



www.bottonvillageschool.co.uk
thecourier@bottonvillageschool.co.uk

7.12.2009

Christmas and the Holy Nights

Christmas has been celebrated on the 25th December since the 4th century. Before it was celebrated on the 6th January, which is the day of the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, the moment when Christ really came to earth.

These 2 dates surround the 12 Holy Nights. If Advent is a time of preparing, Christmas is a time of fulfilment. The inwardness and warmth of these days are among most the precious memories for many people.

Christmas Eve is also 'Adam and Eve's day', our beginning, January 6th is Epiphany (Appearance) the moment Christ entered a human being. A whole journey.... what wonder to ponder on....

Marie-Reine

Advent in School

- *Advent singing*

On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays of the Advent weeks we will gather in the foyer at 8.30am to sing a few carols together. All parents are warmly welcome!

- *Advent Fridays*

As well as singing on Fridays at 8.30, the classes will also show some eurythmy.

On *the last day* – after a healthy Blitz Clean – exercise! – We will meet at 11.45 to sing out the term.

Gabriella

The Oberufer Shepherds' Play

The Oberufer Shepherds' Play is one part of a cycle of medieval mystery dramas.

The plays were discovered in an isolated village on a peninsula in the Danube River, late in the 19th century. The townspeople had kept the traditions of these plays, both the text itself and the tradition of

acting, since the late 18th century, but the old ways were being threatened by the modern world.

Fortunately the plays were transcribed by Karl Julius Shroer, a professor who studied German folklore, his intention being to preserve this spiritual inheritance from ancient times. The Oberufer plays are now performed each year in many languages in Waldorf Schools around the world.

As has been the tradition for many years in Botton Village School, The Shepherds' Play will be performed by the teachers as a gift to the school community. The performances will take place on Thursday 17th December at 2pm and then again at 7pm in the school hall. Please remember that the majority of the teachers will be in the play and not in the audience, so therefore we will need your support in order to make this an enjoyable experience for everyone. We ask that children in classes 1 – 6 sit with their parents. We look forward to seeing you all there. Anthea (for the teachers)

New Family

Welcome to Islay Northend, who has joined kindergarten, and her parents, Allan Northend and Katy Hudson, 39 Preston Road, Stockton, TS18 5AH (tel 01642 649739.) Allan and Katy are trying to move nearer to the school.

Harvest Collection of Food

This year our harvest gifts were donated to the Salvation Army in Whitby. The food will be used in Christmas hampers for local needy families. The Salvation Army has expressed thanks, and I would like to thank Lisa and Stevie for taking the boxes of goods to their destination.

Mary

Advent Fair

Thank you everyone for your help on Sunday and for the preparation beforehand. Thank you to the teachers and the children, especially Class 7/8 who set up on Friday afternoon. It was a privilege I shall greatly miss to work alongside such eager, busy young people.

Thank you to Elizabeth Westhead for the delightful harp music and to Rebecca, Marc and the Whitby community choir for their beautiful singing.

Thank you to Christopher, Phillip and Amy for their help setting up on Saturday.

We enjoyed the many 'outside' stalls – Milo, with his soaps, creams, scarves and rugs, Sue – with her vests, Orsi and friends with the Botton Stall, Pam with her Traidcraft goods, Marche with her felt hearts etc, Phillipa with her wool and Rebecca with her baby goods. Rebecca also took on Wain's bookstall for us because Wain was ill.

The lovely Class 7/8 stalls attracted a lot of interest and Class 7/8's waffles sold out – not surprising, they were delicious! If anyone wishes to purchase unsold 7/8 goods, please contact Mary.

We were lucky to have five raffle prizes this year:

1st prize – a very generous hamper from Botton workshops – won by Lucy Beaumont;

2nd prize – Christiane Rosenau's lovely Hansel and Gretel house – won by Andy Cook; 3rd prize –

Aimee Jackson's piñata - won by Lorna Quantril;

4th prize - Beck Isle Museum tickets – won by Charles Beaumont; 5th prize – Traidcraft biscuits – won by Bridget Adams.

The Gnome Treasure Hunt was won by Ruth Griffiths, the prize being Birgit's wonderful gingerbread house.

I don't think my 'last' fair could have gone any better – what a brilliant day!

Carolyn – for the Advent Fair Group – for the final time! (Who we also thank very much for all her hard work! – Eds)

STOP PRESS!

The ever-speedy Nigel has done a first calculation of the takings. Here it is:-

Puppet Show	£ 92.10
Raffle	£ 87.50
Tombola	£187.40
Craft	£331.88
Secondhand Books	£124.21
Stars	£ 50.50
Café	£470.75
Stallholders Contributions	£193.70
Home Produce	£240.82

Gnome Gardens	£139.10
Candle Dipping	£135.00
Treasure Hunt	£ 35.55

Grand Total £2,088.51

In addition, Class 5/6 raised £56.45 for a school in Latvia.

Also, Class 7/8 raised a good amount towards their class trip to Hungary.

You will hear more on both of these later.....

Thanks again Carolyn and Valeska – what a good team effort! (Eds)

Parents' Craft Group after Christmas

A parents' Craft Group will meet in the School Dining Room on Friday mornings for a couple of hours after drop-off beginning 15 January. Share skills, create things for the benefit of the school, a great social occasion! All welcome. Contact Jude Cunnison (01751 432442) or Joanne John (01287) 669425.)

