

# The St Michael Steiner School

Hanworth Park, Park Road, London TW13 6PN

6<sup>th</sup> November, 2015

Park Road, Hanworth Park, London TW13 6PN

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## Dates for Your Diary

### NOVEMBER

Sat 14 — Open Day (11am-2pm)

Wed 18 — Class 10 Parents' Evening (7.30pm)

Fri 20 — WOW Day (12.30-1.30pm)

Wed 25 — Class 12 Parents' Evening (7.30pm)

Thu 26 — Open Day (9.30am-12.30pm)

### DECEMBER

Sat 5 — Advent Fair

Wed 16 — End of Term (12.30pm)

### JANUARY

Wed 6 — INSET DAY (no school)

Thu 7 — Start of Spring Term (8.30am)

Sat 16 — Open Day (11am-2pm)

Tue 26 — Open Day (9am-12noon)

### FEBRUARY

Thu 4 — School End for Half-Term (3.45pm)



### CLASS 3 VISIT PLAW HATCH FARM

On the last day of this half term Class 3 visited Plaw Hatch farm. It was a wonderful experience for the children who saw all the farm animals, fed the piglets, and harvested beetroot which they then took straight to the shop for selling. The visit brought a nice conclusion to the farming Main Lesson Block the Class had for the last three weeks. Being around the animals and breathing the fresh air of the countryside, the children were calmer and absorbed everything they saw and learnt with respect and reverence. We can't wait to visit the farm again for our 4 day camping trip in June!

- Eleni Karakonstanti



## Parent and Child Group Saturday Sessions

Our first Saturday Session will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 11.00am - 1.00pm.

(During our Open Day)

in the Main House Kindergarten and Woodland Garden.



This session is for families who attend birth to 3-4 years groups during weekdays as well as newcomers, who are welcome to come for a taster session, and those who are unable to attend weekly groups

Booking is essential, either phone or email school to ensure a place.

Cost: £6.00 per family  
(concessions available by request to Leigha)



Initially these groups will be held once each half term

## Christmas Gifts with an Added Bonus

Myriad have stocked Waldorf inspired items for years and have had a web presence since 1998: <http://www.myriadonline.co.uk/index.php> This is a great place to find that very special Christmas present or get some craft and nature based inspiration.

They have offered a gift to our school of 10% of any order amount (which can be put towards the Bursary Fund). All you need to do is quote 'The St Michael Steiner School' when you place your order. This opportunity doesn't have to be limited to parents, so do pass on details to friends and family and beyond. Catalogues are available at reception.

This year we will be celebrating Waldorf One World Day on Friday 20th November.



Come and enjoy our Cake Stall, White Elephant Stall and raffle fundraiser in the Kindergarten garden  
Time: 12.30-1.30pm

All proceeds towards WOW and Refugee Appeal Fundraiser. See the WOW website to find out more about the far reaching work and projects we will be supporting.

<http://www.ecswe.net/participate-in-the-wow-day-2015/>

Leigha and Katie

## FRIEDEL BUECKING

I am fortunate to live a riverside walk away from the Southbank. Over the years, nearly every daytime visit has included a wander around Gabriel's Wharf. Here the rocking pieces, carvings and outdoor furniture sculpted by Friedel Buecking create a wonderful, artistic imaginative space which is free to play in and enjoy by all.



Friedel recently visited our school and was taken on a tour which culminated in visiting the High School pupils working with our recently felled trees. He kindly donated three rocking pieces for our Early Years gardens, two ducks and a moon sliver. These are not only beautiful and enhance our play spaces, they have been in constant use by our children.

Do browse Friedel's website to see the breadth of his work and cost of some of his pieces. When you are in the area, pay a visit to Gabriel's Wharf which also has a great, reasonably priced pancake cafe in the far right corner.  
[www.friedelbueckingwoodsculptor.co.uk](http://www.friedelbueckingwoodsculptor.co.uk)

- Leigha Hipkin

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 Sun. 29th Nov.



