

WHAT'S GOING ON IN KINDERGARTEN?

Earth, we thank you for this food,
For rest and home, and all things good,
For wind, and rain, and sun above,
But most of all, for those we love.
(Rowan Group meal blessing song)

Food is an important part of our kindergarten rhythm and it happens to be a favourite subject of conversation too.

Which is understandable, as we even refer to the days of the week as a certain food-day.

Monday for example is....?..

You are a Steiner child or parent if you can reply that Monday is rice-day.

But... what is your favourite day?

Bread is favourite for many; kneading your soft piece of dough in the morning and a little later being surrounded by the fragrance of fresh bread, mmm...

But then again, for others it's soup, or millet, or apple crumble-day!

However, there is one day that beats them all. If it would only happen more often.

From December onwards one can hear the occasional murmur about PANCAKES!

What? There is an actual pancake day?



As kindergarten children have no concept of time, pancake day could happen any moment, just like your birthday or Christmas. So, we receive the frequent question, when it is finally pancake day?

Now it happened that a certain person scheduled pancake day in February half-term!

I could not face the children and tell them that this year, we wouldn't have pancake day in kindergarten.

Fortunately, a certain birthday fell after half-term. A perfect moment for a feast.

Finally, the frying pans came out, the flour, milk and eggs were mixed and Holly, our pancake champion, flipped many-a-pancakes while the children were playing outside.

As soon as they came in the corridor, there was excitement all over, the whole kindergarten (possibly the whole school) was filled with the smell of pancakes.

They were jumping up and down shouting: "it's pancake day!"

The sunchildren (the oldest children in kindergarten) put on an apron and welcomed the guests in their pancake restaurant.

This year the guests even received a menu to choose the toppings of their liking.

The sunchildren took the orders and served the pancakes.

And when everyone has their food, we say: Blessings on our meal.

And yum! They taste so good!

If only this day would happen more often..

WHAT'S GOING ON IN LOWER/MIDDLE-SCHOOL?

CLASS 2

The world of Numbers.

“Deep underground in their earthly homes
Dwell four busy hardworking gnomes
Polly Plus keeps all she can find
Prince Divide shares all he can mine
Miner Minus gives freely away
Multiply skips she's always at play”

Class Two was first introduced to the world of numbers in the deep caves of the earth. There they met four busy gnomes who taught them how to add, take away, divide and multiply.

This year, in class 2, the children have been strengthening their number work skills and have recently spent a main lesson learning how to solve vertical sums.

They were first introduced to this method through the image of a house. This image helped the children to place their numbers correctly, and to give life and imagination to the topic.

Some of the children were desperate for an extra challenge, and were given very very large sums to solve. All of the children have worked incredibly hard, and have thoroughly enjoyed this block.

CLASS 3/4

We have been sending and receiving letters here at class 3/4. You may have noticed our colourful post box in the front office. If you have any letters for us, please pop them in our post box.

One of our latest subjects has been learning the time - and in the best Waldorf way, we have drawn a massive clock in chalk on our classroom carpet - we send our apologies to the cleaner.

CLASS 1

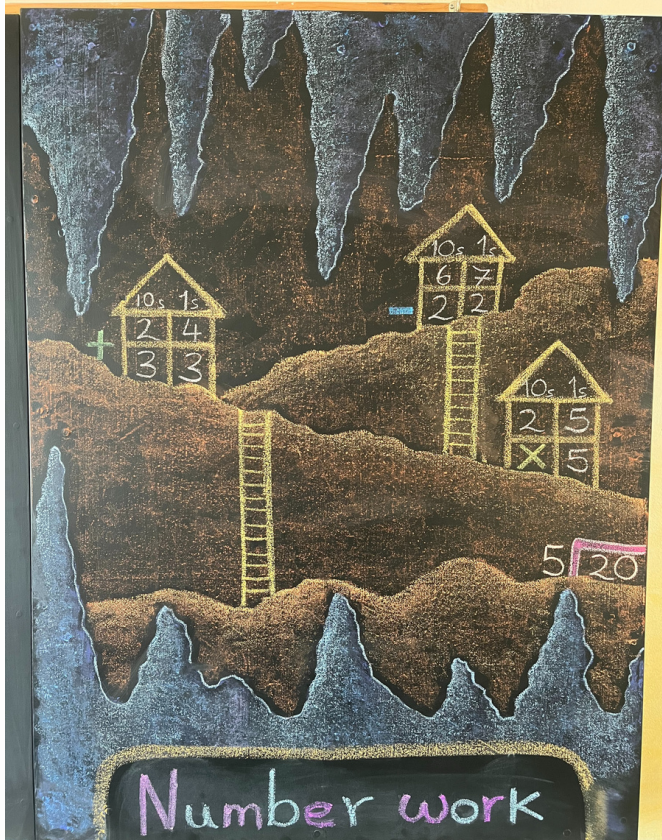
Class 1 has journeyed through the world of literacy, familiarising themselves with sounds and their letters through story and imagery. They have worked with the 4 operations (+-÷x) which were brought to them by personified characters in embodied and playful ways. They are now experiencing the elements in nature and creating connection and relationship to their surrounds with beauty and love.



