



The St Michael Steiner School NEWSLETTER

11th May 2012

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY

Sat 12 - 10am - 12:30pm Open Day at Merton Road and 11am - 3pm Open Day at Hanworth Rectory

Wed 16 - 7 - 8:30pm - Class 1 and Class 2 Parents evenings

Thu 17 - 7 - 8:30pm - Kindergarten Parents Evening

Fri 25 - 9:15 - 11:45am - Simplicity Parenting Workshop Course 5

Sat 26 - 9:30am - 12:30pm **A Morning in the Classroom** (a workshop with teachers for Parents) See Poster inside

Thu 31 - 12:30/3pm SCHOOL ENDS FOR HALF-TERM

JUNE

Fri 1 - 10am - 4pm - STAFF INSET (no school)

Mon 11 - 8.15am - BACK TO SCHOOL

Wed 13 - 7 - 8.30pm - Class 5&6 and 7&8 Parents Evenings

Thu 14 - 7 - 8.30pm - Class 3&4 Parents Evening

Sat 16 - 10am - 12.30pm Open Day at Hanworth Rectory

Fri 22 - TBC - St Johns Festival

Thu 28 - 7 - 8.30pm - Kindergarten Social Evening

Fri 30 - 9:15 - 11:45am - Simplicity Parenting Workshop Course 6

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

JULY

Sat 7 - 11am - 2pm Open day at Hanworth Rectory

Tue 10 - 11am - 12.30pm - End of Term Festival (No Afternoon Care)

Wed 11 - 8.15 / 8.30am - Kindergarten Family Festival

Wed 11 - 12:30pm - TERM ENDS FOR ALL CLASSES



'London 2012'

On 1st May, we signed an agreement to lease Hanworth Rectory for the school, so we can now confirm that it will be our new home and that from September 2012 our address will be:

**THE ST MICHAEL STEINER SCHOOL
HANWORTH RECTORY
PARK ROAD
LONDON
TW13 6PN**

'London 2012'

Over the summer, while people from all over the world are running, jumping and playing together in East London, The St Michael Steiner School will be moving west, from the building it has shared with a state primary school in Wandsworth for the last 11 years, to a Georgian house on the edge of Hanworth Park, standing in three acres of its own land.

Until now, our children have had only a shared tarmac playground where their play and work has been limited by the rules and timetable of the school with which we share. The opportunity to move to Hanworth Park will give the children a beautiful environment in which to play and work freely, and will enable us to develop the curriculum to include a wide range of practical activities that were not possible in Wandsworth, but which city children in the 21st century desperately need.

Parents and friends are welcome to visit Hanworth Rectory on Saturdays 12th May, 16th June and 7th July, when we are holding Open Days there. In addition, during the next few weeks, we will be taking the children to the new site to do some work and to locate bus stops and make a survey of the actual journey times. We will also find the best walking route across Hanworth Park to the school. Although there is a regular and frequent bus service that only takes 6 minutes, a walk through the park, far from being a waste of time, is an excellent way for children to start the day and arrive at school ready for work. We want to encourage as many people as possible to do that next term.

Public Transport to Hanworth

The nearest station is Feltham. Trains from Putney to Feltham run every 8 -10 minutes and the journey is 17 minutes. That service comes from Waterloo and Clapham Junction and also stops at Richmond.

Buses 285 and 490 from Feltham station to Hanworth park both run every 8 minutes at peak times and the journey is 6 minutes.

There are also direct trains from Wimbledon and Earlsfield to Hampton every 30 minutes and the journey is 28 - 32 minutes. Bus 111 from Hampton station to Hanworth Park runs every 6 minutes and the journey is 8 minutes.

The train fare for a child (under 16) is £3.25 return (£1.80 single) per day from Putney, but cheaper with an Oyster card or a season ticket. Buses are free for children.

Summary:

Train from Clapham Junction to Feltham - 18 minutes

Train from Putney to Feltham - 17 minutes

Bus from Feltham to Hanworth Park - 6 minutes

Train from Wimbledon to Hampton - 28 minutes

Train from Earlsfield to Hampton - 32 minutes

Bus from Hampton to Hanworth Park - 8 minutes

Some parents are working out 'train pooling' arrangements, whereby people take it in turns to travel with a group of children.

