

The St Michael Steiner School

Hanworth Park, Park Road, London TW13 6PN

NEWSLETTER

11th December, 2015

Park Road, Hanworth Park, London TW13 6PN

Email: info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

Website: www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

Dates for Your Diary

DECEMBER

Wed 16 — End of Term (12.30)

JANUARY

Wed 6 — INSET DAY (no school)

Thu 7 — Start of Spring Term (08.30)

Sat 16 — Open Day (11.00-14.00)

Tue 26 — Open Day (09.00-12.00)

FEBRUARY

Thu 4 — School Ends for Half-Term (15.45)

Fri 5 — INSET DAY (no school)

Mon 15 — Back to School (08.30)

Fri 19 — Cl. 12 Play: Amadeus (matinee)

Fri 19 — Cl. 12 Play: Amadeus (evening)

Sat 20 — Cl. 12 Play: Amadeus (evening)

Sat 27 — Open Day (11.00-14.00)

ADVENT FAIR

A big thank you to everyone who came and supported the school!



And an even bigger thank you to Sarah Michael and Lisa Clewing, who organised the fair!

(More photos will be available on our website)

Festivals of Light Lantern Walk & Advent Spiral

There have been two Festivals of Light held at the school by the Early Years team this half-term: a Lantern Walk in November, and an Advent Spiral at the Fair last weekend.

The Lantern Walk was a lovely afternoon, joined by new families and old friends. It also raised £60 for our School Bursary Appeal — many thanks to those who attended.

The Advent Spiral offered a reflective, peaceful space for both parents and children who came and walked, sometimes alone, sometimes with family and friends.



"Dear Organisers of the Lantern Walk Festival (Kindergarten teachers),

Thank you once again; we really enjoyed it very much. Nice lanterns are lighting up our living room at home, making it warm and bright.

Osamu Marunoto"

Katie, Jeanette and Leigha for the Early Years Team

News From The Early Years Parent & Child Groups

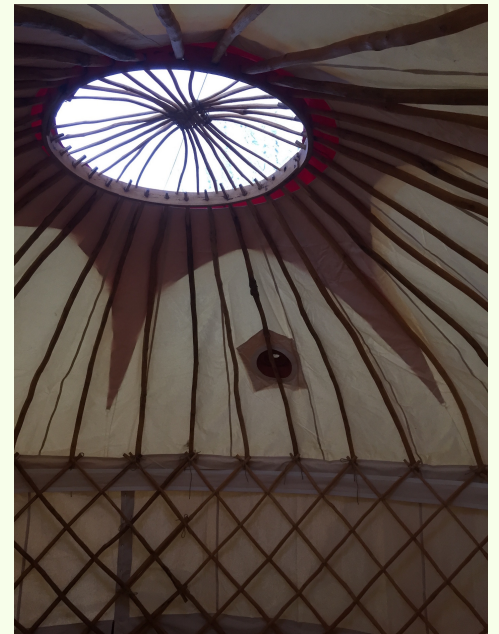
We have been given a beautifully constructed yurt on long loan which will provide some cosy shelter for our Woodland Garden Sessions.



Much gratitude to Alys Mendus, who made the wooden frame herself and led a group of us in "raising the yurt " last week. Thank you to Dan and the Kindergarten and Parent and Child Group parents who assisted while the children in our Friday morning group watched, helped and played nearby. Meanwhile, we are in the process of sourcing a wood burning stove in time for winter days to come.

And this week our Parent and Child group celebrated their end of term Festival in the yurt!

Wishing you all a peaceful Advent and a Happy Christmas,
The Early Years Team



Class 10 through the view finder - observational drawing.

This term class 10 undertook a module in observational drawing, and it seems apt at this time of year with seemingly less and less foliage, to take the time to look a little closer at the objects around us and reveal the hidden secrets of nature during the winter months.



Phoebe Woods

They began the class with Julia Wallace making and learning how to use a view finder. Along with looking closely at all manner of things, they discovered the challenges of observing and drawing shadows on white bottles.

Seems simple? You are mistaken! There is a lot to find within the reflections, the varying tones of shadow and how often the mind is tricked between line, contour and shading.

During the second week the class was split into two. Half the class continued developing their focused drawing and the other joined me to work on building technique in mark making using pencil, charcoal and gouache. We began by looking at the various techniques established by artists such as Van Gogh and Manet and took time to develop the right-sided brain techniques in shape, contour and line by

devolving an image and drawing it upside down for example.

