



www.bottonvillageschool.co.uk
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16.3.2009

The light of the sun is flooding
The realms of space;
The song of birds resounds
Through fields of air;
The tender plants are shooting
Through the kind earth
And human souls in reverent gratitude
Rise to the spirit of the world.
R. Steiner (From prelude to 1st Mystery Drama)
Thanks
Marie-Reine

Mystery Drama

The Portal of Initiation:

This is the first of 4 plays written by Rudolf Steiner. He said that if people worked with these plays he would not have to give any more lectures for the whole of Anthroposophy is in those plays. A group of Botton co-workers, schoolteachers and others have been rehearsing this play for the past 7 months under the direction of 2 professional directors. We will perform it on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 March. The play is very long, from 4p.m., till 9p.m. There will be intervals, including one when one can buy refreshments in the coffee bar.

We are suggesting donations of £12
For reservations please contact the Botton Bookshop
Marie-Reine

Further re Fundraising and Letter Inserting

Following on from what I wrote in the previous issue, I am hoping that the March inserting sessions went well; the Finance Working Group has also asked me to publicise details of the

income lost to the school as a result of poor attendance for the November inserting sessions. Income from the September sessions was £473.77, potential income from November was £1,726.43 but the actual income was £986.53, so that £739.90 was lost.

Michael

Minutes from the Coordinators

Blitz Clean

Ongoing discussion point.

Nessy will contact Kindergarten parents to find out if they prefer to form their own Blitz Clean groups, or if they want to join existing groups.

Class representatives and Coordinators

College of Teachers are asking for the class representatives to come to the Coordinators meeting.

We felt that was a good idea and it would help the flow of communication.

It would be good to have a Fundraising Group again. We should pick up the idea of 'specialisation'. We could call an open meeting to talk about these issues.

Parents Conference

Diane will go.

Open Morning – 12 March

There is some advertisement for that in the Whitby Gazette.

Valeska

Slow Down Through Church Farm! Please continue to be vigilant – 10 mph?

Teachers

Vouchers

Please if you have any active kids vouchers from Sainsburys or sports and computers vouchers from Tesco send them to Hannah at school to help towards buying new games and gym equipment. The offer ends in June.

Thank you.

Hannah

Kindergarten walk

Now that spring is here (?) it is time to revive a good habit, which got a bit lost in the snow...

The Kindergarten morning starts with a walk, meeting at the Store at 8.30. If you are a bit late, please meet the walkers and arrive at Kindergarten at 8.45, unless something else has been arranged with me.

Happy springtime walks to you all!

Barbro

Statement on Parental Contributions

We have tried to collect together in one place a clear statement of what the school looks for from parents; it also includes information about what would be done if there were concerns that reasonable expectations were not being met. We hope this is helpful. The statement is printed in this edition of the Courier and will be included with the revised parents' handbook, which we hope to distribute soon. It will be discussed at the next Council meeting of the Eskdale Trust after the AGM on 24 March and there may be an opportunity to consider it and other related matters at an open school community meeting after Easter.

Michael for the College of Teachers

Botton Village Steiner School

Statement on Parental Contributions

The school receives no State aid. Because we believe education is not a commodity and cannot be purchased the school does not charge a fixed fee for each child. The intention is to make the education available to any family that sincerely wishes to have it. We are asking each family, not to buy an education for a particular child, but to commit itself to a realistic and reliable financial contribution, according to means, in support of the whole school.

For families living in Camphill communities, who do not receive a salary, the financial contribution takes the form of an annual gift from the whole community in support of the school. For families living outside Camphill the school has operated over many years a guideline for parental financial contributions of a minimum of 6% of total pre-tax family income. The percentage is per family irrespective of the number of children attending school or kindergarten. The guideline is set quite low and it is important that those who can afford to contribute more do so. Alternatively a financial interview is available for families who consider the guideline is not appropriate in their circumstances. In the past the school has asked non-Camphill families to submit details of income each year, together with evidence and a proposal for a financial contribution, to a small Contributions Group, appointed by the Council of the Eskdale Community Trust for Education.

The Contributions Group comprises the school administrator and up to four other responsible persons. Its purpose is to enable parents to determine a fair level of financial contribution appropriate to their means, in order to ensure that the school is open to all and has sufficient funds to operate effectively. The Contributions Group recognizes the need to work with total confidentiality and to be sensitive to individual circumstances. In the course of its work the Group identifies relevant issues for the Eskdale Trust Council to consider and reports to the Council on the operation of the Contribution System.

For the time being the requirement to submit income analysis and evidence to the Contributions Group has been suspended; the school now asks families to simply carry out annually a careful self-analysis of income and make a proposal of financial support for the school, having regard to the school's needs and the guideline minimum. We hope that we are able to continue on into the future with what we feel is a uniquely trusting arrangement.