CLASS 5/6

Class 5/6 have been very busy this term, looking up to the sky and study Astronomy; how the sun, moon and stars move constantly, about the different calendars used around the world and celebrating Chinese New Year in the process. Using the zodiac signs in Drumduan School, we also created pie charts, line and bar graphs. We then turned ourselves to History with Ancient Rome, from the Foundation of Rome to the end of the Republic era. Alongside, we explored how to draw profiles and began to use charcoal to play with light and darkness. We were also busy creating a Middle School Newsletter, keep an eye out for it!...

LOWER/MIDDLE SCHOOL WORK AND ACTIVITIES



CLASS 5/6 SLEEPOVER



THE KIDS HAD SO MUCH FUN AT THEIR SLEEPOVER LAST WEEK.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN UPPER-SCHOOL?

OUR ADVENTURES

We wanted to share a few highlights from the Upper School this term. These included a trip to the theatre in Inverness, which included a behind the scenes tour and a brilliant stagecraft workshop. At the moment we are enjoying hosting a canoe building project. A group of friends have got together to make canoes that they will take down the river Tay, stopping at primary schools on the way to share their enthusiasm for rewilding. We have had lots of fun getting to know them, seeing the build develop, especially the steam bending equipment, and introducing them to playing four square with us. We have also had fun constructing a charcoal kiln to make our own charcoal for our blacksmithing. We have had some fantastic careers talks, including from a business owner and manager, a solicitor, a database developer and an instrument maker. This last one turned into a music workshop. We are looking forward to hosting more next term. All these activities have taken place alongside our Main Lessons which have included an amazing range of subjects from History of Art to Inorganic Chemistry, the History of Theatre, an exploration of The Romantics to Human Science, and much more including Green Woodwork, Narratives, Reflections, and preparation for Romeo and Juliet, which has included plenty of stage swordfighting as well as fabulous costumes and the learning of lots of lines.

CLASS 7/8 TRANSITION TO UPPER-SCHOOL

Class 7/8 have enjoyed their transition to Upper-School. Most specifically, they have loved their computing classes with Andrew, buying chips at the Upper-School chippie, baking and selling cakes and toasties to fundraise for their upcoming Ridgeway trip, their new classroom with the fluffy carpet and playing four square with their new classmates.

Their guardian, Jonathan, has said some kind words about Class 7/8:

“It has been a pleasure to welcome my young friends from up the hill. Wonderful to see their wooden sword fights in the spring light as we prepare for Romeo and Juliet.”



A SELECTION OF UPPER-SCHOOLS' WORK

GREEN WOODWORK

MAKING A BOWL

First we cut a good size piece of wood, I use a tool called a brace, to split the wood in half. Often half is split I then with the file and a mallet split off the edges to make it more round. Once I have a log I am happy with, I draw a bowl shape onto it.

I make sure that the growth rings are getting smaller the further down the bowl goes, this is so that the bowl is stronger. The rings in the wood will strengthen it. Then using an axe I chop the wood into an oval shape and also make the edges up inwards to give it a bowl shape.

Once the wood looks more like a bowl, just missing the hole I used chisels and a mallet first using a straight chisel, and then a curved one. Slowly the hole started to emerge.

once a large enough hole is made I used different sorts of sand paper to finish it up and finally to make the wood grain pop up more I used linseed oil and polished it onto the now finished bowl.

HUMAN SCIENCE

Heart Diagram

Labels include: Superior vena cava (main vein from upper body), Inferior vena cava (main vein from lower body), Pulmonary artery (to right lung), Pulmonary vein (from right to left lung), Left atrium (auricle), Bicuspid valve, Left ventricle, Right ventricle, Muscular wall of ventricle (cardiac muscle), Tricuspid valve, Papillary muscle, Right coronary artery, Left coronary artery, and Aorta (main artery).

