



Friday Flier

AUTUMN TERM

Friday 22nd November 2013

Winter Days

Spiral and Advent

Advent (from the Latin 'to come') is the period of preparation and expectation starting four Sundays before Christmas. The start of Advent in Steiner Schools is marked by the Advent Spiral. Winter festivals of light are common around the world. As the days get shorter we move through a time of darkness towards the longest night at the winter solstice, and when Christmas arrives, a turning point is reached, the light increases, days grow longer and nature reawakens. The advent spiral reflects winter's dark growing to a close and the renewed promise that spring light and life will begin again.

The spiral is held in late afternoon, the Nave will be dark and filled with a mood of wonder and quiet anticipation. Teachers will have laid out a large spiral path of greenery. In the center of the spiral there is a large candle. The candle will be lit.

Each child in turn, holding a red apple with a small unlit candle inserted into it, slowly walks along the spiral path and lights the candle from the centre light. On the return each child places their candle carefully down along the edges of the spiral path, choosing their own place, lighting the way for the other children. When all the children have had a turn, the garden path is aglow from all the smaller lights. Some gentle tune might be playing helping to create a special mood. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the gifts and light each child brings and carries carefully out into the world.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November

27th Greenery collection
28th 8.45am-1pm Wreath Making in the Nave
29th Spiral - Classes

December

1st Spiral - KG
6th 7pm Advent Fair Preview
7th Advent Fair
12th 7-9.30pm RMM
17th KG End of Term Festival
18th 11am Classes Christmas Festival

Parents Craft Group
Every Wednesday in term time at 10.30am

Parents Choir
Every Thursday in term time at 9.30am

Parents Study Group
Every Friday in term time at 8.45am

Please refer to the website before phoning the office for dates. All dates regarding the school are available at:

www.stpaulssteinerschool.org/?page_id=9

Spiral Festivals

Classes Advent Spiral Friday 29th November

4pm and 5.30pm

Our Advent Spiral is the first Winter Festival of the year. The children will walk their path around the spiral to collect light for their candle, in a mood of stillness and anticipation.

With the support of our quietness and reverence, their inner experience is as important as them taking part in the creation of the beautiful spiral of light in the dark Nave.

The school has grown so the Festival is taking a new form, and the school day will begin as follows:

Children with surname from A to J at 4pm

Children with surname from K to Z at 5.30pm

Children should please arrive at the given time - school will be closed before then.

The children will be received by their Class teacher in the Project space.

Please be on time: latecomers will not be able to join the festival. Once you have handed over your child, please take your seat in the Nave.

After the festival the exit for the parents will be through the glass doors to the Kindergarten garden, where you collect your child from their teacher. The school day will end immediately after the Spiral.

With your help we hope to create a special experience for our children. We are unable to provide a crèche and in order for the children to focus on their journey through the Spiral we recommend that toddlers and Kindergarten children do not attend this Festival.

With warm wishes,
The Class and Subject Teachers

Music

We would be very grateful if any parents can offer to play music at the spiral festivals, especially the lyre, please contact the school office. Thank you.

Kindergarten Advent Spiral Sunday 1st December

4pm and 5pm

You are all warmly invited to join us and your children for this very magical Festival. It allows the children to experience stillness and silence, a mood that it is hard to find in city life and in the busy weeks leading up to Christmas. It would be lovely if you can take this mood of mystery and reverence straight home after the Advent Spiral.

On the day Rosebush and Mulberry Bush will meet at 4pm; Apple Tree and Chestnut Tree will meet at 5pm.

We will gather in the Kindertagens room before going in to the Nave. The Children should be dressed warmly and without flowing garments.

Once the Advent Spiral has started we cannot admit latecomers therefore please do not ring any door bells.

During the Spiral kindly refrain from talking and switch off your mobile phones. Please join in the quiet singing.

Please remember the Kindertagens are closed on Friday 29th November to enable the School to prepare the Spiral for the older Classes.

On the 6th December we will celebrate St Nicholas. In preparation each child needs to bring a pair of shoes on Monday 2nd December to be polished and kept in Kindergarten until the 6th December.

Each day during Advent one child is allowed to cut off a nut from the Advent Calendar. Inside there will be a candle boat which can be lit at bedtime.

During Advent we will sing Christmas Carols in the morning at dropping off time. This is an opportunity for all of us to get into the Christmas mood and surround the children with traditional Carols.

Last, but not least, our End of Term Christmas Celebration is on Tuesday 17th December.

More details to follow nearer the time.

Wishing you all a peaceful Advent time,
The Kindergarten Teachers

School Life

Advent Fair - 2 week countdown...

Raffle Tickets - sell sell sell!

This is one of the biggest earners at the fair so no need to be shy in selling, especially with some great prizes on offer.

Every child in the school will be given 20 raffle tickets in an envelope to sell, together with a list of all prizes.

Please return the ticket stubs, money and any unsold tickets in the envelope to your class rep.

If you need more tickets ask your class rep or Pam in reception.