School Bus

Thank you for replying to our questionnaire about the school bus. The information will be collated over the next few days and we will let you know what the plan is as soon as it is finalised.

From The Early Years

Scenes from our Easter Festival Puppet Show - Rapunzel:



We welcome the following children and their parents to Rebecca and Claudia's Kindergarten:

Linus and parents Sarah and Dante
Chole and parents Joanna and Jonathan
Sana and parents Sonia and Muzaffar

We say goodbye to:
Megan and parents Julie and Andrew

We wish Jahmai and his mother Janelle good luck for the new school. Keep in touch, much love from everyone at the Early Years Centre.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Early Years Parent's evening next Thursday 17th May. 7pm- 8.30pm at the main school. Please let your child's teacher know if you have anything to add to the agenda or if you are unable to attend.

Thank you

Leigha Hipkin for the Early Years Team

What's happening in the Classrooms?

Class 1 September 2012

We are very happy to announce that our Class 1 teacher next year will be Dorothea Van Breda. Dorothea is a very experienced teacher, having taken three classes, the third of which is now Class 8 at Michael Hall. She is busy rehearsing a play and planning a trip with them, but has already visited the school three times and has been to the Kindergarten to meet the children who will become her class and begin their journey with her in September.

She will visit again when Dr Jenny Josephson comes to see the rising Class 1 children on 30th May. We have then arranged an opportunity for the parents of those children to meet Dorothea from 7 - 8:30pm on Tuesday 19th June at the main school.

Students in Class 5&6 have been studying trees in their second Botany block. The weather has not helped at all, but on the occasional rain-free days, we have been out to look at some in the area, examining their bark, the arrangement of their leaves (alternate or opposite?) and the myriad creatures that live in them.

By the lake in King George's Park, there is a very old Willow that has spread along the ground, its stems rooting again in various places to create a great bowl of trunks and branches at its centre. The children, of course, wanted to climb in it, and, of course, I let them.

Meanwhile, a woman who had been watching us came over and began calling me irresponsible and telling me how dangerous it is to let children climb trees. 'What if they fall?!" she said. The children listened in surprise, wondering whether they were doing something wrong.

As we walked back to school, they talked about what she had said, at first joking about how dangerous it is to go out of your house, or cook anything, or get your hair cut and then asking quite seriously why adults think ordinary things like tree-climbing are dangerous and shouldn't be done. One remark stood out for me as the simplest and most obvious argument against our country's so-called 'Health and Safety' legislation and the mindset it has engendered a whole generation of adults, denying the next generation so many opportunities to experience the world at first hand: "If we never did anything dangerous, how would we ever learn to be careful?"

Amanda Bell

The Anatomy of Questions

How are we able to stand upright? What keeps us from falling over? How do our muscles work? These and many, many other questions arose during the recent Anatomy main lesson in Class 7&8. Some time was spent examining the structure of the foot and calculating just how much weight per square centimetre our foot bears. How can it do that? How would life be different if we had to go around on all fours? How is the skeletal structure of a four-legged animal like the horse different from the human skeleton?

When we began to study the spine, even more questions arose: why are we taller in the morning than in the evening? What are discs and what happens when they slip? Why do older people sometimes get shorter? What does it mean to be flexible? How many ways can that question be answered?

Sometimes questions don't have to be answered; raising the question is enough. Questions, questions, lead us somewhere, to an experience sometimes shared and sometimes solitarily inward, but often touching on a sense of wonder, of awe.

When we began to talk about the brain, more questions arose: Is my brain me? Who or what is doing the thinking? Who am I? What is a human being?

The pupils of Class 7&8 had perhaps a rare opportunity last week because they had the privilege of looking after a guest: a real human skeleton. When her simple white cloth cover was carefully removed, there was a sudden hush in the class (which was also a rare thing!). You can imagine some of the thoughts that raced through us but were never spoken as each one silently beheld the beautiful bones that once belonged to a fifteen year-old girl from Ethiopia. Is that what I look like inside? Will I look like that one day? Then some questions were voiced: What was her name? What did she look like? How did she die?

With incredible care and deep respect, the class spent the next few days studying her skeleton, making drawings, and yes, asking questions. By the time the week came to an end, it was as if she had become part of the class and in a way she had. She had certainly become part of a profound experience for each pupil and one that will live in them for quite a long time.

