



# The St Michael Steiner School

Hanworth Park, Park Road, London TW13 6PN

## NEWSLETTER

22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016

Park Road, Hanworth Park, London TW13 6PN

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

Website: [www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk](http://www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk)

### Dates for Your Diary

#### APRIL

Sat 23 — (11am-2pm) Open Day

Mon 25 — (7pm) Class 4 Parents' Evening

#### MAY

Mon 2 — (all day) Bank Holiday (no school)

Tue 3 — (9am-12noon) Open Day

Wed 4 — (7.30pm) Class 10 Parents' Evening

Mon 9 — (7pm) Class 5 Parents' Evening

Thu 19 — (3.45pm) School Ends for Half-Term

Fri 20 — (all day) INSET DAY (no school)

Mon 30 — (all day) Bank Holidays (no school)

Tue 31 — (8.30am) Back to School

#### JUNE

Sat 4 — (11am-2pm) Open Day

Sat 11 — Summer Fair

Thank you all for coming to support our wonderful and talented young people during the festivities of our end of term Easter Eurythmy festival and/or the Youth Eurythmy Festival in March this year.

I thought it would be fun to share some of the feedback with you all as it is all anonymous anyway:

#### Class 10:

- Vibrant, alive, beautiful.
- A beautiful transformative experience, the children were free to express themselves whilst conforming to the structure of the work's requirements.
- Some of the children seemed to grasp and connect to a source of energy beyond themselves.
- Whatever force was drawing together these elements made me weep quietly in my seat.
- Year 10 take you on a journey...you felt the chill and the snowflake forming before blowing away.
- The snowflake where the crystals came to meet and danced looked like shimmering crystals! Very well done!
- The students were "in" what they were doing.
- So good that they can be very active and not just do what they are told!
- It feels like they really got involved in the creative process and it shows.
- I look forward to learn they continue in such a way as I believe we need creative and free thinking individuals for the future.

#### CLASS 12:

- I noticed my daughter was copying India's hand movements. So I think that shows how beautiful she held the audience and space.

*(continued on next page...)*

- So moving, I could feel the energy build up as she settled, clear, beautiful, awake!
- Beautiful, precise, truthful...I felt every move.
- I couldn't help but notice the attention that the small children in the hall paid to it. Both beautiful performances that really captured the essence of eurythmy.
- The fairy tale was a remarkable achievement at all levels, from concept to final presentation... very touching to watch the student sustain the artistic intensity throughout the presentation.
- Exquisite movement, looked "at home" in eurythmy.
- A great candidate for the Eurythmy training.
- Dreamy, transformational, ethereal.