Posters and Fliers

There is a pile of printed Advent Fair posters in reception. Please pick up a few & put up in local shops, restaurants, business, libraries etc. A digital version will be sent from the school office to distribute to your friends and family.

Food

This is another big earner at the fair, so your cooking really funds the school.

Tell your class rep what savoury & sweet dish you will be cooking for the café.

If you prefer make a double portion of one or the other - but we tend to run out of savoury so err on that side please.

Buy the ingredients (always a big help!)

Please bring to school on Friday 6th or Saturday 7th morning, in disposable containers where possible (it's a nightmare returning tupperware to each person).

Friday Night Preview Market

Book a babysitter and come buy your Christmas treats without the prying eyes of the kids. Fabulous cafe & music for a smooth, magical beginning to the festive season.

Music

Would your kids like to opportunity to perform the tunes they have been fervently practising?

Are you a musician with an itch to play for a grateful audience? Friday night & Saturday slots available at the fair.

Contact Alix stpaulsadventfair@gmail.com

Wreath making session

On Thursday 28th November from 8.45am (after drop off) a group of parents will work together in the Nave to make wreaths for their children's classes and Kindergartens.

By next Wednesday, parent volunteers will have gathered the greenery used to help make the Advent Spiral, Class Wreaths and to decorate the space for Advent Fair. We have developed a tradition of every Class/KG taking an active part in this important preparation for the start of Advent.

We need one person from each class to come and make a wreath for the class. The teachers use the wreaths in the class every day going into Advent and really appreciate receiving this gift from their parents.

Don't worry if you haven't made a wreath before, those that have will be there to help. It's a great way to get to know parents from other classes and the morning always has a lovely atmosphere added to by the amazing smell of the fresh greenery.

There are enough candles available for the wreaths for the classes and kindergartens. If you get around to making one to take home, you will need to provide your own candles for that. Please bring along some green garden wire, secateurs, garden scissors, plus any other decoration (ribbon/pine cones etc) you want to make your wreath special.

Also - if someone can contribute a few cookies/ mince pies to keep stomachs happy whilst fingers are busy that would be much appreciated.

Some classes already have volunteers. You can check with your class rep. Even if someone is already coming to make a wreath for your child's class, you are more than welcome to join us and help where needed. We look forward to seeing you on the 28th.

Tanya Savio on behalf of Parental Involvement.



Open Tour

A very big thank you to everyone who helped on the night and also to all of you who provided food: it was exceptional and it was an enjoyable evening.

Please help if you can for the next Open Tour on Monday 20th January 2014 from 6-8pm.

Oberufer Shepherd's Play

Each December the Oberufer Shepherd's Play is performed at St Paul's by members of staff and of the community. The name Oberufer Play applies not only to The Shepherd's play, but also to a Paradise Play and a Three Kings Play.

Oberufer is an island in the Danube, east of Vienna, close to the borders of Hungary. This island was settled by farmers from the Lake Constance region sometime in the 15th Century, and due to the relative isolation of island life, their traditions and folkways remained intact for centuries.

One of their traditions was to perform these plays each year. In fall, when the harvest was in, the players were chosen regardless of religious affiliation or status, and received their parts from an esteemed farmer who would direct the plays for years, and then pass this honorable responsibility on to his son. The songs and words were passed on by word of mouth for generations.

In the middle of the 19th century, a professor from Vienna, Karl Julius Schröer, who was researching folklore and regional traditions, discovered the Oberufer Plays. He was charmed and impressed by them and returned a few years later to write down as much as he could. Years later this professor became the teacher and revered friend of Rudolf Steiner.

Towards the end of the 19th century Professor Schröer spoke to Steiner about these plays. His enthusiasm and concern about the possible loss of such precious folkways touched Steiner, who quickly realized their beauty and proceeded to bring order to the sketchy script and the music. In 1910 the first revived performance took place in Berlin, Germany.

From then on, these plays have become part of the Christmas time tradition for many Waldorf schools all over the world. They were first translated by Cecil Harwood, who tried to keep intact the medieval way of speaking — the simple beauty of expression.

Could you please let us know if you are interested in participating in this year's production of the Shepherds Play? We are looking for actors, musicians and singers for this event, please help us making this a great, big production, truly representing our community!

The performances will be in the afternoon and in the evening of the last day of term. Rehearsals will take place during December. Please contact the school office for more details.

Emergency educational support in the Philippines

As of this week, the Friends of Waldorf Education (FWE) will help typhoon victims through trauma educational work. A team of German volunteers and local Filipino helpers will be on-site from 24 November to 7 December 2013. They first arrive in Cebu, close to the affected Leyte island. Afterwards, the team works with immediately affected people in the catastrophe area, at two different locations.

The FWE believe that it is crucial to provide humanitarian assistance with medicine and food, such as it is currently done by numerous international organizations. Attending to the psychological needs of the affected people is equally important. The Friends of Waldorf Education ensure this with the upcoming assignment where they will train local teachers in trauma education and work with affected children. Those children get to experience pleasant moments through artistic, Waldorf educational activities, designed to counterbalance their recent traumatic experiences.