## History of Architecture in Class 12

The students chose a 20th century architectural movement as the subject of a Level 3 essay. This is a short extract from 'Brutalism: Monument to Pessimism' by India Armstrong Brown



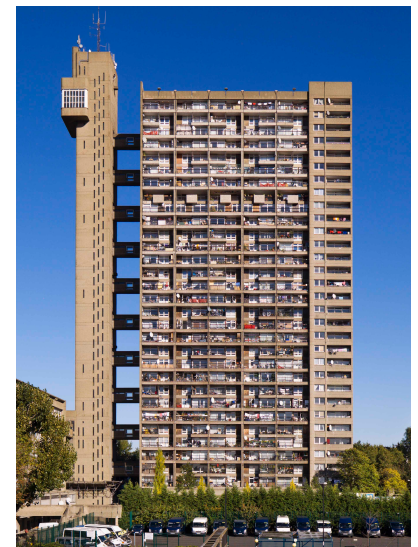
You can see the resemblance to world war two bunkers. The rough, unfinished concrete seems almost like camouflage and its raw, natural colour blends in with the urban jungle. You can also see the resemblance to a tank, with its small windows and solid shapes. The strong impenetrable concrete walls of the buildings act as a barrier from the outside world. The same goes for the tiny windows; in the 20s and 30s the fashion was large panes of glass everywhere; this suggests trust between the individual and everyone else in the world; they were one with world. However Brutalism's drastic difference makes me think the opposite: the cold war and the hidden communist state must have evoked a sense of suspicion and

untrustworthiness... people wanted be safe and alone.

Vetruvian, the father of classical architecture, believed that fish live in water because they don't have enough within them. The same could be transferred to the feelings human beings have; if someone, or a society is poor, angry and emotionless - if you surround them with an environment that reflects the same feelings they will "overdose" and strongly react. The biggest evidence of this is punk.



In England the high rise cement blocks that crowded the city were home to a new generation by the 70s. There is a possibility that living in the brutal harshness and ugliness of brutalism influenced the punk movement. Both styles concentrate on the hardship of life; people have to try harder and, equally, they react.



Solid geometric shapes (the mohawk almost looks like solid concrete); the dominating height (mohawk), rugged, natural, worn-out walls and punk clothes. The angry truth. Intimidating nature. A need to stand out from the Environment. Try and create a reaction to society.

The Clash: *"Now I'm in the subway and I'm looking for the flat / This one leads to this block, this one leads to that / The wind howls through the empty blocks looking for a home / I run through the empty stone because I'm all alone."*

*"I heard the people who lived on the ceiling, Scream and fight most scarily / Hearing that noise was my first ever feeling."*

The Jam: *"They were gonna build communities / It was going to be pie in the sky."* *"If people were made to live in boxes, God would have given them string."* *"The house in the country designs the 14th floor."*



## Pictures from the Early Years



Pictures from the Kindergarten this autumn term ... climbing, baking, constructing and spinning. Thanks to Class 3 for their wonderful climbing structure, and to Rachel for bringing her Spinning wheel for us to see.





## Arithmetic and Geometry in Class 7

Over the entrance of his Academy, Plato had inscribed the words 'Let No One Ignorant of Geometry Enter'. What did the great philosopher and mathematician really mean with that fearful warning? Who was the 'ignorant' who could not step into his school?

The Liberal Arts of Geometry and Arithmetic, along with Music and Astronomy, were part of the Quadrivium, first formulated and taught by Pythagoras around the V century B.C. The Quadrivium and the Trivium (Rhetoric, Grammar and Logic) were rediscovered during the Middle Ages and became paths of initiation to higher knowledge and truths about the World for all scholars of medieval universities. In a way, going through the process of being educated in these 7 Liberal Arts was the key to entering the World as an 'I', unique, balanced and inquisitive.

During the past half term, Class 7 has been immersed in the wonders of number and shape. We reviewed the cornerstones of Arithmetic through complex word problems concerning multiples and factors of numbers, fractions, decimals and percentages, number operations and calculation methods. One of our favourite problems, *Egg and Jam Sandwich*, aimed at learning how to make conjectures and work systematically (have a go at it! You can find its enunciation at the end). In Geometry we mostly worked with Euclidean constructions. These implied the use of only compass and straightedge (not of measuring instruments such as ruler and protractor) to make planar figures arise from the relationship between points and lines. We refreshed our memory of how to use a protractor by deepening the study of the triangle and learnt a simple visual proof about the sum of its inner angles (this proof is a treat! Once you've learn it, I guarantee it will stay with you for life!). On our last day, I left the students with some homework for the holidays: finding a visual proof to one of the most precious little gems of Geometry. You have probably learnt that, in a right triangle, the square of the length of the hypotenuse (the longest side) is equal to the sum of the length squares of the other two sides. In algebraic terms:  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$  (where  $c$  is the length of the hypotenuse,  $a$  and  $b$  the lengths of the other two sides). But what does it really mean, geometrically, to add the squares of two numbers and end up with the square of a third number? Have a go at Class 7 homework by following the steps below and you will find out. Again, I am sure you will find this to be Pythagoras's life-long gift to you!

