

# The St Michael Steiner School NEWSLETTER

10th June 2011  
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## Dates for Your Diary

### JUNE

- Fri 10 Whitsun festival
- Sat 18 Open Day 10 - 12.30
- Fri 24 St John's Day
- Wed 29 Class 4&5 leave for Olympics

### JULY

- Sat 2 Olympics at Michael Hall 7.30am - 12 noon
- Thur 7 End of term festival
- Fri 8 Term ends for all classes 12.30.

### SEPTEMBER

- Wed 7 TERM STARTS & Class 1 welcome ceremony
- Thu 22 Upper School Meeting
- Thu 29 Michaelmas

### OCTOBER

- Thu 20 School ends for half term
- Fri 21 - Sun 23 Conference with Eugene Schwartz at Rudolf Steiner House.
- Mon 31 Back to school

## *"Some mangey bilger's rat's scuppered me port 'n' starboard scran spanners"\**

A week before half-term, Class 6&7 headed for Liverpool Street Station, where we boarded a train for Ipswich. An hour or so later, we were trudging along a canal heading towards the Ipswich Marina and our home for the next five days: a 72' sailing ketch called Faramir. The vessel is owned by the Cirdan Trust who organise sail training voyages for groups and soon we were sitting in the saloon beside the galley for a safety briefing with the Skipper, Dawn, and First Mate, Paul. Then it was all hands on deck where we learned the ropes were actually called lines and we cast off towards the open sea. The newly press-ganged crew soon found themselves hoisting the mainsail (Two, six, heave!), coiling the lines, making tea, taking turns at the helm, cooking meals, making tea, raising the anchor, swabbing decks (yes, they really did!), making tea,



learning about the different sails and the weather and boat safety, experiencing seasickness (never again, some said), and making tea. It was an incredible five days of very challenging hard work and upon reflection when we returned, many said they might not necessarily do it again but all agreed it was a good experience. Some also commented, "I'll never look at the sea in the same way again," and, "When I see a ship at sea, I know what that feels like now."

Brain Jacques

\* "A bad man has lost my knife and fork"

## What's Happening in the Classrooms?

### Class 6&7

Back in the classroom now with our feet on dry land, we're exploring the world of substances and their transformation.

Our chemistry main lesson has begun with combustion and the effect of fire on various things. Next will be the lime cycle, and acids and bases.

Throughout these lessons, the pupils are challenged to use their senses, to observe phenomena closely, and to be active in their thinking to work out how what they perceive may come about.

Brian Jacques

### Class 4&5

We are preparing for one of the most treasured and moving experiences of their school lives: their expedition to the Olympics. At the end of June, they will join 500 other children for a 3-day training camp, followed by a day of Greek Olympic events - Dash, Marathon, Javelin, Discus, Long Jump, High Jump and Wrestling.

The children have been training since Christmas in these events in their Games lesson. In Handwork, they have been making the white tunics they will wear. In the Main Lesson, we have been hearing Greek myths for the last term and a half, and now we reading Homer's Odyssey and immersing ourselves in Greek history.

With the siege of Troy over and Odysseus trying to make his way back to Ithaka, we have travelled forward in time by 1000 years to Greece's golden age, a mere 2500 years ago. Here we find the City States established in isolation from each other, separated by high mountain ridges, so that two cities, less

than 100 miles apart, developed diametrically opposite philosophies; one valued only hard work and warfare, denied love and beauty and produced one of the most successful armies in the ancient world, while the other prized, above all, eloquence, art, poetry, music and the beauty of the human form, and yet also produced one of the most successful armies in the Ancient World.

These two were, of course, Sparta and Athens, so influential in their training and perfection of the human body, that their names have become our words 'Sport' and 'Athletics'. There was some interesting discussion around the differences between these two things, and the children came to the conclusion that sport was more competitive, usually involved teams and was all about winning, whereas athletics was about individual striving - doing your best.

The cities of Greece allied themselves either to Athens or to Sparta and fought amongst themselves for hundreds of years. In the next two weeks, we will find out what these two cities had to do in order to defend, not their own cities but the whole civilisation of Greece against attack by 'Barbaros' - uncivilised people, barbarians, non-Greeks, uncouth people with beards! foreigners!

Amanda Bell



## From The Early Years

### Eurythmy Performance

The Early Years and Class One outing to Steiner House was a wonderful experience. We watched 'The Story of the Three Oranges', a fairy tale from Italy. Our children were told the story for the week leading up to the performance. We rounded off the day in Regent's Park. Here we had a sunny lakeside walk and picnic with families from other London Kindergartens in the Children's Playground.

Leigha

### ATTENTION ALL KNITTERS!

We are looking for knitters to help us create beautiful and simple (you only need to be able to knit a square) animals for us to sell at the Barnes fair on 9th July. If you know ANYONE, mothers, friends, relatives etc who enjoy knitting please contact Sarah Michael for a pack-wool, stuffing and patterns included! If you would like to learn to knit please come to our craft group on Thursdays from 9am to 11.30am: 16th June, 23rd June, 30th June.

If you cannot make the craft group please contact Sarah Michael and she can arrange a time to help you. Class children are also welcome to participate as we know what beautiful crafts people you are. We are using beautiful organic naturally dyed wools. If you are happy to sew up rather than knit that would also be very welcomed.

