

# YSGOL NANT-Y-CWM

## A RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL

"Our highest endeavour must be to develop free human beings, who are able of themselves to impart purpose and direction in their lives"

### Newsletter Issue 3

Summer 2012

## Summertime



The sun climbing higher and higher in the spring drew us along with it – out of our homes, into the gardens. Then came the crowning gesture, the beautiful blossoms and the high point of the sun in the sky.

Days after this high point we celebrated at Nant y Cwm the festival of St John.

John was a teacher who called on people to turn inward. This is a real challenge when the sun is shining, when it's easiest to lose ourselves in nature, when

sometimes we just want to forget ourselves

Asking ourselves what shall we do after the summer requires a discipline – a discipline to acknowledge our own inner lives – a discipline to visit quiet, still spaces.

Such discipline is what creates rhythm in life.

Rhythm and repetition are at the heart of Waldorf education at Nant y Cwm.

The breathing in and out of the

seasons, acknowledged through festivals, is mirrored every day in school.

The structure of the main lesson and the course of the day, the week and the term facilitates a continual interplay between the breathing in of new experiences and the breathing out of activity of will - preparing our pupils for life.

Wishing everybody a good summer and looking forward to the Autumn term.

### Inside this issue:

Class 5 & 6 - A Bee-autiful Day!	2
Saints in Class 1 & 2	3
Contact us	4

### Day and Night

*Said Day to Night,  
"I bring God's light.  
What gift have you?"  
Night said, "The dew."*

*"I give bright hours"  
Quoth Day, "and  
flowers."*

*Said Night, "More blest,  
I bring sweet rest."*

Lady Lindsay



## Class 5 & 6 - A Bee-autiful Day!



In Class 5 of the Steiner Curriculum the children's previous main lessons in farming and agriculture are now looked at in much closer detail as they study the Botany Main Lesson Block. The Children here get a good overview of the subject, and in the autumn time we did part one of this block that focused on Fungi-the school was full of enthusiasm for a mushroom foraging-and we found all sorts of mushrooms in our own garden as well as the woods! Even the kindergarten children joined us as we spotted large mushrooms that grow on the sides of trees (brackets) as well as tiny weeny wax caps the size of your little finger nail. We jumped on puffballs to release the spores, and we learnt about this unusual thing called Mycelium, that spreads like roots under the earth and not only produces the mushrooms we are so familiar with, but also helps plants and trees stay healthy too.

This term however we took a brief look into history, and learned about the primitive plants that the world first saw-the Ferns! Conifers were soon to follow, until we reached the beautiful flowering plants and trees of which there are so many varieties today! But how do these flowers grow? How are new flowers made? We know some seeds from trees have little wings and are blown by the wind, but what about the flowers? Here are where two very important friends of the flowers come into play-the butterfly and the Bee! And what better way to discover more about the bee than to be a beekeeper for the day. And so off we went to Llammas, where Melissa Holloway, a beekeeper and parent, took us to visit her hives.

First, we had to decide how we

were going to do this. There were three full size beekeeping suits; these were to protect us from any stings and so that we could get really close to the beehives. Being the teacher I thought it best I go in first, so I know what it is the children will be experiencing. As we got closer, I felt my nerves and thought about how brave this class is-not one of them looked nervous at all! It was fascinating stuff however, and after I came back Hayden and Rowan got on their bee-suits, comically large and oversized, with arms that hung below the knees. Still they looked like professionals as they strode on down to the hives. There they saw bees coming into the hive carrying bright orange and yellow pollen on their legs, some 'orienting' outside the hive, and got a really close look as Melissa took out the wooden slats. On here the bees make 'cells' that are a wonderful hexagon shape, and in these they store honey and have their broods. The bees lay their eggs and then these hatch into larvae, which the nurse bees feed until they close themselves in and pupate, ready to come out as a fully formed worker or drone bee! The boys reported that they saw a bee chewing its way out of a cell, just being born. The queen was a good 2cm in length and had a different abdomen to the others, whereas you could spot the male drone bees by their enormous eyes!