For the philosophers of Ancient Greece, Geometry bore a direct connection with the world of the gods. Perhaps something to do with the fact that I do not have to show you a triangle for you to be able to picture it. You have the concept of triangle within you, within your thinking. And that triangle is perfect, on the contrary of what can be brought to life unto paper. Geometry was more than measuring and delineating, it was a way to reconnect with higher worlds, with a higher self.

Elisa Laera (Class 7 guardian)

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### Egg and Jam Sandwich

Ms. Laera writes strange things sometimes. Today she wrote on the blackboard:

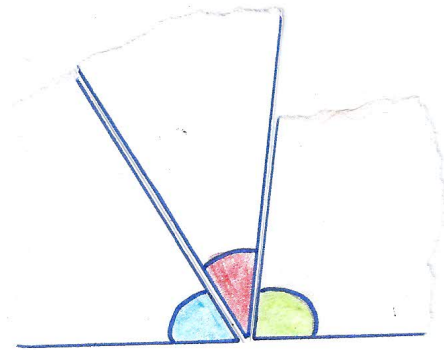
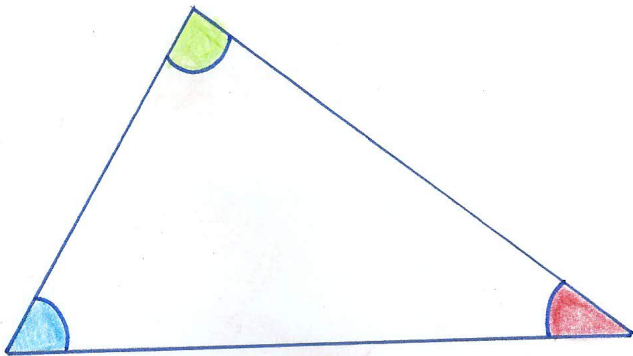
$$\begin{array}{r} \text{EGG} \\ \times \\ \text{E} \\ \hline \text{JAM} \end{array}$$

If every letter stands for a one digit number and the same letter stands for the same number, what does each letter equal to?



### Proof n. 1: the sum of the inner angles of a triangle is 180.

Draw two congruent triangles (equal angles and equal sides) and colour their inner angles. Stick one triangle on your page. Carefully tear in three pieces the other triangle so that, on each piece, you have one of the three coloured angles. Stick the pieces together like shown. What does this tell you about the sum of the inner angles in a triangle?



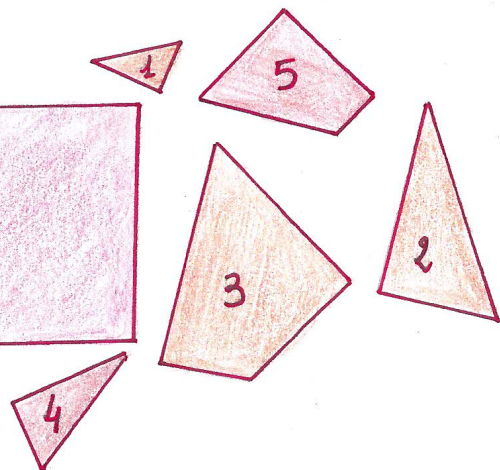
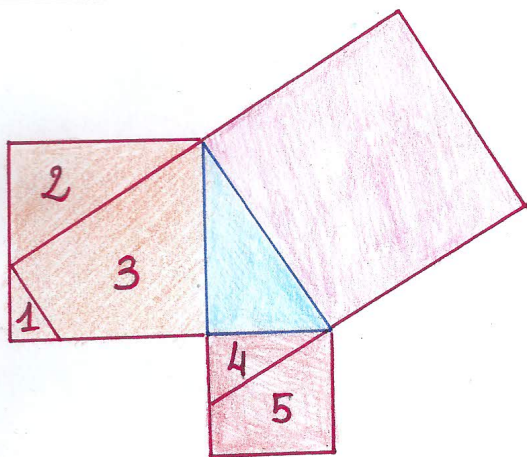
### Proof n.2: Pythagoras Theorem

Draw a right triangle. On each of its sides, draw a square. As shown below, extend two of the sides of the largest square into the two other squares in order to cut them into 4 pieces. Number the pieces from 2 to 5. Draw a perpendicular line to the line extended into the second largest square: number your piece with a 1.

