

The St Michael Steiner School NEWSLETTER

11th November 2011
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Dates for Your Diary

NOVEMBER

Fri 11: 4.30 to 6pm Martinmas Lantern Walk

Sat 19: 11am to 4pm Advent Fair

Fri 25: 9:15 to 11:45am Simplicity Parenting Workshop Course 1

Fri 25: 1:30 to 3:30pm A Gentle Beginning (Parent and Infant Support group)

Sat 26 9:15 - 12 Parents' workday

Sun 27: 1st Sunday of Advent

Mon 28: Early evening: Advent Spiral (Kindergarten)

DECEMBER

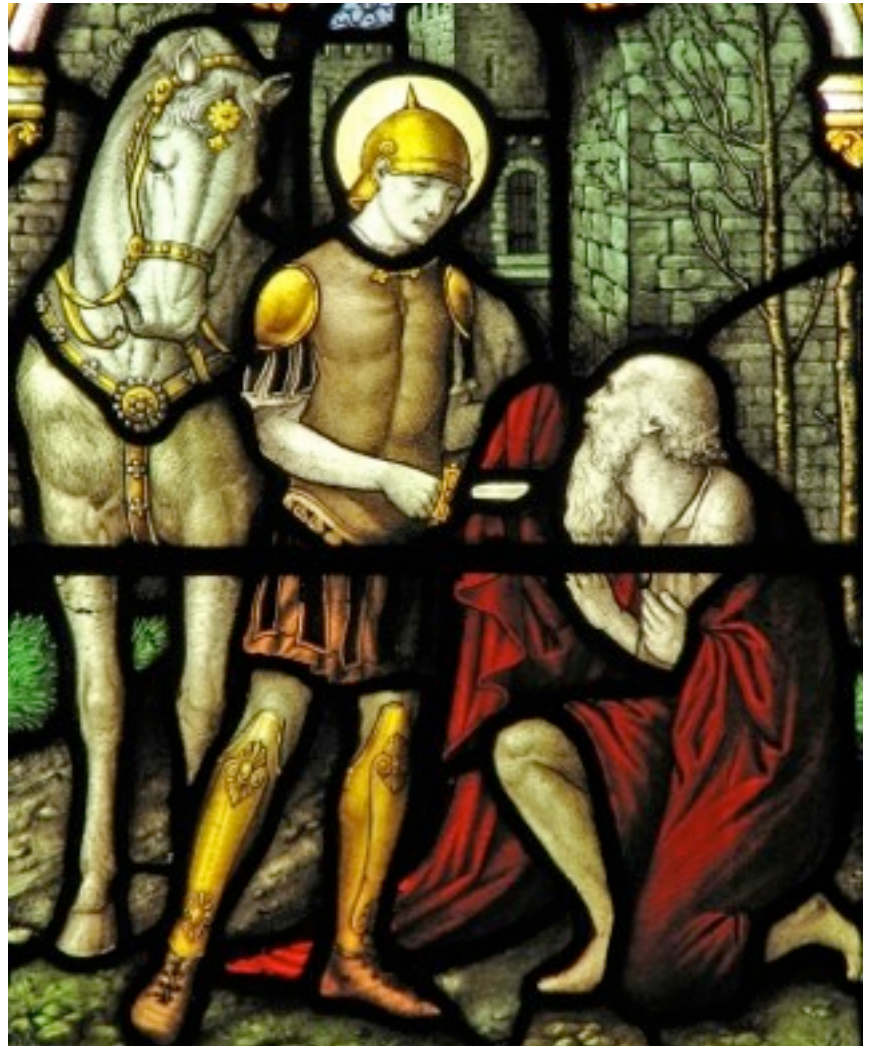
Sat 3: 10am to 12.30pm Open Day

Thu 8: 7 to 8:30pm Growing Down and Waking Up: A course for parents in child development: Part II

Thu 15: 11 to 12.30pm End of Term Festival (TBC) (No Afternoon Care)

Fri 16: 8.15/8.30am Kindergarten Family Festival

Fri 16 : 12.30pm END OF TERM FOR ALL CLASSES



St Martin

Today is the feast day of St Martin of Tours. As the days are growing shorter, there are many traditions connected with light celebrated on this time of year. In our school, at Martinmas, the younger children make their own lanterns and take them out into the community at dusk to symbolise the bringing of light into the darkness.

EURYTHMY ADULT CLASS

Dear parents and friends of St Michael's,

Dr. Steiner says about Waldorf schools and Eurythmy that if there was only one subject that had to be compulsory, it should be eurythmy. I am not sure we can begin to fathom the depth of what he meant when he said such a thing but it makes me realise there is so much more to understand than we do at present and just maybe this misunderstood treasure is really Gold in our hands which we simply haven't recognised.