Kiln Results and Process

Process: First of all we collected lots of wood from the forest and put it in the kiln (below the barrel were the charcoal would be made) with some paper and cardboard. Next we opened the barrel, packed it with small wedges of wood, then sealed it up again. We then lit the wood, cardboard and paper under vents using the blow torch (which was alot of fun) and left it for a bit to heat up.

In the morning we opened the barrel and saw that the wood at the top had been turned into charcoal but the wood at the bottom was still wood. This was because we did not have enough dry wood so we

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FUN ACTIVITIES AT UPPER-SCHOOL



OUR END-OF-TERM FESTIVAL





APPEAL FOR PODCAST GUESTS

As part of our Integrated Education qualifications we have been looking at how people experience and express their identities.

In order to get as much insight into the subject as we can, we have decided to make a weekly podcast in which we will interview people from as many different cultural backgrounds as we can.

The themes we will be discussing are how people experience cultural stereotypes, religion, discrimination, equality in different cultures, traditions and festivals, and nationalism.

We will structure our interviews in a question/answer format, focussing on each of these subjects, in order to gain a wider understanding of different views on national identity.

The places which we would ideally like to explore are: Asia, America (North and South), Africa and Europe. If you feel a strong connection to any cultures from these places and are willing to take part in our podcast, please let us know as soon as possible.

We will also be covering Scotland, Ireland, England and Wales, however we already have people in mind that we would like to interview for these countries. Although that being said, please still feel free to get in touch if this is something you are very keen to do.

We will be holding interviews in the Upperschool on:

Monday 15th April between 09:30 and 10:45

Tuesday 16th April between 11:15 and 12:45

Wednesday 17th April between 14:15 and 15:45

Please respond to molly.stoddart@drumduan.org to let us know your availability, and we are able to be flexible with times if it is necessary.

We are currently discussing where we will post the podcasts and will share that information with you when you come for interview, and also, how long we will keep them.

We are grateful for your participation and look forward to hearing from you soon!

Thank you.

Molly Stoddart, Emily Slater, Hiram Curteis and Jamie Magrath.



SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Please see our update at the end of this Newsletter.

It's a visual indication of a potential direction, taking on board the community survey results and reflecting what we know of the hopes of our current community for the future of our school.

We are building upon our strong Drumduan roots and nurturing the fresh shoots that are growing - "Strong Roots and Fresh Shoots".

The next Trustees update will come at the end of the Easter holidays and will aim to contain the formal arrangements for 2024/25. The idea is to create a cohesive and inspiring school vision, with continual consultation, by September.

EVENTS IN APRIL

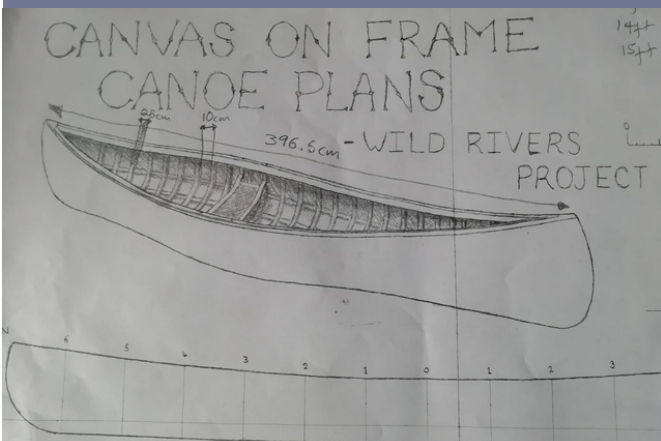
Willow Workshop | 14th April 2024 | 11am-2pm

One Day Choir | 19th April 2024 | 7pm-9pm

The Law of Mankind Talk | 20th April 2024 | 10am-12pm

Homeopathy for Pregnancy and Beyond | 20th April 2024 | 1pm-4pm

Homeopathy Understanding | 27th April 2024 | 1pm-4pm



TERM AND FESTIVAL DATES 2024/2025

AUTUMN/WINTER

Inset Days: Mon 19/08 - Fri 23/08
Start Term: Mon 26/08
Kindergarten: Tue 27/08
Michaelmas Celebration: Fri 27/09
October Break: Mon 14/10 - Tue 25/10
Martinmas Celebration: Mon 11/11
Advent Fair: Sat 23/11
School Holiday: Mon 25/11
Inset Day: Fri 29/11
Advent Spiral: Mon 02/12
St. Nicholas: Fri 06/12
St. Lucia: Fri 13/12
End of Term: Thu 19/12
Christmas Break: Fri 20/12 - Tue 07/01

