

A photograph of a tree with green leaves and a central branch of brown, dried leaves. The background is a dense forest of green trees.

The St Michael
Steiner School
Newsletter

September 2022

TO AUTUMN BY JOHN KEATS

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last ooziings hours by hours.

Where are the songs of spring? Ay, Where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

Dates for your diary

SEPTEMBER 2022

Friday 30th

all day, at school — Michaelmas (see details on page 9)

OCTOBER 2022

Thursday 20th

3pm/4pm — End of half term

Friday 21st

all day — INSET DAY (no school)

Monday 24th - Friday 28th

Half Term (no school)

Monday 31st

8.25am — Back to school

NOVEMBER 2022

Monday 28th

all day — Long weekend (no school)

DECEMBER 2022

Friday 16th

End of term (times and festivals to be announced)

Summer...

Since there was no July newsletter, we are happy to share with you now a few photos from last term.

First, some images of our Class 5 students at the Olympics, which took place at Michael Hall.









And the High School would like to extend their gratitude to everyone who came to see Class 9, 10 and 11's production of *The Tempest*.



On Friday 30th September we will be celebrating **Michaelmas**. Please ensure children and students come to school dressed for various practical and outdoor tasks. A lunch of soup and bread will be provided, for which students will need to bring their own bowls and spoons.

Parent Study Group

The parent study group meets on Friday mornings from 8:45 to 9:45. At the moment we are meeting at All Saints church hall (where the children have their eurythmy lessons) and we are studying *The Essence of Waldorf Education* by Peter Selg. If you would like to join the group, please email amandabell@stmichaelsteiner.com

We are very pleased to announce that we have four new members of staff this term.

Deepa Bracchi has joined the early years' team, covering for Maria while she is on sabbatical. She says, 'In these first two weeks, it has been a joy to see the children enthusiastically meeting their friends after the holidays and actively playing, enjoying both the outdoor space and the kindergarten room. What I like about this school is that the younger children are given plenty of space to play, because play is their job, from which they grow. Even the more introverted children and those who need time to settle in the morning, can feel relaxed through play and open up to experiences, exploration and learning opportunities. The swings have been a success and one can begin to feel the beginnings of new friendships as the more accustomed kindergarten children swing next to the new ones, while chatting or singing a nursery rhyme. I am thankful for the love, devotion and mutual support I see in the colleagues around, who easily ignite the enthusiasm and willingness to do in both children and adults, and help the little ones to find their space, as they have just started kindergarten.'

Aleksandra Barabasz has also joined the early years' team, assisting in the cottage kindergarten. She says, 'As someone who has over 10 years of experience working with children and earlier with adults and teenagers, I have discovered that the early years sector is my passion. It has been an absolute delight being able to work with such a wonderful team here who have made me feel welcomed since day one. What's more, being able to see our children happy and excited for another day of kindergarten makes me feel that I chose my job well, especially since I can assist with their growth and development daily putting my skills to good use. I'm hoping to be doing just that for years to come.'

At the other end of the school, **Daniel Figols** and **Zayra Pereira** have joined the High School faculty. Daniel has a background in both Music and Physics, and has already started leading the High School and Middle School orchestras. He will begin teaching Physics later this term. Zayra is coming to teach German across the four High School classes, and will join us for her first blocks after half-term.

From the kindergarten

We had a great start to the year. We said goodbye to the Class 1 children with the Rainbow Bridge celebration: nine children walked the path from the kindergarten gate to the big school, under the rainbow bridge formed by their parents and friends. It is always moving to see them go, but we are lucky to see snippets of them on the school grounds!



We welcomed four new children and are expecting three more in the coming weeks. They have been settling in very well. The rest of the children came back from the holidays fitting into the kindergarten routine like a glove! They have been happily playing in the garden, helping with tasks, drawing, harvesting lavender, flower seeds and potatoes, milling wheat and enjoying climbing and going on the newly donated swings.

We also welcomed two new members of staff into our team: Deepa, covering for Maria during the Autumn term, and Aleskandra, assisting in the cottage kindergarten. The children are responding very well to both of them.

We look forward to our upcoming harvest festival (Thursday 22 September) and Michaelmas festival (Thursday 29 September). We welcome donations of windfall apples to make apple jam to eat in the kindergarten. Thank you!

The Early Years Team



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.