To help us in this direction, I would like to really enliven eurythmy in our school by offering a eurythmy class for adults, which we are lucky enough to be able to organise on a Friday morning.

The reason for this is first for you as parents to experience a little of what your children are living in their eurythmy life, and also to invite you on a journey of discovery which can help you accompany your child through their difficulties with more understanding when they meet them. With more understanding on your part, the children feel more supported and when they feel more supported they are freer in their being to blossom further.

If any of you are interested and are able, then please do come forward and sign the list at reception so we can begin to take this project forward.

I very much look forward to meeting many of you and also of seeing you through the course of our time together at St Michael's.

Warm regards,

Michele Hunter

Warm Welcome to All

EURYTHMY ADULT CLASS at St Michael's

Friday mornings from 9.00 to 10.00 am
or 10.00 to 11.00 am

Time and fee to be confirmed...

We would like to start as soon as we have enough participants! So, please be part of it and embrace this wonderful offer! Andrea

Simplicity Parenting 9.15am-11.45am Fridays

There are still a couple of places available on this course.

Gentle Beginnings 1.30pm -3.30pm Fridays

(Parents and Infants Support Group)

Early Years Staff are offering a creche for parents who would like to attend this group with their infants and who need child care for their older children. For information or to book a place on either of these courses contact the Facilitator Dot Male dot@bowring-make.net or 01904612683

For more information and to book a place in the creche please contact the Early Years Teachers.

Venue for courses: St Michael Steiner Centre for Early Childhood.

Thank you. Leigha Hipkin

Newsletter Contributions

The next newsletter will be distributed on Friday 9th December. Deadline for contributions is 6pm Wednesday 7th December. 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

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.

Study Group

The study group with Philip Martyn is now going strong, every Wednesday morning from about 8:40. Speak to Andrea if you would like to join.

What's happening in the Classrooms?

Now in November, Class 3 & 4 have been turning their attention to the geography and history of the local area, Wandsworth and the River Wandle. The class walked the local area and the bank of the Wandle, from King George's Park to Morden Hall Park for five hours! The purpose of this block is to become more aware of the modern surroundings in the local area and to have a sense for what life was like here in former times. The class also interviewed elderly, long-time residents of the borough, finding out about life during the war, life as a Wandsworth child at the turn of the 20th century and how people entertained themselves before the advent of ipods and Wii!

Edwin Ladaga



Class 3&4 on the Wandle and at Wandsworth Museum



From The Early Years

The sunlight fast is dwindling
My little lamp needs kindling
We carry our light in the darkening night.

As the darkness draws in we are called upon to look for the light and warmth we so enjoyed in the summer in a different sphere – within ourselves. The sun, moon and stars suggest heavenly forces which want to live in the souls of human beings here on earth. We will be celebrating Festivals of Light, Diwali, Martinmas, Advent and Hanukkah, in our kindergartens to prepare for the long dark winter ahead of us.

This is the time of year when traditionally children would carve their root lanterns, to make a 'house' to guard their light from the wind and rain, as they carried it, singing into the twilight. In our kindergartens we have all been very busy making our own lanterns and learning the songs for our Martinmas walk tonight.

At half term, Leigha, Katie, Wendy, Jeannette and Rebecca attended the Steiner Waldorf National Early Childhood Conference at Kings Langley Steiner School. The speaker was Heiner Priess, who shared his years of knowledge and experiences of child study. It was a very inspiring day.

We welcome Finley Michael into Katie's Kindergarten and Reuben Campbell into Leigha's kindergarten. We also welcome Marie Galen into Rebecca's kindergarten. Marie is spending three weeks on a social internship from the Klagenfurt Waldorf School in Austria.



Rebecca Firth
For the Early Years

Thank you to parents and friends who helped transport and position the enormous tree trunk slices for our garden. Thanks also to those others who fitted curtain rails and helped the children to make their Martinmas Lanterns.

Leigha

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.

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 7&8 teacher) 07759917112

I am looking for Steiner inspired childcare for my 18 month old son and would love to hear from anyone who is interested. I am currently taking a city & guilds in massage therapy and need someone to care for my son whilst I attend the classes. So it's a part-time position available now until July when the course will end. Hours are 09.30-5.30 on Mondays and 09.30-1.30 on Tuesdays.

We live in SE11 near Kennington, Elephant & Castle and Waterloo. Mobile number is 0798 387 2878.

Tania Sena