The final week was spent observing and drawing plants, taking into account the learnt skills. By closely looking at leaves and flowers the students, began to realise how intricate each form is. They often spent the whole morning working on one leaf, which in turn gave them the confidence to look less at their paper and more at the exactness of what was presenting itself.

At the end of the module they had a surprise drawing assessment, where they were asked to sit in silence for 1h 15minutes drawing either a spoon, jug or leaf. A real act of zen meditation for many! And of course they all managed very well with attention and focus.

The students' devotion to sticking to what they saw and not drawing what they thought they saw, reminded me to pay a little more attention to my own surrounding environment, especially during the harder months ahead, in fact I'm very much looking forward to discovering all the smaller details in the frost, moss and fungi, soon to emerge.

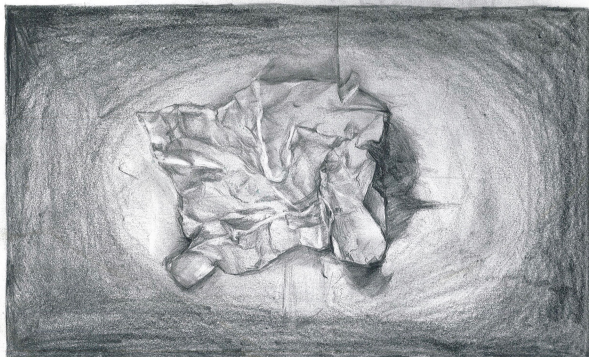
— Nicole Cataldo



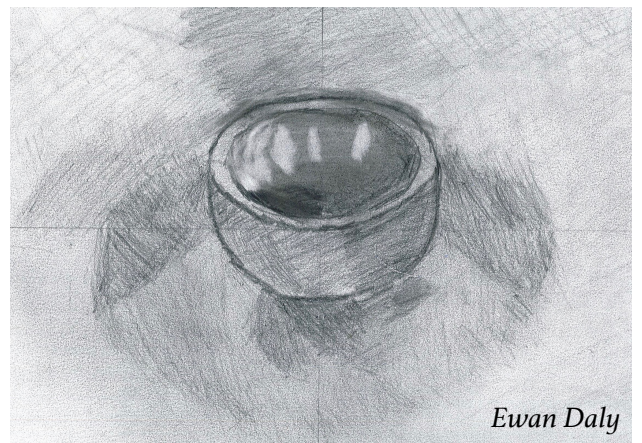
Maya Forster



Thomas Chok



Phoebe Woods



Ewan Daly

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 The deadline for the next newsletter is Sunday 17th January 2016.

Mechanics and Engineering in Class 10



During the second half of the term, Roy Allen, our visiting Physics and Maths teacher, took Class 10 for a block of Mechanics, with the focus on forces. In the High School, the students have art, craft and movement blocks first thing in the morning and Roy offered a block of engineering. Four of the students took it up and built a suspension bridge, applying the principles learned in the Main Lesson. (AB)

For a Morning Module we built a [suspension] bridge with Mr Allen. We started the block with no materials, so for a week and a half we learnt about the different types of bridges, and spent time sending back the materials the company sent us, as they were wrong. When we finally received the wood we started cutting the A frame, in which we cut diagonal lines which were bolted together and then we fitted a cross piece. We then cut the ply wood into three rectangular pieces and reinforced them from underneath. On the last day of the block we started assembling the bridge: first we stood the A frames up and hung rope from a tree on either side. Afterwards we strung rope from the decking to the A frame.

— Vik Rathore, Class 10



Vik Rathore, Thomas Chok, Henry Koppel, Sam Gamble White

WOW DAY

Thank you to everyone who helped make our WOW Day such a success; to everyone who donated goods for our sale, who baked, set up our stalls, served, cleared up and took all unsold items to our nearby the Age UK Charity shop!



We made £340 and there is still money coming in.

This fine sum is being split between [The OneSpirit Ashram Kitchen](#), an organisation of which Nicola Coombe (Class 5 parent) is a part, and [Der Freunde](#), who organise WOW.

The OneSpirit Ashram Kitchen is serving breakfast and dinner to 350 people a day at the migrant camp in Calais, known as the New Jungle. The kitchen has been running for two months out of the vision of my colleagues Ian Wood and Jonathan May within the OneSpirit Interfaith Foundation. As they got to know the conditions in the camp they realised an ashram-style kitchen would provide food and also warmth, friendship, and integration. Ian wrote recently on the operation's Facebook page. "This has come about from a random group of people, all having something in common.... feeling in their hearts, a compassion for their fellow human beings in front of them suffering. One small action of giving eases the pain for the receiver and the giver. So many of these displaced people are escaping from the most terrible circumstances, or they wouldn't take these desperate risks," he says.

