come and learn how to knit your own socks, for a child, friend or for yourself! Learn how to turn a heel and knit on five needles!

A minimum of 6 participants are required. Wool and needles can be provided at cost price, provided that advance notice is given.

Sorry, but this course is not for beginners, as knowledge of knit, purl, casting on and off, reducing and picking up stitches is needed. No extra cost, other than materials.

Small children welcome, provided that parents care for their own children.

Please book by October 22nd



Woodwork With Kilian Voss on Thursday evenings

Come and Join Kilian Voss in a woodwork class - Make a spoon, spatula or Bowl. Once you have the basic skills, the woods had better watch out. All materials provided!

Cost for Six sessions between half-term and Christmas - £60 (payable in full on the first evening)

will only run if it minimum 4 participants.

Waldorf Reconsidered: Myths and Misconceptions about Steiner Education

A public talk given by Eugene Schwartz

7 pm, October 25th

Booking essential

£9/£7 concessions

Craft Group

with Julia Wallace and Juanna Ladaga,
Tuesday mornings, after drop off.

You are very welcome to join the school craft group. Small children are also welcome, but are the responsibility of their parent.

Group starts after half term, in parent and Child/library room. We shall be making, learning, sharing. No experience necessary, all welcome!

The Diner Singers Choir

Have you ever wanted to join a small, informal choir and have fun exploring your voice? Come along and learn new songs in a friendly and encouraging group, led by Juanna Ladaga. No experience or music reading required! Minimum of 8 people needed.

Wednesday evenings, 7-8pm

Cost: £3 per session

Starts: 8th of November

Storytelling: the foibles and fables of Louise Coigley

A storytelling performance for adults, at the St Michael Steiner School.

Saturday, 27th of October, 7.30-9pm,

Tickets at the door £5

Advent Craft Workshop with Christine Fynes-Clinton and Ann Druiitt

Saturday, November 16th
Workshop details, times and cost to be confirmed. Please e-mail if you are interested.

Many people come to our school and say, "Ah, if only I had been to a Steiner School..." Well, here is your chance to have a taste of what the children get to feast on everyday! We have a programme of crafts, talks, workshops and more. To book a place at any of these events, please e-mail juanna.ladaga@gmail.com

Someone holds up all this falling



the foibles and fables of
Louise Coigley

a storytelling performance
for adults

**The St Michael Steiner School,
Park Rd, West London, TW13 6PN**

Saturday 27th October 2012 7.30 – 9 pm

tickets at the door: £5

Louise is a storyteller and speech and language therapist. Her therapeutic method Lis'n Tell: live inclusive storytelling inspires children with communication problems, such as autism, to develop their attention, understanding, social, verbal and literacy skills. In 2009, Louise was in the top 5 Hitlist of childrens' performances at The Edinburgh Fringe. Her one-woman storytelling shows have played at The Brighton Fringe and Canterbury Arts Festivals. She has been invited to run storytelling workshops and trainings for parents, therapists and teachers in Singapore, Australia, Greece, Malta, Germany, Ireland and Nova Scotia as well as throughout the UK. Louise works part time in a Steiner school for children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. She is a guest lecturer at Greenwich Medway University and The International School of Storytelling.

www.lisntell.com

www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

Waldorf Reconsidered: Myths and Misconceptions about Steiner Education

**A public talk given by Eugene Schwartz,
in association with The St Michael Steiner School**

As the Steiner/Waldorf philosophy approaches its hundredth year, it is high time to reexamine its basic premises and to assess their efficacy in the classroom. In his nearly forty years as a Steiner teacher and consultant, Eugene has taught scores of students and visited over 150 schools. In tonight's lecture he will draw on his broad experience to address several important questions concerning Steiner education:

- *Is the “slow and steady” approach in the primary grades holding children back in later academic achievement?*
 - *Are Steiner schools deficient in their teaching of science and math?*
 - *Are Steiner teachers loose in discipline, lacking in rigor, and too relaxed about accountability?*
 - *Is bullying a problem that Steiner schools can solve?*
- These questions may not be new, but be prepared for some surprising answers. Even the most seasoned Waldorf and friends may find food for thought in tonight's presentation.*

Venue: The St Michael Steiner School, Hanworth Park, Park Rd, Feltham, TW13 6PN, London

Date: Thursday, 25th of October, 2012

Time: 7pm

Cost: £9/concessions £7

Bookings: juanna.ladaga@gmail.com

Photo courtesy of “Waldorf Painting”, Dick van Bruin

***Due to space restrictions, places are limited.
Advance booking is essential!***

Fundraising Update

In May Shalu and Raman (Lila's parents) put together a fantastic team and raised £1011 at the Richmond Fair by selling Raman's yummy tandoori chicken. We gratefully used this money to put down our refundable deposit towards the Wandsworth Town Hall for the 8th of November (our next Fundraising enterprise). Then Shalu and Raman went on to organise a '3 peaks challenge' in which Raman and two of his friends, climbed the 3 highest peaks in the UK in 24 hours (and a little bit) whilst Shalu and her team drove the climbers to the different locations. This raised £5215!! Thank you to everybody who contributed to this amount, both large and small. We would particularly like to thank George Buckley, Didier Delvaux and Raman Khosla for contributions both financial and physical. This much needed money has gone towards the fencing around our new school premises which has cost more than £9000. If you would still like to donate to the 3 peaks challenge, please go to the justgiving page: <http://www.justgiving.com/3peaks4stmichaelsteinerschool>

We have also received some donations from generous parents like Leila Steeds, who held a workshop and donated some of the funds she earned to the school. Thank you to you all.