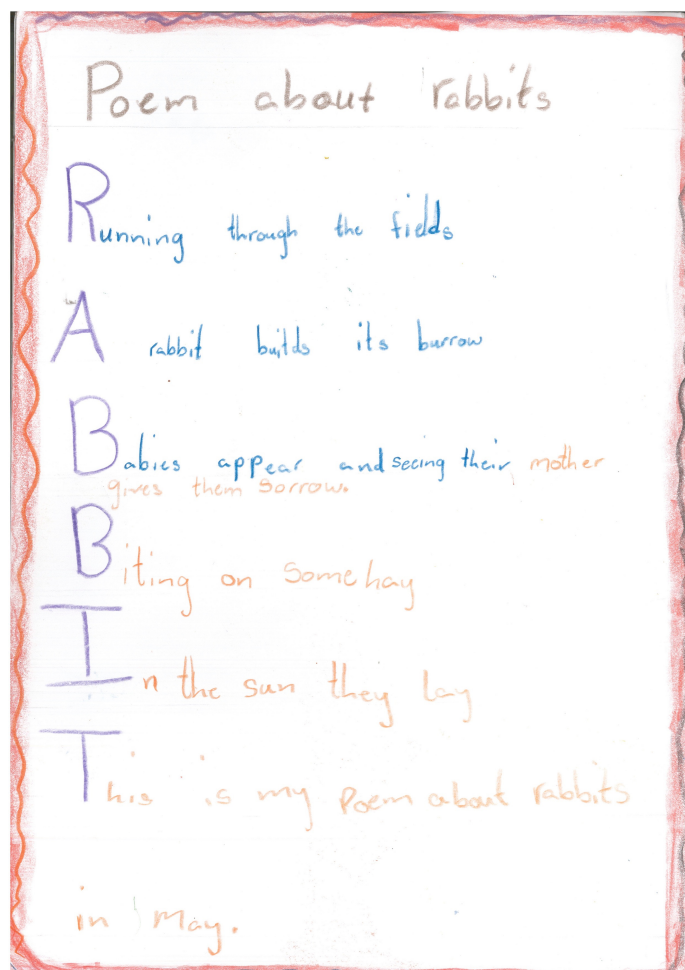
#### General

- I found them both really inspiring examples of what the older children are capable of doing with eurythmy.
- I would encourage these young adults go further with their development in the Art of Eurythmy.
- Love the explanations of what's developing.
- Wonderful, all the classes and years were brilliant!
- The transparent essence is so honoured in this precious experience. Congratulations St Michael's and Miss Hunter.

Warm wishes to all for a wonderful Summer term.

Michèle

At the end of last term Class 4 pupils took on independent animal projects...



Please visit the galleries on our website to see more...

## Some poetry from Class 12...

### PATERNAL JOURNEY

1,134 car journeys, this is how I know you;  
Your voice, raised above the permanent rumble of motorways,  
A combination of sounds which has forever unrested me,  
Asks lists of unenthused enquiries, which mix and merge together,  
And rise on their hind legs to  
Shout down at me miserably:  
"Am I fooling you?"  
These cars have absorbed tears,  
They have homed happy hurrahs,  
They have quaked and skidded,  
With hateful remarks and angry shrieking.  
Mostly they have mourned in silence;  
A silence which wonders whether it would exist,  
Had these drives had no destination.  
Me and you;  
We sit side by side staring at the expanse of grey concrete.  
This is how I know you;  
There are those journeys  
Which assure me my life is closing,  
Those ones where our mobile home  
Races throughout lanes  
And begs other vehicles  
To participate in our veering.  
Car crash, car crash, car crash;  
I have replayed the inevitable scene  
Time again:  
Grotesquely twisted limbs and split skulls  
And most ironically,  
An abundance of ugly dents  
Upon your most prized possession.  
Those journeys where we fail to find an appropriate soundtrack  
For our journeys  
And sit stiffly trying to close our ears  
To the perverted pondering of  
90s singers and turn our absolute attention  
To a welcomed mechanic drum.  
Journeys where you refuse to let silence ensue  
Trying to prove we have a natural,  
Conversing dynamic,  
All the while aware that your panicked questioning  
Is building a beautifully crafted liar.  
This is how I know you;  
Awkward silences have lost their  
Awkward, as if time has stretched it so thinly,  
It has reluctantly burst,  
Leaving us accepting  
The lonely separation  
Of our mutual car journey.

### The Rice Burner

She was the one who welcomed  
The gentle waves to the seashore  
She was the smell of lavender  
Dropped into a hot bath.

She was soft cheeks, warm hands  
And a kind smile,  
She was music coming from the radio.  
She was silly poems, songs,  
A dowicky and a thingumabob.

She was coconut Turkish delight  
And shepherds pie.  
She was a pot of rice that always burned  
And a forgotten cup of tea

She was a nightmare catcher  
Who hid them out of reach  
She was a hug to stop my tears.  
She was a camera  
Catching every moment.

There was sickness  
Following always  
Sometimes hidden but always there.  
There was bravery and sacrifice  
And love with endless care.

She never saw her beauty  
Or what she had to give,  
But I did,  
And I will for as long as I live.

### MIND THE GAP

Hugged by rows upon rows of white tiles,  
I stroll lazily through a maze of tunnels  
Led by never ending walls, easing around the  
bends.  
No decisions, just following.

Every day is the same,  
Far off music weaving through far off tunnels.  
An unchanging rhythm  
Lulling me once again in to a dream.

People in front of me, people behind me,  
All going somewhere yet doing nothing.  
Gripping tightly to newspapers, fiercely facing  
forward  
Getting on with life oblivious to anyone else.

In here nothing moves, nothing changes  
Time is absent.



The St Michael Steiner School  
Park Road, Hanworth Park, London  
TW13 6PN

# SUMMER FAIR

*Saturday 11 June 2016*  
*11am - 4pm*

Delicious Home-made Food and Cakes,  
Authentic Italian Gelato, Tombola,  
Raffle, Books, Toys & Art Supplies,  
Children's Craft Activities & Traditional Games

Entrance: Children 50p, Adults £1

[www.stmichael.hounslow.sch.uk](http://www.stmichael.hounslow.sch.uk) Tel 020 88931299  
Registered charity no 1094960



## News from the Early Years

It has been wonderful to return to school after the Easter Holiday to see Lady Spring bringing blossoms, bluebells and butterflies to the garden. Through song and story we have heard about the wondrous transformation that happens after the long cold winter, from bud to blossom and from caterpillar to butterfly. No-one quite knows how it happens: "Well, I wonder? Well, I wonder?"