We have stalls at Barnes fair on 9th July. Any volunteers to help on the stalls are most welcome. Please contact Sarah Michael if you are available. We are also looking for material to make bunting and beanbags so if anyone has any material off cuts or scraps they would be gratefully received.

Looking forward to hearing from all our crafters so we can make this event a success.

Sarah

For the Social and Outreach Group

The Salvation Army Fair during half term was a leisurely and sunny affair. Our school stall drew a lot of interest and children came to make cone bees and decorate crowns. In all, the fair raised £900.

Thank you for the craft and cake contributions.

Leigha and Lara

## Lifeways 2011

Lifeways is a summer family camp, organised by our trustee Ann Druitt and Christine Fynes-Clinton who has given festival workshops at our school. The week comes highly recommended as a memorable experience for children and adults alike.

This year, as in the past, teachers from our school will be involved in taking childrens' games and co-running the childrens' 'day camp'.

For further details, contact the school or pick up a leaflet from Andrea.

## School Fees - please pay now!

### Fee invoices may be paid either:

- 1 Annually in advance by September 10th or:
- 2 Termly by the first day of each term or:
- 3 By regular monthly Standing Order commencing in September with financial commitment to be met in full not later than the following 30th June.

Cheques should be made payable to:  
The St Michael Steiner School Ltd.

### Information for BACS payments:

Account name:  
THE ST MICHAEL STEINER SCHOOL LTD.  
Account number: 65098413  
Bank: THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK  
Sort code: 08-92-99

Please quote your family name as a reference so that we can identify your payment.

## Newsletter Contributions

The next newsletter will be distributed on Friday 8th July. Deadline for contributions is 6pm Wednesday 6th July

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.

Amanda

## ACCOMMODATION FOR VISITORS

Occasionally we have students, advisors, therapists or speakers, who do not live in London, come to our school. Often we need to find a place for them to stay for the night so that they can join us for our early starts. If you have a room available and are happy to have lodgers there from time to time for mostly one night at a time, and with plenty of notice, please let us know.

## 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 and she will forward them to you.

# 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.

## NATURAL HANDMADE SOAP

Currently bars of Rose Geranium, and Lavender are available.

£3 each or 2 for £5.

Please contact Brian Jacques



## AU PAIR IN ITALY?

We would like to introduce you our family, Petra Gaja, 3 and a half years old (our daughter), Sonia, the mother, (stylist) and Giuseppe the father, self-employer.

We are looking for an au-pair, who speaks a very good English in order to let Petra Gaja keep on learning and improve her English (and her mother too). We would like to have an au-pair who shares our values of Steiner's School education which we have been giving to our daughter. This would be really helpful to have a good and strong relationship with Petra Gaja through playing and singing with her. We would like her to be as a big sister to her and become a part of the family. The house about an hundred meters from the Livorno beach and well connected by public transport.

If the girl would like to study Italian there are free classes on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

Our family diet is very healthy and macrobiotic. That is why we prefer someone whose eating habit is regular and healthy as ours. The house's surface is 140 m<sup>2</sup> and the room associated to the au-pair girl is 20 m<sup>2</sup> with two single sized beds.

Other then the relationship with Petra Gaja the au-pair girl should be willing to help the housework from time to time. The working hours will vary from 6 to 8 hours a day. From August 2nd to 29th we will be in Sicilly for the summer holiday. We would like to hire someone for a year.

It would be very pleasant for us if the girl would be able also to help teaching in the Steiner's School because the actual teacher is looking for an assistant.

Thanks for your help and your precious time.

Best regards,

Sonia Vellere, Viale N.Sauro 19, 57127 Livorno - Italy Tel.+39 335 5930303 Mail:info@sonjavellere.com

## GERMAN HOLIDAY GUEST



Dear Friends,

on behalf of one of our students of class 11 at Heidenheim Waldorfschool I am looking for an accommodation during our summer holidays in August.

**Maria Gercen**, 17, is a nice and hard-working student with East European background, who does not find it easy to get to grips with the English language.

In view of the approaching examination (GCSE-equivalent) she is looking for a family who would put her up as a paying guest.

Any period of maximum three weeks between the 1<sup>st</sup> August and the 4<sup>th</sup> September would do.

No language course is required, only - of course - family life with lots of talking.

I would very much appreciate your cooperation in finding respectively recommending a suitable family.

Thank you very much.

*H. Schmoller*

Matthias Schmoller

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## Au Pair in Switzerland?

Warm-hearted and cheerful family at the Lausanne Steiner School (Switzerland) is looking for an Au



Pair (between 18 and 25 years) for at least 12 months (from August 2011) to look primarily after Max (17 months and born after this photo was taken), but also a bit after Simon (8), Amelle (6) and Louise (4). Beautiful house overlooking Lake Geneva and the Alps. Lovely Au Pair room with private bathroom and kitchenette. Drivers license. inevitable. We pay a very good Au Pair salary, some language courses and accomodation and food are free. So enough money to travel within Europe! Happy to welcome you in our family. Please contact [julia@schwerk.com](mailto:julia@schwerk.com), 0041 21 864 34 37. Thank you for your interest.