Last year we started a very active fundraising group to try and raise money for the move to the new building. As it happened, so much time and effort needed to go into this, that we did not manage to launch our work before the end of term. This year, we are better prepared and a new fundraising initiative will be started soon. If you are interested in helping the school with either time, skills or ideas and experience, please contact me, Lara Kuppers, on mskuppers@btconnect.com

I would very much like to thank Leila, Mel, Jasmine and Viva for your efforts last year and I hope that you will find some time to work with us again this year.

Lara Kuppers

Dear parents and friends of St Michael Steiner School,

As you may or may not be aware a group of parents working to fundraise for our school managed to secure the wandsworth civic suite free of charge for an event on November 8th 2012.

Since then considerable effort has gone into pulling an event together that would optimise the fundraising potential of this space (thank you dear viva for putting the rhythms event in place).

Up until last week we were going to go ahead with a 5 rhythms dance, however following a very kind and generous offer from Heather Bird Tchenguiz (Vivi and Victor's mummy) we are now going to go ahead with a dinner dance! As the fundraising potential is greater.

(The rhythms and a wonderful concert by Martha Tilsden will still go ahead as separate events at a later date to be arranged.)

Heather has offered to put her fundraising events team onto a dinner dance to take place from 7 pm til midnight on Thursday 8th November 2012. So enabling a fantastic evening for parents family friends and the larger community. Tickets will be £20 each amazing value for this type of evening I am sure you will agree! (Easily the cost a pizza and a glass of wine on an evening out!)

This is a wonderful opportunity to get a group of friends together that you rarely get a chance to go out with, dress up and have a great evening whilst helping the fundraising cause without breaking the bank 😊

As time is short to promote and sell tickets for the 8th we all need to pull together.

The venue capacity for a sit down dinner is 400 people so we are looking towards 40 tables of 10.

Please don't be put off by this, if you are able to come by yourself or with your partner that would be great. We are however asking as many of you who are able, to take a table and bring a party.

We can make this a fabulous evening if we all take part and really how lucky are we to have this organised for our school and heading into the Christmas party season too!

The music will be popular party music that we all know and love (you will also be able to make as many requests as you care to on the night!)

So don't be shy get your party clothes out and dust off your dancing shoes!! By the way the dancing is optional and there is plenty of space for the quieter souls to relax and enjoy a conversation!

Please book your tickets now and support this wonderful evening. I cannot stress enough that we really do need your help to make this a success (we already have the first donation of a prize for the evening very kindly offered by Sting and Trudy Styler) can't wait to see what happens next!

For tickets and also any questions you may have contact me or any members of the fundraising team. If you would like to help in any way please let us know.

With love and thanks Mel (on behalf of the fundraising team) contact 07861392419/
red@nakedtango.co.uk

A note about the use of the school's name and Logo

We very much appreciate the fundraising efforts that are going on in the school and want to support them wherever we can. However, please note that, because we are a school and a charity with clearly stated vision and aims, and because we are part of a wider movement that regulates use of the name 'Steiner Waldorf', the school's name and logo must not be used by anyone without express permission from the College. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

Education News Clippings

The Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship office sends out regular media clippings about education issues to anyone who is interested. Some of them are controversial and not all of them are complimentary about Steiner education, but we're all grown up aren't we? So if you are interested and not scared of a little criticism, email Jasmin at forjasmin@googlemail.com and she will forward them to you.

Newsletter Contributions

The next newsletter will be distributed on Friday 9th November. Deadline for contributions is 6pm Wednesday 7th November. We are always keen to publish contributions from parents in the newsletter if you have something interesting/funny/controversial/moving/profound to share, however small, please send it to me. Email please, to: amandabell@mac.com

Dates for Your Diary

OCTOBER

Wed 17 - 4:30 - 7:30 Open Evening (See Open Days page)

Thu 2 - 12.30 / 3pm SCHOOL ENDS FOR HALF-TERM

Wed 24 - 7 - 8:30 Class 7 Parents' evening

Thu 25 7pm Eugene Schwartz lecture for parents.

Fri 26 - 10am - 4pm STAFF INSET (no school)

Fri 26 - Sun 28 'From Mars with Love' A Teachers Conference with Eugene Schwartz

NOVEMBER

Mon 5 - 8.30am BACK TO SCHOOL

Wed 7 - 7 - 8:30pm Class 9 Parents' evening

DECEMBER

Wed 19 - 12.30pm END OF TERM FOR ALL CLASSES

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

Why Psychophonetics?