In March, just before our Easter break, we welcomed Helle Heckmann\* to our Early Years department. Helle is an international consultant in Early Years practice and is the founder of Nokken, a primarily outdoor Steiner kindergarten in Denmark with children from age one to six years. During her visit she spent an evening with the Early Years parents and teachers talking about "The Five Golden Keys" for everyday life: Sleep, Movement, Nutrition, Rhythm and most importantly Love. With each topic she was able to inspire, remind, teach, and awaken both self-care, as adults, and nurturing balance for our children. The following day she spent the morning with our Early Years Team, observing our work and the children. Following this we had a fruitful meeting with her where we discussed our practice and ways in which we can grow. In the weeks that have followed our department has enjoyed integrating those discussions into our daily practice and talking about the ways we can develop in the future. For more detailed notes, please speak to one of the Early Years team. On behalf of us all, we thank all who attended and participated in the fundraising for this event.

*Rachel Ford Blanchard*



One of Helle's 'Golden Keys' is about bringing rhythmical movement into daily life, and to support this we have established a daily walk in the kindergartens. Leaving the garden by 9am, each kindergarten group has a healthy walk around the park, followed by our usual hearty snacks, enjoyed even more with the raised appetites the walk inspires!

Forthcoming kindergarten events:

Parents Evening: Wednesday 4th May 7pm

Social Evening: Wednesday 8th June 7pm

\* More information about Helle's work may be found at: <http://slowparenting.dk/> including links to her book, "The Five Golden Keys" which can also be downloaded as an 'e-book'.



# The St Michael Steiner School Parent & Child Groups

Come and join us in our Yurt and Woodland Garden this summer. We have four groups each week for different age groups as follows:

Wednesday 1pm to 3pm: Baby to First Steps

Thursday 10am to 12noon: Birth to four years

Thursday 1.30pm to 3.30pm: Birth to seven years

Friday 10am to 12noon: Birth to four years

Sessions offer outdoor creative play, gardening, simple crafts, sandpits, snacks, songs and woodland walks. These groups are often where parents and children make friends and develop lasting relationships.

First session free, thereafter £6 per family per sessions (concessions available on request). Please book by telephoning the school on 020 8893 1299 or emailing: [info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:info@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk)

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## PARENT & CHILD GROUP SATURDAY SESSIONS

The next Saturday Session will be held on  
4th June 2016,  
11.00am-1.00pm.  
During our Open Day

in the Main House Kindergarten and Woodland Garden.

This is an open session for all families with children from birth-7 years.  
Newcomers are invited to attend for a taster session, and especially welcome are  
those unable to attend our 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)





## Review: Waldorf Doll Workshop by Rachel Blanchard — 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> April St. Michael Steiner School

We wanted to thank Rachel for the wonderful Waldorf Doll making workshop she led. We learned the whole process of making the doll from how to choose the best natural materials, to the cutting and sewing techniques. The lecture on the pedagogical value of the Waldorf doll in a child's life was fascinating.

Thank you once more.

Susana de Oliveira (on behalf of the group)



Dear parents,

Little gifts from our wish list keep popping up wherever they do, and surprising us with inquisitive: 'Where did this come from?' and 'Who brought this?'...it keeps us guessing.

Warm thanks for your continued support,  
The College of Teachers

## It's Time Even More People Know About Our School

Outreach and Leaflet /Poster distribution.

We would like to have a publicity drive and distribute leaflets and posters of the School and up and coming events , in the local and neighbouring areas.

If you can spare a little time to help please let Grace our receptionist know in person, by phone or email and we will get back to you.

Thank you,  
Leigha

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 Tuesday 31st May.



# THE ST MICHAEL STEINER SCHOOL

Steiner  
Waldorf  
Education  
for children  
and young  
people  
aged  
3 to 18.



## OPEN DAYS — Summer Term 2016

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 11am-2pm (no booking required)

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 9am-12noon (book via tel/email)

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 11am-2pm (no booking required)



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The St Michael Steiner School is a registered charity no. 1094960

# 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.

## 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