Support can be given to the victims of the natural disaster and the emergency educational assignment through your donation. Please indicate "Emergency Education Philippines" in the subject line.

Equally, the Gamot Cogon Waldorf School in Illoilo has been affected by the typhoon. Heavy rains and fallen trees have destroyed the school roof and led to several days of power failure. For a new school roof, you can make a contribution, please indicate the project number "4323".

Furthermore, the FWE are very grateful for your support towards our long-term commitment at the Kakuma Refugee Camp, in Kenya. The Friends of Waldorf Education have been working with traumatised children at the refugee camp's kindergartens and schools since 2011. Find out more about this project in our current call for donations.

Thank you for your concern!

Nana Göbel and Bernd Ruf
Executive Directors, Friends of Waldorf Education

Donate now...

<https://www.freunde-waldorf.de/en/donate-help.html>

Community Notices

Buggy wanted

Sunflower Playgroup are looking for a Maclaren-type buggy that we could attach a buggy board to.
Please contact Anna 07947 363 586

Childcare offered

Steiner Inspired Babysitting / Childcare / Afternoon care / School holiday childcare
For any type of childcare please contact me as my two lovely Assistants are available to help .
Anna 07947 363 586

Sheepskin Slippers

Portuguese sheepskin slippers. Boot or slip-on style.
See photos.
For babies through to large adult sizes.
I normally have a stall at the Advent Fair, but will not this year as I am organising it!
Sheepskin is untreated, lets feet breath, great for school classroom.

Reduced Prices:

Baby £10
Child £14
Small adult £18
Large adult £22

I don't have every size left, but most.
If you want to buy a pair email me, Alix McAlister (class 4),
fidalix@gmail.com

Growing the SCM Volunteers Network

Dear all,
The Save Childhood Movement is growing fast and we are very grateful to those of you who have either helped at our events or offered your support. Our apologies if we have been in touch and then not got back to you but there has been a lot going on and we have been really struggling to keep up!

There are a number of areas that we are now interested in developing and these include:

- we need one or two project officers to help us manage National Children's Day UK next year (see www.national-childrendayuk.com)
- we are looking for people who might like to help with various aspects of ongoing research
- we are interested in helping people set up local action groups so that they can connect with others and help spread the word
- we are looking for graphic artists, web designers and animators to help us develop our promotional ideas
- we need more people to help with social media
- we need innovative ways of raising funds

We have now designed a form to help us see who wants to help and what skills are available. If you are interested please email it our volunteer co-ordinator on natalie@savechildhood.net.

Many thanks
Wendy and the SCM Development Team



The flier is published every other Friday.
Deadline Wednesday 4pm.
Sales of goods or services £5 per advert.
Email hr@stpaulssteinerschool.org

The school newsletter is a forum for many different members of the community, and views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the school.

HOUSE FOR SALE

.....

(MAISON A VENDRE)

Nr. Uzès (14km) - South of France
(Languedoc-Roussillon)
Dept. Gard / Postcode: 30360
Nr. to a Steiner Waldorf School (2km)

€ 300,000 / £255,000



House for Sale

Nr. to Steiner Waldorf School - South of France

I am an ex-parent of St. Paul's Steiner School who, some twelve years ago, left with our two children after three happy years at St. Paul's to start a new life in the South of France, relocating near to another Steiner School (Ecole Caminarem).

Our children have now finished their Waldorf education here in France and I am now selling our lovely stone house located only a few km away from the school. If there are parents at St. Paul's who are leaving or have just left because they too are moving further afield or are planning to move abroad next year, this may be of interest to them.

More information on Ecole Caminarem Steiner School (Monteils) near to where the house is located, can be seen on the website: www.ecolecaminarem.org

The house postcode location: 30360 is near to Uzès and Vézénobres - which are two beautiful medieval towns nearby. The nearest Airport (45mins) is at Nîmes serviced by RyanAir from Luton or by train: Kings Cross - St Panc. London EuroStar/TGV direct to Nîmes or Avignon, via Lille.

The house is a 225m² blank canvas of living space - having a potential to be a four bedroom family dwelling along with a central large mezzanine/gallery room, plus three ground floor caves/cellars 60m² (storage/studio), a small garden with roman pool.

Visits can be arranged for early Spring - All enquiries are welcome as from now. Selling price is without Agent fees (i.e. no estate agent) and does not include the mandatory Notaire fees.

Contact: Bruno Barbier - email: bruno@art2o.org or tel/fax. 0033 (0) 466606035 (UK mb. 07813905337)



St Paul's
STEINER
SCHOOL

Advent Fair

Friday 6th December 7-10pm Evening shopping preview

Saturday 7th December 11am-4pm

Christmas Market with Artisan Designers

Wooden toys, Clothes, Ceramics and Handmade Gifts

Café with Homemade Food

Live Music and Children's Craft Activities

Enchanted Room and much more!

Admission: £1 Children: free

St Paul's Steiner School
1 St Paul's Road N1 2QH

www.stpaulssteinerschool.org