Brian Jacques

A MORNING IN THE CLASSROOM

Saturday May 26, 2012

At The St Michael Steiner School, 5 Merton Road, London SW18 5ST
Contact: Andrea at info@stmichaelsteinerschoo.co.uk or 0208 835 0541

9:30 - 10:40 Moving Fractions in Space and Time with Edwin Ladaga

Fractions represent the threshold that divides “arithmetic” from “mathematics”; for the first time, the class will be working with numbers in a musical form that is conceptual as well as experiential. Through musical exercises and body movements, a child sense of movement, audio-reflexes and playing is enhanced.

-----Break-----

11:00 - 12:10 A Flavour of Classroom Recitation with Pat Alexander

In Waldorf Steiner schools, children in the early class years, practise choral poetry recitation and gradually speak poems individually in front of the class. Through body movements and gestures, the printed word will be brought back to life.

11:00 - 12:10 What is a Waldorf Steiner Kindergarten with Katie, Leigha and Rebecca

-----Break-----

12:10 - 12:30 Question and Answers for Everybody

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.

Study Group

The study group with Philip Martyn is going strong, every Wednesday morning from about 8:40. Speak to Andrea if you would like to join, or just come along. Please note that his group is just for adults.

Newsletter Contributions

The next newsletter will be distributed on Friday 15th June. Deadline for contributions is 6pm Wednesday 13th June. 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@maccom

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

Dear parents,
should you be interested in:
- French tutoring (children and adults)
- babysitting
then I am the person you are looking for!

Please feel free to email me for details
leroumilie@yahoofr
Mlle Leroux

Accommodation Needed

I'm a former Steiner pupil looking for a room in London for the next academic year. I'm clean, tidy, will be at UCL next year. Interested in Art and Film, at the moment I build eco garden-rooms and will be studying History next year. If you have a room or know of one it would be very much appreciated, please get in touch, Jeremy. jbwaterfield@gmail.com

We are a French family leaving near Paris (13 km West in Croissy-sur-Seine, direct train to Paris center in 20 minutes) that wants to share a year with an au pair. We have two girls (2 and 3 years old) and a baby on the way due in September 2012. We are looking for someone to take care of our kids around 30 hours per week. We are offering free private room and bathroom and a weekly salary of 80€. A driving license would be helpful but not necessary.

Please contact us by email :
chaboulette@gmail.com

Hi! I'm Camille Lorenzetti, a mother of two children, Victor who is 6 years old and Hannah who is 3. Victor is finishing his first year at the "Libre Ecole Rudolf Steiner", in Verrières-le-Buisson, in Paris suburb and Hannah will join in september. I'm writing you today to purpose to one of your students who would like to improve her/his french to spend this summer (july and august 2012) with us in Canaries Island and then in Corsica. It would be fine for us and specially kids to be surrounded by a student who lives the Steiner school experience in another culture. Of course I will take care of all the charges of her/his time with us. I think you could help me to get in touch with one of your students or how to do so. Thanks so much.
Best regards

Camille Lorenzetti 0033 7 86 01 54 70

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Schema Therapy Workshop

As a result of our experiences in childhood, we all have schema, or areas of difficulty, with which we continue to struggle as adults, such as abandonment, shame, dependence, enmeshment, etc. We have most likely adopted styles of coping when these schema are triggered like compliance, withdrawal, stimulation-seeking or addictive self-soothing. In this experiential workshop, you will have the opportunity to begin to identify & learn about your schema & your ways of coping with them. As you begin to relate to your schema, it is possible to develop a dialogue between the child & adult parts of yourself and practice giving a voice to your healthy adult mode of being.

If you'd like to read more on the subject, I suggest:

Young, J.E. & Klosko, J.S. (1993,1999). Reinventing Your Life. New York: Plume Books (Division of Penguin Books)

Behary, W. T. (2008). Disarming the Narcissist: Surviving & Thriving with the self absorbed. California: New Harbinger Publications, Inc.

Sunday 17 June 10 to 4

£30 (£10 goes to the school)

Booking essential. Please bring lunch.

Contact Leila Steeds @ leila@skyax.net or 079 3366 8224