Cut out the three squares. Stick on your page the largest. Cut out the two other squares into the pieces numbered 1 to 5.

Can you find a way to exactly fit the 5 pieces on the largest square?

What does solving the puzzle tell you about the relationship between the sides of your right triangle?



P.S. You will find the solution to the problem and Pythagoras proof in the next newsletter!



# SPECIAL FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

While funds last or until 18th November 2015, if you donate *up to £10* to the school, Local Giving will match-fund your donation!

**This means if you donate £10, Local Giving will turn your donation into £20!**

All charities with active Local Giving membership are eligible to receive a maximum £10,000 worth of match funding! However — time is of the essence. Over half the Local Giving fund has already been distributed since it opened on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015, and the scheme will end when the money is gone, or on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 5pm.

How it works:

Visit our Local Giving page

<https://localgiving.com/charity/stmichaelsteinerschoolhounslow>

**and donate *up to £10* to the school**

OR

You can sign up to donate **£10 per month for 3 months** by direct debit and this will be matched in the future!

The match funding looks like this:

£10	(your donation)
+ £10	(donation matched by Local Giving)
+ £ 2.50	(Gift Aid - for UK taxpayers)
£22.50	

After a small processing fee, a £10 donation with Gift Aid means the charity typically receives £21.67! A £10 donation without Gift Aid means the charity typically receives £19.18! You can read more about the fees (<https://localgiving.com/howitworks/matchfund>). The school has paid a one-off fee of £60+VAT to be part of this scheme, so the more tenners donated the better!

**Please spread the word!**

Every year our students are supported through the Bursary Fund, enabling families to give their children the education we offer. This year we are aiming to raise £50,000, and Local Giving is just one of the ways you can help us reach that goal. Thanks to the Summer Fair and our Weleda Wellbeing Day we have already hit £4835.35, and we would like to thank everyone who has generously contributed!



# 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.

## Weleda Wellbeing advisor

Naturopathic beauty care range based on anthroposophic principles. Face, body, baby, healthcare. Biodynamic grown ingredients and essential oils. Natural and in harmony with your body. No parabens. Not tested on animals. Non-abrasive. 100% recyclable tubes. Fair trade. Wellbeing advice and free facial. Ethical gifts. Christmas offers.

### Contacts

susana.deoliveira@weleda-advisor.co.uk

07894550635

<https://www.facebook.com/Wellbeing-advisor-Susana-Hounslow-453136354874332/>

## ***Hello, do you have a spare room to rent out from the 11th to 22nd of January 2016?***

My name is Anna Kotanidis, I'm from Australia and a qualified and experience Steiner teacher. Currently living in the West Midlands and in my third year of the Eurythmy training. I will be at the St Michael Steiner School for two weeks for my teaching placement in eurythmy with Michèle Hunter. I'm looking for somewhere to stay during this time. My passions are education, the visual and performing arts, all cultures, cooking and have a love and fun sense for life.

If you have a spare room to rent out you can contact me at: [annakot50@gmail.com](mailto:annakot50@gmail.com) or on my mobile at 07462634007.

Cheers with warm greetings,  
Anna.

## Something to see at the Christmas Fair...

Beautiful Angel Icons painted by Lucia Brandt using gesso bole and 22 carat gold gilding, painted with egg tempera made with natural hand ground pigments. Each one is painted on oak and measures about 4"x6" and 5"x7".

There will also be other angels appearing on the day - 15% of the sales to goes to the school.

Paintings will be priced at £175 - £250 each.



**Run  
rabbit,  
run  
rabbit,  
run  
run  
run...  
run...**



We are looking for a pre-loved Guinea Pig / Rabbit / Chicken run for our guinea pigs, Pipkin and Rusty, who have outgrown their current accommodation and are seeking something larger.

If you know of anyone who might be able to offer something, please contact school:

0208 893 1299

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