

The Grapevine

Cambridge Steiner School's community newsletter

25th September 2009

Dear all,

Welcome to the Grapevine! Please send all contributions – artwork especially welcome – for next week's edition to school@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk. It's the end of my temporary editorship and I'll be handing over to a Grapevine Group. If this is something you're interested in doing, please get in touch with Trishna (Akashi's mum in Elderflower) on 07904 289 778.

Thanks and best wishes,

Helen

Dates for your diary

Michaelmas	September 29 th
Introductory Morning for prospective new parents	October 7 th
Woodmice Autumn Workshop – Webs and Weaving Please contact Deb Winfield on 842079	October 10 th
“Four Elements” family workshop at the school Details coming soon!	October 28 th
Introductory Morning for prospective new parents	November 4 th
Advent Fair (stalls, craft and celebration)	November 21 st
Introductory Morning for prospective new parents	December 2 nd
Mill Road Winter Fair (we are having a stall)	December 5 th
Community Barn Dance (and open day)	March 20 th
May Fair (and open day)	May 8 th

More on Michaelmas!

As we wrote in last week's Grapevine, the Lower School this year is having a different style of Michaelmas celebration. The Michaelmas play that was put on over the last couple of years was a performance with all classes taking part. However, because of our situation this year with new teachers, combined classes and with Class 4/5 being in Botton, we realised we would not be able to prepare and hold on to this wonderful tradition.

Instead, as we described in the last issue, we will be doing something very special this year – a tour with challenges which exemplifies the Michaelmas theme. There are a few ways in which you could help out.

- We talked about sharing food together, like fruit. We would like now to ask you if the children could bring some **extra fruits**, like apples, pears, grapes, and other 'autumn' fruits with them **on Monday**. We would like to make a harvest table for the Tuesday in the Assembly Hall.
- We would like to make fresh apple juice. Who can help us with wormless apples?
- Because we will be outside, even in the rain, we would like to ask you to leave an extra set of clothes at school, and a raincoat as well!
- Last but not least, we still are looking for **two extra pair of hands** (2 people!) to help us with the challenges and the basic set ups...

Please come to Clara for more information and support!

Up to Tuesday, to the Michaelmas celebration:

To fight the dragon,
to know what is good and bad,
to become a truthful 'soldier'
and to understand the beauty of life!

The Class Teachers

The Twenty-Fourth Week

*Unceasingly itself creating
Soul life becomes aware of self;
The cosmic spirit, striving on,
Renews itself by self-cognition,
And from the darkness of the soul
Creates the fruit of self-engendered will.*

From Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul

School Notices

- *School shop open TODAY at 1pm!*
- *Staffing news in brief*

Nick Jackson has begun teaching chess to Class 4/5, cricket to Class 2/3 and music to Class 1 ... wonderful.

We are getting a very good response to our continuing advertising for a Class 4/5 teacher, with three recent American interviewees and two more applications from abroad. This means thinking through a lot of potential red tape but it has been a very positive experience.

Class 1 has made tremendous progress in just one week, and is settling down well. Claire Whittenbury (mentor) has given very good reports.

Alison Gilderdale has organised and taken Class 4/5 on a trip to the Botton Camphill community – very exciting and which the children are getting a lot from. They are even seeing Orzola, a previous member of staff, who lives and works there. Thank you to Alison and all other teachers and parents who have been involved in this wonderful trip. We look forward to hearing more soon!

The Trustees

- **Reminder re. Bluebells forms and payments:**

There is still some confusion regarding numbers in our afternoon Bluebells sessions. Please could all outstanding payments be given to Laura or Svea today or Monday. Please note that, for safety and insurance reasons, children will only be accepted into Bluebells if there are enough places vacant in accordance with the legal staff-child ratio, and if we have received a signed form and payment. All last-minute bookings will require the agreed last-minute fee of £15 to be paid up-front, and you will need to check with Laura or Bette to ensure that there are spaces. Many thanks for your cooperation with this, and for making Bluebells so popular!

- **Happy News Message Book**

I'm an informal message book currently residing at reception - use me to tell us that your child passed a swimming test, to comment on an aspect of the school, or that you liked the beeswax models the children have been making :o) All comments welcome, and we promise to respond!