A second way people can help is by sending money to help fund the purchase of food supplies. Donations are welcome via BACS transfer to Ian's bank account, and people are asked to write 'CalAid donation' in the reference line. His details: I Wood, Acc no. 02952600, Sort code 165810 (a dormant personal account devoted to this purpose). "We would also really appreciate people holding the whole situation of the migrants in their hearts and in their prayers," says Jonathan — and not only the estimated 5,000+ in the Calais camp, but the tens and hundreds of thousands on the move towards the borders of Europe, and across the continent."

— Nicola Coombe

Alys Mendus, a Steiner Teacher and PhD student researching 'Sharing stories of educating differently', visited school on Friday 20th November. She came to talk to the Upper School students about the two weeks that she spent as part of an 'Emergency Pedagogy' intervention on the isle of Lesbos with the German Waldorf Charity 'Die Freunde' at the end of October 2015. The approach uses Waldorf teaching methods to help traumatised children and young people deal with their lives and hopefully begin to heal. They used eurythmy, games, painting, drawing, wax modelling, felt making, form drawing, singing and storytelling and of course a lot of mime as most of the children did not speak English!

Alys explained in her stories of how it was mirror working with the Syrians - educated, passionate people wanting to live in a safe place and have education for their children and everyone had their mobile phone! One family had lost everything except for their phone and selfie stick and insisted on a selfie as a memento. Each morning she would help with the queues of people at the refugee camps entertaining the young children with puppets and songs, chatting to parents with a phrasebook and smiling a lot! Each afternoon she would work with the unaccompanied minors, the 12-18 year olds that had been sent alone to secure safe passage for their whole family at a later date. It was with these young people (mostly boys) that the more in depth work could happen.

— Alys Mendus

It all begins with you
A day of reflections, story-telling &
meditation to bring you home to
your true nature

**With Phillip Harvey,
Robert Holden
& Michael Acutt**

Sunday 10th January 10am to 4pm

69 Waterside Point, 2 Anhalt Road SW11 4PD

Price: £40 (concessions available on request)

All proceeds go to The St Michael Steiner School

You are invited to our St Michael Steiner School fundraiser on 10th January: a day's workshop for empowerment and connection based on my own personal journey

by Phillip Harvey
Father of Archie (Class 5) & Mimi (Class 3)

I am really excited to announce that I have teamed up with a few other parents in the school to make my dream of putting together a day's learning and sharing into a reality.

Please join me, Robert Holden (Father of Bo & Christopher) and Michael Acutt (my meditation teacher) for what I believe will be a truly beautiful day of sharing whats possible. You might even feel called to invite along a few friends.

All proceeds will go to the school's Bursary Fund.

If you would like to know more, please talk to me, Viva, Jasmine, Elmer, Michelle, Hollie, Heather, Robert or Darika.

To book please email Jasmine (class 4) jasminesterianos@hotmail.com

CAMCORDER NEEDED for Eurythmy Research in school.

If anyone has one I can borrow for the year, I would be most grateful.

Many thanks,
Michèle
07947040554

Run rabbit, run rabbit, 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

The School has bought a bulk lot of tools for the children to use in their gardening efforts and we have a small surplus that we can resell.

We would like to share our discounted price with the parents and we think these would make excellent Christmas gifts that will last for years. You can see them here being modelled by class 3!

80 cm Spade £15
80cm Fork £15
94cm Rake £12
99cm Dutch Hoe £12

Spade and Fork Set £25
Full set of 4 tools £40



If you are interested, you can get in touch with Dan: caretaker@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

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.

Hello! My name is Lysanne Morissette. I am from Québec, Canada, and I am studying Eurythmy in Stourbridge in the 2nd year.

I'll be doing my teaching practice at The St Micheal Steiner School from January 10th to the 22nd, and am looking for a place to stay during this time. I can pay a rent and/or offer french classes, house work help, such as cooking and gardening.

If you can offer accommodation, please can contact me by e-mail lysoumo@hotmail.com or by phone 07923591257.

Thank you very much!

Childminders

If you are a registered childminder or would like to do the free local authority training to become one; if you work or would like to work in a Waldorf inspired way, please contact Leigha or Katie. There are parents in the Parent and Child groups who need to return to work outside the home in Spring time. There are also parents in Kindergarten and older classes interested in part time/after school care.

We would be delighted to support you with half termly workshops/mentoring to help create a network of much needed childminders in our Community.

Thank you