Letter Inserting

Well done everyone! This was the biggest print run ever and it was successfully completed with very few errors. Every parent family took part, except one that had arranged a substitute, which is a remarkable achievement. Scheduling was somewhat overwhelmed by the volume, but volunteers came forward to do extra and ensure that the job was done. Particular thanks for this to Jim from Low Mill, Tracey, Peter Ramsbotham and Sam, Mary, Amy, Rosie, Charlotte, and Tom Tyrka and various members of the Tyrka extended family. The machine operators did a great job, keeping the whole operation going, so thanks to Justin and Ruedi, and especially to Stef and Julie who really went well beyond what anyone could have expected in time, commitment and responsibility. This session will have raised more than £2,000 for the school. There will be further sessions in February (for Class 7/8 parents only), March and June (see Calendar) but these will have much lower volumes and need fewer workers. It would help if one or two more people would volunteer to train as machine operators and if someone would offer to take over scheduling at the end of this year.

Michael

Message from Ruedi Nef

Would you then pass on a BIG thanks to Stefan and Julie Tyrka and their extended family who really spent lots of extra time on Sunday and evenings to make sure it all got done on time.

Their commitment and hard work is an example to all parents,
Thanks

New Year in Edinburgh?

We are an Edinburgh-based Steiner-friendly family who would like to hear from anyone interested in swapping homes over the New Year. We live in a 3 bedroom flat (with beds for 5 people and lots of floor-space) in the Bruntsfield area of the city, which is easily accessible for Hogmanay festivities and city-centre museums and activities. We would love to spend New Year on or around the Moors, or in Kirkbymoorside or Pickering. We are mother and 11-year-old daughter, and a small cocker spaniel.

If you are interested, please contact Judith Sim on 0131 221 9930 or 07518 947 230,
e-mail [Judith.sim at talktalk.net](mailto:Judith.sim@talktalk.net).

Bad Weather

The school will be closed for the day if the road from Castleton to Botton is known to be impassable or if too few teachers feel able to travel in for the school to work effectively. A message about school closure will be placed on the 206 answer phone as soon as possible.

If there is no message on a snowy or icy day, you should assume that teachers are making every effort to get in, and that school may begin a little later than usual.

There may also be occasions when the school is closed as a result of a consensus within the school that road conditions in general are becoming too dangerous for safe travel, but the fact that the school remains open should not be taken as an indication that the school considers that driving conditions are safe.

As local weather conditions are so variable it is impossible for the school to give advice on road conditions that would help families planning journeys from a distance. You should make your own decision about whether or not to travel, based on your local situation, and make the paramount consideration your, and your child's, safety.

If the teachers feel that children should be sent home early because of the weather, the school will telephone you in advance and will try not to leave any child unattended.

As this is often a difficult decision to make, you should feel free to remove your child from school early if you are anxious about weather conditions.

Mary (for the teachers)

Blitz Clean Friday 18th December

Please come along to a festive Blitz Clean Friday morning from 8.30 a.m. (Kindergarten parents can finish in time for the festival at 10.45) Please come to the entrance lobby where there will be a list of jobs. Any queries to Valeska or Diane.

Diane Hammil

Inspection Report

The Botton School inspection report compiled for the Department of Children Schools and Families by the School Inspection Service can now be found on the SIS website

(www.schoolinspectionsservice.co.uk), and also on the Botton School website (thank you, Lee). The school will be producing an action plan to address points raised. Although we consider a few of the judgments to be unjustified, on the whole we are happy that the report provides quite a fair and favourable picture of the school. If parents have any questions or comments, we will be pleased to take them on board. If anyone would like a copy emailed or printed up to have personally, please contact Michael or Mary.

Michael for the College of Teachers

Petition to Raise the School Starting Age to 6

An petition to raise the school starting age to 6 can be found and signed at

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/Startat6/>

Michael

Mynerva.co.uk

Organic Wool Vests and Long Johns.

Half Price Long Johns when purchased with a Vest.

Wool Slippers for Kindergarten

They make great Christmas presents.

Free shipping for Steiner school parents. Enter discount code "steiner" during checkout.

<http://mynerva.co.uk>

0845 4790772

CALENDAR

Kindergarten Christmas Festival: Friday 18th
December 10.45 till 11.40

Eurythmy class for adults: Thursdays 8.45am
School Hall.

Parents' Evenings:

Class 7/8 Tuesday 8th December 7.30pm – 9.00pm
This is a chance to individually meet with subject
teachers.

Class 5/6
2nd March and 20th April at 7.30pm

Letter Inserting: 5, 6 and 8 February (Class 7/8,
12, 13 and 15 March, 11, 12 and 14 June, 10, 11 and
13 September, 18, 19, 20, 22 and 23 November

Shepherds' play: Thursday 17th December 2pm and
7pm. All parents and friends welcome. **Please sit
with your children if they are below class 7/8
ages.**

Blitz clean: Friday 18th December, morning – any
time between carol-singing times

Eskdale Trust Council: Tuesdays at 20.00:
9 March, 4 May, 22 June

Anthroposophical Group: Fridays at 20.00 Dec
11th, Jan 15th, Feb 12th, Mar 12th, Apr 23rd, May 21st,
June 18th- see Mary for details.

Dates for school

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 4 May

Next Copy date: 14.1.10

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