

This is our second newsletter of the year and is for distribution to parents and friends of the education. We hope that it reaches you via your school's busy admin. staff at this very hectic time of year and that it will give you a brief snapshot of some of the things that are happening in and around our member schools.

Welcome to our summer newsletter!

Glasgow Steiner School:

Since the last edition Glasgow Steiner School was destroyed by fire. The new premises are temporarily closed until they have upgraded the fire detection system. The "My Donate" page for anyone to make a donation to the school following the fire is now live. If you wish to make a donation to help, please see our charity page at mydonateBT. There is more information on the school website www.glasgowsteinerschool.org.uk



On behalf of all the staff and governors, we are truly humbled by the generosity of so many people. As has been said many times "Onwards and Upwards"

Doctors! - Who needs a School Doctor?

From the start of the first Waldorf School, Rudolf Steiner saw the need for educators and doctors to work together. He drew attention to the close alignment between learning and health in the short and in the longer term. A child's health can influence learning and the experience of learning can influence the health and resilience of the adult. Thus, the contribution of a medical doctor has historically been part of every Steiner Waldorf School and Kindergarten. However, while this remains the case for some schools, not every school has access to a registered medical practitioner with special interest and training in the field of child development and education.

The role of the school doctor involves a wide range of areas from assessments of children's development and support needs, through liaison with therapists, specialists and, not least, parents and teachers. The primary role is to support the children's healthy development and enhance the understanding of each child's needs in the school environment.

In my experience of working as a school doctor, it is a fascinating and very rewarding role and a welcome change to my usually very busy day as general practitioner. In the UK there are currently about eight active school doctors. We need more such doctors and we would encourage any doctor interested in the work to join us. Post graduate training to become a school and kindergarten doctor is available via the Goetheanum in Dornach. However, if there is sufficient interest, part time training in the UK could be organised. If you would like to find out more please contact Dr Hedda Joyce: hedda@doctor.org.uk

A Message from Leeds Free School Team:



LEEDS STEINER SCHOOL
Inspiring education

It is with great sadness that the current Leeds Steiner School working group have reached a decision to stand down from leading any further free school application. It has been a difficult decision and one that we did not come to lightly. However, as a working group who have had four unsuccessful attempts, we feel that our energy and expertise has rather reached its end point in this whole process, and it is time to

pass on the baton so a new path can be created.

We are of the belief that a Steiner school for Leeds would be a huge asset to the city. We are contacting all our supporters in Leeds and across the UK (and world!) to urge a new group of leaders to come forward and take on the responsibility for any future application or development.

The outgoing group will support hand over of the application and feedback from the Department of Education, as well as our contacts and communications. If anyone feels that they would like to put themselves forward, please contact us by email at school@leeds-steiner.org.uk by 12/07/2013. Please circulate this email widely amongst your contacts if appropriate.

In the meantime, thank you so much for your support over the last three years.
Francesca Meynell, Helen Pearson, Jim Wild, Sue Hoey, Tony Ereira, Jutta Vetter, Jonne Warmingham, Aissa Gallie, Natalie Rawson.

Childminders:

An exciting new development for the SWSF - we now have a number of Childminders registering as members! All the Childminders are self registered and Steiner inspired, most having full Steiner Waldorf early childhood qualifications. Many are supporting parents around schools, and take not only the very young children, but collect older children from kindergarten as well. They are also able to access the same exemptions the kindergartens have received from the Government's Early Years Foundation Stage (it applies to everyone who cares for children between birth and five), which is another success story for the SWSF!

If you know of any Childminders in your area who might be interested in registering with the SWSF, please ask them to contact Jane Avison on admin@steinerwaldorf.org.

Respectful Care Conference:

160 happy, excited and expectant parents, carers and teachers arrived for a weekend of lectures and workshops on the theme of respectful care for the very young child. The lecturers were inspirational; Dorothy Marlen focused on attachment, movement and the attentive Pikler approach; Dr. John Lees looked at the lifelong repercussions of lack of attachment in very early childhood.



Dr Michaela Glöckler from the Medical Section of the Goetheanum, in her lectures and plenum over the two days, looked at the picture of the young child coming into our world, and how we care for them as parents, teachers and carers throughout the first seven years. She also covered subjects as broad as sleep, vaccinations, movement, development, boundaries, our influence on the environment, our role as models, and family life. The many workshops were varied, full, interesting and enjoyable!