In the absence of State funding there will also always be a need for fund-raising, and parents are expected to participate in this important activity in whatever way they can. All parents are expected to take part in three annual major fund-raising events and in letter inserting at the Camphill Press

two or three times per year. Important uses for fund-raised money are: finance of building in support of school development, educational grants, staff development, purchase of materials and equipment (such as books, musical instruments and sports equipment) and general support for revenue costs in difficult years.

In addition to the financial contribution and participation in fund-raising families will be required to cover the following costs, for which they will be billed termly. Prompt payment is greatly appreciated.

Lunch money - Botton Village houses offer lunch places to non-Camphill children attending the school at the modest sum of £1 per meal, which the Village donates to the school.

Materials- Generally curriculum related materials (e.g. pencils, crayons, handwork materials) will be provided free. However, after the initial issue of pencils and crayons, you may sometimes be expected to purchase necessary replacements yourself from Botton Shop or another supplier, and, if the School considers materials, such as for handwork, are unusually expensive, a charge may be made.

Outings & school trips – Curriculum related outings, such as swimming and occasional educational day trips, and annual class trips in the lower school will usually be provided without charge. For unusually expensive trips (e.g. using specialist instructors or going abroad) a charge will be made, but often older children will fund-raise to offset the cost of more expensive trips.

There will be opportunities to discuss the cost of materials and outings at parents' evenings.

Parents are also expected to help in a practical way in and around the school, especially blitz cleaning and fix-it days at least once a year. Some practical contributions will save the school money, while others may generate income.

Additionally parents are expected to support the school and their children by attending parents' evenings, which are arranged for each class at least once per term, and any individual consultations requested by teachers.

The school aims to minimise the cost of operation. Full-time teachers who live outside Camphill are paid according to a needs formula with a base

element plus allowances for dependents; in addition there is a discretionary fund distributed according to need. There are no increments for experience, qualifications, length of service or extra responsibilities. In some years the Camphill Village Trust is paid an annual amount for the maintenance of some teachers who are Botton Village co-workers. The school benefits considerably from the work of a number of Botton Village co-workers, friends and parents whose part-time teaching in the school is a voluntary gift.

If, after due process, the Contributions Group considers that parents are not reasonably meeting their commitments with regard to financial contributions, the Group will report its concerns to the Eskdale Trust Council, which may deal with the matter itself or appoint a subgroup to do so. In this situation, whilst great care will be taken to preserve confidentiality regarding parents' actual financial details, reference to the Eskdale Trust Council will necessarily involve some sharing of information beyond the Contributions Group in order to outline the nature of the concern. Similarly, if it is felt that parents are not reasonably meeting their other commitments outlined above, the issue will be referred to the Eskdale Trust Council. In the last resort the school reserves the right to exclude pupils if the school considers that their parents are failing to meet commitments with regard to contributions.

Simple, rural cottage near to St. Albans in Hertfordshire.

Set in fields and woods, alongside the Chiltern Way footpath. 6 miles from Hemel Hempstead station which is 27 minutes to London Euston. Log burning stove; climbable trees and bonfire site in the enclosed garden. Broadband connection but no television. Sleeps 7+ in 3 bedrooms. A good way to mix day trips to London with a country holiday. Price from £300 per week.

Contact Veronica (Kings Langley parent) 0117 9293694 or vr@veronikon.co.uk

HOLIDAY COTTAGE

Staithes, North Yorkshire coast, near Whitby
3 bedrooms, sleeps 4+, sea views, coal fire, small
and cosy.

Old fishing village with shops, cafes, pubs,
gallery, crafts.

From £220 up to £300 per week peak season,
available all year for short breaks £40 or £45 per
night.

Telephone for colour brochure 0115 9392353

CALENDAR

Blitz Cleans

Saturday, 25 April - Class 6/7 Parents

Saturday, 30 May - to be arranged

Eurythmy class for adults: Thursdays 8.45
School Hall. Last lesson this term 5.3.09

The Portal of Initiation: 21, 22 March

Parents' meetings:

Tuesday 17th March, Class 6/7 – 19.30;

Coordinators' Meeting: 10.45, Wednesday 5
May

Eskdale Trust Council: Tuesdays at 20.00: 24
March, 19 May, 16 June

Eskdale Trust AGM: Tuesday, 24 March at
19.30

Anthroposophical Group: Fridays at 20.00: Mar
27th, Apr 24th, May 8th, Jun 19th.
see Mary for details.

Easter holiday: 4th April-26th April

Summer Term 2009

Mon 27 April to Fri 10 July

Holiday: 25 – 29 May

May Day 4 May

Calendar for 2009/2010

Autumn Term 2009

Wed 9 Sep to Fri 18 Dec

holiday 26 – 30 Oct

Spring Term 2010

Mon 11 Jan to Fri 26 March

holiday 15 – 19 Feb

Summer Term 2010

Mon 19 April to Fri 16 July

holiday 31 May – 4 June

May Day 3 May

Next Copy date: 26.3.2009

Please send handwritten articles to Marie-Reine
Adams or to the school, and you can also email
articles from the website or from the address at the
top of the Courier.

Lee and Marie-Reine