



BRIGHTON STEINER SCHOOL NEWS

6th DECEMBER 2006
AUTUMN TERM ISSUE 12

ADVENT

Now the twilight of the year
Comes, and Christmas draweth near.
See, across the Advent sky
How the clouds move quietly.
Earth is waiting, wrapt in sleep,
Waiting in a silence deep.
Birds are hid in bush and reed
Flowers are seeping in their seed.

Through the woodland to and fro
Silent-footed creatures go.
Hedgehog curled in prickly ball.
Burrows 'neath the leaves that fall.
Man and beast and bird and flower
Waiting for the midnight hour –
Waiting for the Christ-child's birth,
Christ who made the Heaven and earth.

Ann Ellerton

School Grounds Forum tonight, 6 December, Wednesday, 7.30pm in the hall

Please join us tonight for a school-wide consultation on our grounds and outdoor spaces. This will be co-hosted by the Eco School Group and the PTA. The first part will focus on Early Years outdoor spaces followed by Main School issues, with special emphasis on playground improvements. We urge all concerned teachers, staff and parents to come and voice your concerns, so that we may work towards a balanced view on the short and medium term development of the school grounds. Various areas of the grounds will also be discussed as possible class projects or parent initiatives. Sarri Tapales, for the Eco School Grounds & Biodiversity Group

Advent Ball – this Friday, 8pm (not 7.30pm as originally stated)

Ever wanted to learn how to dance? Now's your chance! At just £3 entry you can't afford to miss it! Waltz, fox trot, cha-cha, swing... learn the basics and dance the night away. Novice or old hands all welcome. Tickets available from Sara.

Second Advent Assembly

Monday 11th December. Please remember to wear dark blue for this assembly.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

December

Wed 6 th	7.30-9.30pm	School Grounds Forum
Fri 8 th	8 - 10.30pm	Advent Ball (Classes 9 & 10 fundraiser)
Mon 11 th	5.30pm	Christmas Carol Concert at St George's Church
Wed 13 th	6.30pm	Shepherds Play for parents
Sun 17 th	10-2pm	Farmers Market at school

Early Years Events

Wed 13th Dec 9.30am Christmas Celebration

End of term:

Early Years: Wednesday 13th Dec

Main School: Thursday 14th Dec (half day)

School begins Thursday 5th January

Early Years begins Monday 8th January

Bazaar

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the bazaar a wonderful day (and thank you to the weather for holding back for those important 5 hours). We can't mention you all by name because there's not enough space but we would like to say how beautiful the school looked and how the marquee, the food and the entertainment worked brilliantly.

There are of course 2 people we would like to thank personally: Barbara who chaired the Bazaar Committee and coordinated all the strands of the event – a massive undertaking, and also Annette, who, of course, has nothing to do with the bazaar anymore but still manages to have everything to do with the bazaar. Thank you all who took part, making, baking, decorating, planning, table deliveries etc., between us all we created a special occasion. Total takings on the day were £4,357.26 - a full breakdown will be given next week. Any unfinished kits please hand back to Annette.

Bazaar Committee

A huge thank you to Ruby and Caitlin of Class 9 who tirelessly helped on the food stall for 5 hours.
Kim

Carol Concert

Monday 11th December at 5.30pm, St George's Church, St George's Road, Kempton

Our annual Carol Concert is an opportunity for the whole school community to come together in a calm and reverential way to sing some much loved traditional carols and appreciate the presentations of all our children. This year particular attention is being paid to the younger members of the school with an age appropriate programme and length but there will be contributions from every class so all students are expected to attend. Please arrive in good time, at 5.15, to get comfortable and note that the concert will begin in darkness.

Steiner Soundbites

In putting together some marketing materials for the school, I thought it would be nice to have a few quotes from parents and children. This might be along the lines of 'I love the school because...' or 'I send my child to Brighton Steiner School because...', or whatever you think appropriate. Please email s.james@sussex.ac.uk with your ideas. A bar of Green and Blacks chocolate to any entries chosen! You are welcome to remain anonymous if you'd prefer.
Many thanks, Sarah James.

Tea Towel

Thanks to all those who have started handing in self-portraits or drawings for inclusion on a school tea towel. It only becomes financially viable to go ahead with this if enough people contribute, so keep them coming in to Sara or myself and if we get enough (we

need at least 100 and only have 30 at the moment) I will go ahead with it.

Thanks, Catherine Eade

Alumni Network

Sarah James is undertaking a project to contact hopefully all past pupils of the school to find out what they are up to at the moment. Are they at college or university? What are they studying? What field of work are they in, or planning towards? How do they feel about their education now they are able to look back on it as a whole experience? Are they in contact with their old classmates? Would they like to come back to school at some point and talk to existing pupils and parents about their experiences?

It would be wonderful if the school could keep in touch with all the old faces and form an alumni network. We would like to be able to hold events from time to time to give everyone a chance to catch up with each other, as well as keep current pupils and parents informed of past pupils' successes. If you know a past pupil of the school, would you be kind enough to pass on Sarah's details to them and invite them to contact her direct? Many thanks. Sarah can be contacted by email s.james@sussex.ac.uk.

Early Years News

"No true conception is formed today of that which filled the souls of our ancestors when the days grew shorter.... the end of the year approached. People pass through the streets, and hardly feel more about Christmas, than that it is a time for giving and receiving presents. Should they have any other feeling, there is little connection between it and that deep feeling which absorbed our ancestors at this time of the year.... The true meaning of our festivals will again penetrate into our souls when the intimate connection of the whole surrounding world with mankind is realised again."

Rudolf Steiner, Dec 13, 1907.

We have turned the gifts of oranges and 'lebküchen', imbued with the love and seasoned spirit personified by St. Nicholas, which appeared in our slippers overnight. Maybe we even thought we saw him passing by outside, or his footprints on the floor.

There is a growing feeling of wonder as we tread the starry path of our Advent Spiral, following the path of Mother Mary and her baby, and approach the time when one very bright star came to rest over Bethlehem. The stars are at their brightest now and are being reflected in the many different shining stars of our craftwork.

Best wishes

The Early Years teachers