For the first time, we invited stall holders to exhibit, and many also included gifts and publicity material in the printed conference bags, which were much appreciated by the attendees. Donors generously gave towards the raffle, which was held in aid of the International Kindergarten Association (IASWECE), and we raised a substantial sum which will go towards helping teacher training and mentoring in countries of need around the world.

www.iaswece.org

Janni Nicol



'Catching Fire' at Emerson College:



A full time residential course for young people aged 18 - 25 designed to help find meaning and purpose in life. Courses such as Creativity and Arts, Values and Meaning, Economics and Politics, Individual and Society, Community Building, Non Violent Communication, Sustainability etcetera will be

offered, as well as mentoring and the opportunity to co-create the project with other students.

The course starts September 2013 and ends July 2014. For more information

www.catchingfire.org.uk

Steiner Waldorf Curriculum development:

There are many strands to this work, each of which weaves in continual process of change. The 'Waldorf School Plan', so thoroughly documented by Hans Stockmeyer, provides us with a starting point. Each generation of teachers, in seeking to read the riddle of their classes and meet the needs of contemporary young people, then contributes to a living, evolving Waldorf curriculum. Properly speaking 'Steiner curriculum' applies to the seminal lectures, seminars and meetings that inform the life of Waldorf education. Within these are key principles, core values and our fundamental orientation. Without those, curriculum development becomes meaningless change, lacking any purpose. So there is, as always a balance to be struck and equilibrium can only be found in a community of educators working from different points of view, but with the final touchstone located firmly in the classroom.

How is the curriculum developed? By practitioners! But the view from the classroom (or from one individual school) can become restricted and that is where advisers and others fit in. It helps to have some colleagues who can clean the windows from the outside! So, what curriculum development is currently ongoing? A, necessarily incomplete, list might include:

- ◆ Upper School examples include work at South Devon and Elmfield (e.g. practical, or body-based learning)
- ◆ A possible alternative model for Class Teacher-Upper School at Hereford
- ◆ Student-designed success criteria at Michael Hall
- ◆ Individuals and schools too numerous to name working on larger or smaller aspects of teaching - and potentially -
- ◆ Every teacher planning their next Morning Lesson block!

In addition to those, there are -

- ◆ The "holistic assessment" project (the only useful types of assessment depends on curriculum first and then follows from that)
- ◆ The recently republished and heavily edited edition of *Towards Creative Teaching* (Floris Books with SWSF), which also includes sketches for an Active Citizenship and "Risk Literacy" curriculum

The SWAS (advisory service) page of our website includes a curriculum development link and all colleagues are invited to contribute to this. Contributions do not have to be written up in full or formal style, often notes or an indicative sketch is sufficient to start dialogue. Other contributions or questions are also welcome. Let's get things moving!

Kevin Avison

Steiner Academy Bristol approved in the last round of 'free school' Applications!

To open in September 2014, the Academy will be the first inner-city, state-funded Steiner school in the UK and the third Steiner free school to be approved under the 'free



school' programme. The school will grow slowly, with an opening cohort of 78 pupils (Kindergarten, Class 1 and class 6), rising to two classes every year, with a total of 624 pupils by 2022. The Academy will make a major contribution to the shortage of school places in Bristol, with demand for opening places in the first two years already up to five times oversubscribed.

The school are currently recruiting for a principal and will be recruiting teachers and other staff in 2014. For more information on admissions and recruitment, see www.steineracademybristol.org.uk or contact info@steineracademybristol.org.uk.

Tara Young

The Iona School Community Hall



The Iona School Community Hall has received a grant of £8,700 from the Big Lottery Fund to improve its acoustics in 2013. As a thriving urban school community, we are delighted to have received this grant as this will allow us to achieve our goal of this hall acting as a hub for the local community!

Our hall offers:

- ◆ Full disabled access.
- ◆ Private secure meeting space with full stage areas.
- ◆ On a late night bus route with wheelchair friendly buses.
- ◆ Ground floor toilet facilities.
- ◆ Storage facilities and kitchen facilities.
- ◆ Private, secure and well lit parking for a large number of cars.
- ◆ Capacity for large or small groups.
- ◆ Facility for small court and other keep fit activities.
- ◆ Separate, private entrance.
- ◆ Beautiful natural light.

The hall can accommodate many groups from the wider community for many activities, such as keep fit, musical performances, board game groups, OAP meeting groups and many others. Once the relevant repairs have been made to the acoustics in the hall, the hall will be open for hire. The funds raised from the hire of the hall will go towards school development.

Dominique Allen



Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship

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