- **Help still needed**

Help wanted in the **Finance mandate!** If you have skills in this area you would like to share, please contact trustee Rupert Gatti on rupert.gatti@googlemail.com

The school shop still needs a loving person to look after it. It's a great way to meet people and get involved in the community, and as well as having a social time you'll get to handle all the lovely things and raise money for the school. To find out more, contact Charlotte Forbes on 351290.

- **Introductory mornings**

Introductory mornings, which allow interested parents (and children) to see the school in action and find out more, have now been timetabled for the rest of the year. They will run once a month. If you would like to help, please contact Anne Strauss on 721242.

Update from the IT Mandate

The IT group is looking to make use of IT to make information available to the community more easily and accurately, and especially to oil the wheels of collaboration. We are looking for creative IT solutions that fit the school's needs.

There are lots of opportunities for input here especially around public relations and communications – blogs, videos etc – as well as the more technical side including databases for school information. If you are interested in helping please get in touch with Mike Rose on mike.rose@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk.

We have been quite busy at the start of the School year with email addresses and school computer logins for new staff. If you want to contact a member of staff, mandate holder or trustee then you can use: firstname.lastname@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk.

The school now has a new B&W printer and another one is on the way. The 3 laptops that were kindly gifted to the school are starting to be used for real work. The main School phone line was found to be broken just before the start of term. A BT engineer did a sterling job (1.5 days!) finding the fault in the copper phone line outside on the road, somewhere.

The School needs a better way to contact people, and groups of people (e.g. parents), and to maintain records of who is where and doing what. To this end Nick Duncan has put quite a bit of work into a CRM system called sugarCRM. This is not finished as we still have more customisation to do and to make sure we have the correct data in it. When it is up and running it should dramatically improve our efficiency!

The other new thing on the horizon is the school website. “What? we already have a website! It's not going to change, again is it?” Well... The current website is rather difficult to edit, which means that only someone fairly familiar with HTML can add content to it, and a School website without new and changing content will not reflect the vibrant and alive School that we have.

We want to enable more people to edit the website. If YOU would like to help with the School website then please contact www@cambridge-steiner-school.co.uk.

Finally, we've also been doing some very behind-the-scenes techy stuff. You may not have noticed, but the School email and website have moved to a new hosting provider with 10 times the capacity for a quarter of the price. This means that the School website and email should stay up and running rather than dropping off the Internet as they have done in the past when capacity thresholds were reached.

Mike Rose (IT Mandate Holder) and Nick Duncan

There will be an update from the publicity mandate group next week.

Community news

- *Big Red Van Cafe* – come for coffee, cake, poetry and backgammon after drop-off at the school in Deb's big red van, Wednesday and Friday. Fund-raiser for Forest Kindergarten.
- *Come and sing at 8pm on October 1st!* A new informal singing group meets once a fortnight on a Thursday evening to share songs, rounds and harmonies. Come along to lift your spirits and relax. We can meet at the school or at Anne Strauss's home – please ring Anne on 721242.
- *Come and play volleyball at 4m on Sunday 4th October!* We have a very good coach and it is great fun. Beginners welcome. Meet on Lammas land or ring Charlotte Forbes on 351290 to find out more.

Joke Corner

“Doctor, doctor I keep thinking I'm a piglet.”

“How long have you been feeling like this?”

“About a weeeeeek!”

Why was the broom late?

Because it overswept.

Why did the crab go to jail?

Because it couldn't stop pinching.

And the editor's personal favourite:

Q: What did Batman say to Robin just before he got in the car?

A: Get in the car, Robin.

Adverts

Please feel free to use this space to advertise your business, your skills, or your violin!
Email all ads to Helen@CambridgeBaby.co.uk.

Hi there.

Now I have already been in Cambridge for three weeks, and first of all I want to thank you – both the team and the parents – for your lovely welcome. I really like the personal and friendly atmosphere in your school. Everyone is interested and really helpful so that I feel very happy in my new working place. Thanks for giving me the chance to help at the Cambridge Steiner School!

Next to this job I would really welcome the opportunity for baby sitting in the evenings or on the week-ends. My rate depends on where you live and if it is suitable for me to go by bike. Just give me a call on my mobile phone: 07914 43 99 85. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Have a great day!

Svea

Looking for warm winter woollens?

Cambridge Baby has a wide range of Merino wool and wool/silk clothing for babies, children and adults.

Browse the website at www.cambridgebaby.co.uk, and use the code "steinerschool" to gain a 10% discount! Offer ends 30th September. (After this, the code will gift 5% of your order directly to the school.)