Some of us felt a little dizzy as we saw hundreds of bees all climbing over one another and flying around our suits buzzing quite loudly, but mostly we were fascinated! Melissa told us all sorts of interesting facts later as we all sat together, and this is where the moment we had all been waiting for happened-we got to taste some of Melissa's bees honey, still in the comb! When I asked Seven

what it tasted like, she said 'it was like a taste of heaven', and we all seemed to agree as we eagerly chomped on a second piece; delicious.

Back in the classroom the children will learn about the different parts of the plant, and why this amazing little creature is so important for our flowers and vegetation. The day after our trip was amazing, we had all learned so much, so many interesting things, and the class wrote with gusto about their day as a beekeeper in their practice books-and who knows, maybe some of us will get our own hives one day! Some wonderful bee facts we discovered: Only the queens lay eggs, and they can lay 2000 eggs a day! The male bees do not have a father; their egg was not fertilized.

Worker bees have different jobs according to their ages. The young ones start as hive 'cleaners', then they are 'nurse' bees looking after the young, then they are foragers and go out collecting nectar and honey.

Bees do a little dance to tell each other where to find the right flowers! Bees sometimes swarm and leave the hive! We need to look after the bees, as there are lots of bee illnesses about. Honey is a super food; it not only yummy it is also good for healing wounds. People have been keeping bees for thousands and thousands of years. More and more people now want to keep bees again.

**Leila Abuhilal**



## Saints in Class 1 & 2

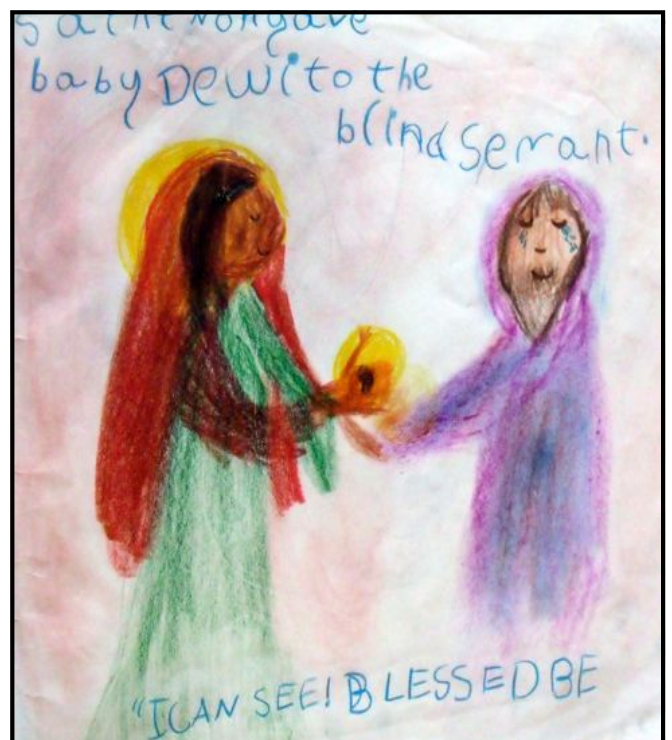
Class 1&2's first Main Lesson on Saints focused upon some of the many exciting stories of local holy people. The characters within these stories reveal some of the highest principles of human moral and spiritual endeavour. In our first week we had the tale of St. Govan, whose simple solitary life was rich with quest and good purpose and whose mortal struggle against the wickedness and greed of others led to miraculous intercession. On the Friday of that first week we visited the site of St. Govan's story on the Pembrokeshire Coastline. We explored the cave where he lived as a hermit; found the impression of the Saint's ribcage within the cliffs which had concealed him from those who wished to bring him harm. We

scrambled across the great boulders, one of which is said to contain the golden bell gifted by St. David, which was hidden from pillagers by angels. Experiencing excitement from the dramatic forces of nature at this site also brought the story to life in way that will remain with the children forever.