I first heard about Psychophonetics when our daughter joined St Michael Steiner School in September 2011 and I saw a course flyer on Andrea's desk called 'Humanising Medicine'. Anthroposophical Doctor and Psychophonetics practitioner, Raoul Goldberg (author of 'Awakening to Child Health' and 'Addictive Behaviour in Children and Young Adults: The Struggle for Freedom') was presenting a day on health and medicine followed by a day on child development.

With a background in health and medicine as a Consultant Nurse, it seemed a great opportunity for me to learn more about Steiner's approach in contrast to an area I knew well from a more conventional perspective.

I was surprised to find the course was taking place in Stroud, my birthplace and home to Wynstone's and my initial awareness of Waldorf education. I spoke with Alexandra Hoppe (Alex) from Persephone College UK to find out more about the course and this helped to consolidate my decision to go for it!

I enjoyed the first two days of the course and learnt so much, both about the systems of the body and child development, from conception to adulthood, from an Anthroposophical perspective. The final day of the course was learning about Psychophonetics with founder, Yehuda Tagar and Doctor Raoul Goldberg. As I had never heard of it before, I was a bit unsure about how much I was going to get out of the day; I needn't have worried as it turned out to be the best part of the course!

I learned that Psychophonetics is a dynamic modality incorporating mind, body, soul and spirit, developed from Steiner's writings and lectures, from well-studied works such as 'The Philosophy of Freedom' to 'The Alphabet' and his lectures on Psychosophy, the wisdom of soul.

The approach of Psychophonetics is particularly appealing to me. It shifts away from a focus on conversation, problems and therapy to working at a deeper yet practical level through the universal sounds of human speech, sensing and gesture in the body to support self-care, development and leadership. This is a logical and time efficient methodology and it can be used effectively in many different contexts, for example with physical or health issues such as allergy or chronic fatigue, to explore patterns of behaviour or to determine the next step in our personal or professional lives.

Doctor Raoul Goldberg, trained in Psychophonetics by its founder, Yehuda Tagar, now runs an integrated health centre, combining conventional, Anthroposophical medicine and Psychophonetics, for adults and children. It was inspiring to learn from his case studies and to begin to develop a new framework for my own approach to nursing.

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After my experience in Stroud, I was keen for this work to become known in London and to be accessible to the school community at St Michael Steiner. Yehuda Tagar agreed to waive his fee and to give a lecture to the parents and teachers in May 2012. The talk took place at a London library with a suggested £10 donation to the school. Parents rallied together in support, baking delicious cakes and savory bites. A selection of wines for guided tasting and coconut water were donated by one of the parents for us to sample during the interval.

Although I had been hoping for a bigger turnout, the reception was amazing. Those who came along to find out what it was all about were not disappointed and some wanted to set up camp with their sleeping bags for the night! As well as introducing Psychophonetics (or 'Sound Wisdom'), Yehuda inspired us with an auditory journey through the sounds of The Alphabet.

The following day, a workshop was held for parents at the beautiful National Trust property, Ham House and Gardens. There was a buzz of excitement as 20 parents arrived, some with little ones in tow, to enjoy an experiential 'Parent Space' day with Yehuda and Alex. For me, it was wonderful to have brought the parents together to share something in the summer term that had been living in me since the autumn. It was helpful to fully appreciate the changes that parenthood have brought and incredible to see the amazing response and natural appreciation of sound and gesture from the little ones.

Following the success of the parenting workshop, an experiential workshop was held in June at Steiner House, also on the theme of 'Sound Wisdom'. Those who took part went deeper into the sound work, the exploration of the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner and the practice of Psychophonetics. This was such an inspiring experience, both to share within the workshop on the day and to be able to personally build and carry practical tools away with us into the rest of our lives.

Thank you to all those of you who have supported me in sharing this work in London, it couldn't have happened without you!

The professional training is arriving to London in November 2012. There is an **introductory 5-day seminar in the beautiful Eurythmy room at Steiner House, starting 21st November.**

Yehuda Tagar is also offering two free, experiential, taster days:

'Self-care with Psychophonetics' on Sunday 28th October and Sunday 18 November 2012.

The taster workshops are free to attend but early booking is essential as spaces will be limited.

Spaces are also available for the introductory 5-day seminar if you would like to have a more in-depth understanding of the work. This can also contribute towards the Foundation year, focused on self-processing and self-development.

If you are interested or have any feedback or questions, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Please contact me at: arnoldmichelleblue@yahoo.co.uk

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Steiner educated childminder/babysitter

seeking part-time work. Lots of experience with children. Warm, friendly, able to support the education. Hours and payment negotiable. Get in touch with Stella on stella@stellabellottewill.com or telephone 07525 204 570

HANDMADE NATURAL SOAP AVAILABLE

Lavender

Rose Geranium

Clary Sage and Lemongrass

Orange Geranium

Price: £3 each or two for £5

Please contact Brian Jacques (Class 9 Guardian)

brian.jacques@stmichaelsteinerschool.co.uk