LEARNING TO LOVE YOUR PARENTING

AN ONLINE COURSE FOR PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS ON HOW CHILDREN LEARN

This unique course offers ways of understanding how children learn and how obstacles to their learning are introduced by behaviourism and inherited attitudes. Could it be that behind many behaviour and communication difficulties lies a misconception? Changing the way you think and feel about children's learning leads to happy and peaceful families and classrooms. [<https://www.tessabellalovemore.com/courses-and-contacts>]

4 October: WHAT IS THE BATTLE? WHY DO I STRUGGLE? Why do they resist? Who is in control?

11 October: THREE PHASES OF CHILDHOOD

18 October: EVERYTHING YOU DO MATTERS. Make What You Do, Bring Peace into Your Home.

All sessions: 8.30-9.30 p.m. Cost for the three sessions: £90. The course is led by Donata Hoesch, PhD

For information or to sign up, please contact Silvia at silvialauzzana@stmichaelsteiner.com

We're Iren and Liam, a young American/English couple looking for a place to live in London. We're both Waldorf graduates, students of Anthroposophy, and Youth Initiative Program alumni. Liam studies alternative economics and money, Iren is an artist and designer, and together we study social threefolding and healthy society. We are moving to the UK to continue our studies and for Iren's work in the art world. We would love to find communities with the same interests and Anthroposophical initiatives are a great place to start!

We're looking for a sweet rental home (1 or 2 bedroom) with a large garden where we can grow food, with good light and internet so Iren can paint and work from home. We are quiet and early to bed, no pets or smoking, and have experience with gardening, building, and decorating.

Budget: max £1100/month. References available. Month to month or six-month lease ideal. Flexible move-in date, ideally 15 September - 15 October 2022.

Please email IrenBarnum@gmail.com or LiamPearsonMoyers@gmail.com if you know of a place that might be right for us!

*Many thanks,
Iren + Liam*





My daughter Ria (4.5yrs old) is currently under the care of The Evelina Children's Hospital, specifically the cardiology department.

Ria was born with a complex heart condition. The Evelina cardiology team have operated on her numerous times from 5 months old, and have saved her life not only with planned operations but also from numerous emergency admissions. Not only have they technically saved her life, but they have saved us as parents. Ria's cardiologist has created such a wonderful supportive relationship with us. She has guided me and empowered me to be Ria's mother when I had lost all hope, and felt so overwhelmed with all things intensely scary and incomprehensibly cardiac buried in the unknown (to us) medical world.

Ria is genuinely a rainbow of hope and love, she wouldn't have the quality of life she has and we (and all her family and friends) wouldn't be able to enjoy her without the incredibly brave and difficult work delivered by this team.

Ria has a very scary yet crucial open heart surgery due in the next year or so and will spend the rest of her childhood under the excellent care of this team at the Evelina hospital. How can anyone express the immense gratitude felt to the people who have saved and continue to save your child's life? I really don't know...

I have never run in my life but I wanted to do something that challenged me to raise money for this amazing team and to set an example to Ria. Running keeps the heart healthy. The Evelina Cardiology team has kept our Ria with us and helped keep her heart beating.

Please help me, help us, raise money for this life saving phenomenal team:

[Click here to donate](#)

— Amelia

Dear families, I am looking for a second-hand bicycle to ride from Twickenham to school.

If possible a ladies bike with the possibility of adding mudguards as I will have to cycle through the woods, park and also the possibility of adding a bag carrier and lights.

If you have a bike and want to give it away, please email me at deepa.bracchi@stmichaelsteiner.com.

Our eurythmy pianist Matthew Ratcliffe is the Organist and Choirmaster at St. George's Church opposite school and is organising a concert series at the church. The first concert will be on October 22nd and will feature Elaine Samuels and Kindred Spirit Band. Earthy-textured folk rock with lots of contemporary relevance.

Not to be missed.

Buy your tickets here: [KINDRED SPIRIT BAND \(Folk Rock by Elaine Samuels & Kindred Spirit Band\) Tickets, Sat 22 Oct 2022 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Do you have something you would like included in the Community Pages of the newsletter?

Send it to Stella (stellaottewill@stmichaelsteiner.com).



Dear friends,

With winter coming, the potential threats of Covid infections surrounding us and the increasing threats of serious health issues in our lives, we at Eurythmy4you would like to invite you to consider a different approach to nurturing your health and well-being.

It starts from within

We invite you to check the link below for various course options to enhance your resilience and strength, to relax your nervous system and to feel at home in your body. This will guide you to various options to work on your own, yet be directly supported by Theodor Hundhammer, the founder of Eurythmy4you.

[Eurythmy4you Health Courses - Prepare for Winter](#)

You will find a multitude of other courses too, all designed to help **you** overcome adversity, illnesses, imbalances and challenges of the times we live in.

We also recommend this international program, run by our certified ABSR Trainers in a multitude of different languages.

[Activity-Based Stress Release \(ABSR\) Program](#)

For any enquiries or information about the courses on offer, please contact me directly.

Warm regards,

Theodor Hundhammer
CEO and Founder of Eurythmy4you

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