Secondly we learned about St. Non whose simple, steadfast affinity with the natural world and its people led to her being cast out from nobility before giving birth miraculously to her son, St. David. The class were fascinated by our Patron Saint's story and also by that of St. Brynach who, according to legend, used to climb daily to the top of the local 'mountain' Carningli to pray in community with angels. On the final Friday of the Main Lesson we climbed Carningli together as a class, and whilst we were making our way up the mountain one child told me that he had been on the journey before: "last night". He went on to say that when he reached the top he prayed with an angel – just like St. Brynach.

Sleep, within Steiner Waldorf pedagogy, is recognised as an integral aspect of the learning process and this insight into the dream-life learning of a child was a lovely expression of this at work. Far from being indoctrination into any particular principle or faith, what all stories within the Waldorf curriculum reveal to children is a real sense of the potentiality of humanity. The enduring hope is that throughout their education children become enabled to access their own full potentiality.

**Jessica Moraity**



## Contact Nant-y-Cwm

If you are interested in a Steiner education for your child, would like more information about anything that you have read, or are interested in getting involved, we would love to hear from you!

**Ysgol Nant-y-Cwm**  
**Llanycefn**  
**Clynderwen**  
**Pembrokeshire**  
**SA66 7QJ**

**Telephone: 01437 563640**

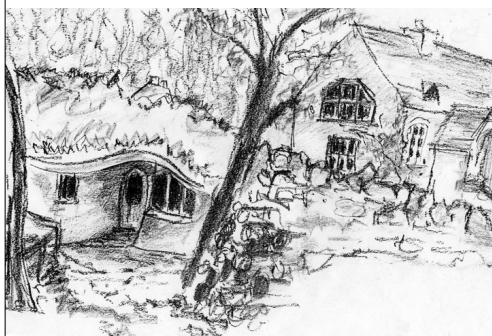
info@nant-y-cwm.co.uk

**www.nant-y-cwm.co.uk**

**Full Member of The Steiner Schools' Fellowship.**

**Registered Charity: 510849. Company No: 1527406**

**Donations:** Please make cheques payable to **Nant-y-Cwm Steiner School Ltd.**



## Parents Diary

### Festival Celebration Information for Parents

**Michaelmas**—Friday  
28th September 2012

**Martinmas**—Friday  
9th November 2012

**Advent Fair**—Sat 19th  
November 2012

**Advent Spiral**— Mon  
3rd Dec 2012

**End of term festival**—  
Friday 14th Dec 2012

**St David's Day**—Fri  
1st March 2013

**End of term festival**—  
Fri 22nd March 2013

**May Day**—Wed 1st  
May 2013

**Summer Fair**—Sat  
22nd June 2013

**St John's** —Tues 25th  
June 2013

**End of term festival**—  
Wed 10th July 2013

## Noticeboard

### Fundraising Meetings

Fundraising meetings are held monthly. To attend a meeting and get involved with fundraising events please call the school office (01437 563640) to find out the date and location.

### Work Days

The school relies on volunteer help to maintain of the school and grounds. These are fun, community events. Please bring food to share, tools and children. Our workdays happen every second Saturday of the month with a 10am start. For more information, or if you have a particular skill to offer, please contact: Tom Barrow on 01437 532890

### Volunteering

If you have a particular skill, or simply energy and enthusiasm to offer, please get in touch.

### Bursary Fund

The Godparents Anthroposophical Training Fund (GATF) can accept donations specifically to fund bursaries at Nant-y-Cwm. To donate, please visit <http://gatf.org.uk/>, click 'Children's Fund', 'Donate' and tell GATF that you intend your donation to fund bursaries at Nant-y-Cwm. Alternatively, send a cheque payable to Godparents Anthroposophical Training Fund to Nant-y-Cwm.

Supporting the Bursary Fund will help the families which struggle to pay their contributions directly.

### Sponsoring the Newsletter

If you would like to sponsor the printing costs of this newsletter so that we can share our story far and wide please send a cheque for £50.00 made payable to Nant-Y-Cwm Steiner School.

*"The proper content of education is something you carry with you, not something you leave behind."*  
**Rudolf Steiner**