SPRING

3 Kings Celebration: Wed 08/01
Start Term: Wed 18/01
Candlemas Celebration: Mon 03/02
Shrove Tuesday: Tue 13/02
Feb Half Term: Mon 17/02 - Fri 21/02
End of Term: Fri 04/04
Easter Holidays: Mon 07/04 - Tue 22/04
Easter Sunday: Sun 20/04

SUMMER

Start Term: Wed 23/04
May Day Holiday: Mon 05/05
May Fair: Sat 17/05
May Half-Term: Mon 19/05 - Fri 23/05
Ascension: Thu 29/05
Whitsun: Sun 08/06
St. John: Tue 24/06
End of Term: Wed 25/06
Inset Days: Thu 26/06 + Fri 27/06
Summer Holidays: Mon 30/06



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT!



Please can parents refrain from parking in the staff carpark outside the main building. This is for staff use only.

Reminder that all parents must inform the school by phoning 01309 676300 or emailing school.reception@drumduan.org if their child is unwell, late or absent in any way.

There is a 48 hour rule on sickness bugs that result in vomiting and/or diarrhoea so please keep you or your child at home for 48 hours after their last vomiting/diarrhoea episode.



Strong Roots and Fresh Shoots

A strong Waldorf Curriculum for the 21stc

Identify key pillars of a Drumduan education
 Inset days on curriculum and child study
 Identify essential core of the education for today's world
 Pioneering, accredited portfolio qualifications allowing full Waldorf education which is recognised by colleges, through the Integrative Education certificate
 College of Teachers holding the spiritual life and pedagogy as 'beating heart of the school'
 Appropriate programmes and training to support delivery of curriculum
 Eurythmy lessons
 Shared stored teaching resources

Community

Welcoming community space
 Festivals Events Workshops
 The hill buzzing with activity and crafts
 Behaviour and Communication Charter
 After school groups and activities
 Waldorf village
 The Bridge

Nature

Outdoor classrooms
 Vegetable plots/box scheme
 Weekly forest and/or beach school could be integrated into the timetable
 Ecology/environmental groups/clubs/trips

Abundant

Appealing and exciting vision to generate investment/ engagement
 Securing grant funding and business links for sustainable model
 Paying staff a living wage
 Excellent staff find us and flourish here
 Alumni and Friends regular events, updates and fundraising

Cohesive

Clear model of roles and responsibilities
 Leaders holding the school
 Good governance, following charities guidelines
 Clear identity communicated consistently

Healthy

Thriving eco system
 Nourished children held at the centre
 Staff well-being

Fresh

Fortnightly newsletter
 Regular photos and videos of classes, events and school grounds
 Inspiration and training through openness to all visiting speakers, groups, Waldorf UK training,

Healthy timetable and roles

Sustainable finances
 Efficient process
 Effective systems



Strong Roots and Fresh Shoots

Who are the School Development Group?

We are a group of Drumduan staff, parents, alumni and trustees who have formed to work together towards a sustainable and healthy future in response to the current financial deficit and staffing issues. We are open and actively welcoming anyone in the school community who feels called to join us. We meet fortnightly for two hours and are currently held by Sarah-Jane Mills (parent, Upper School). We are democratic and open- everyone has a voice and can present proposals and opinions. We debate and discuss and then present proposals or offers to the Core Group and the Trustees.

How Can I Join the SDG?

Please email

sarah-jane.mills@drumduan.org

to be included in meeting invites. You can also request to attend one meeting to present a proposal or idea

That all sounds lovely but who are you accountable to? How do you ensure consistent follow through?

We are accountable to Core Group, the Trustees, and the Parents. Each proposal or initiative we offer to hold will first be taken to Core Group and Trustees by the person responsible. If approved, it will be introduced to the community too, with opportunities for feedback. Each initiative will be held by one key person with responsibility for progress and communication.

We will give monthly progress updates and consultation by email or in meetings.

Simultaneously, we offer an opportunity to hold new ideas or support the parent body to voice concerns or suggestions. We cannot make school decisions- the next Trustee update at the end of the Easter holidays will aim to contain the formal arrangements for next year. The idea is to create a cohesive and inspiring school vision, with continual consultation, by September.

I want to join this school development conversation but family/work life does not allow me to join your evening meetings

We can also invite you to join by Zoom if that works for you. One of our immediate initiatives is to create a community space with a big noticeboard, where parents can drop in from 9am -10 on Tuesdays to hear and see SDG updates, leave feedback and suggestions, chat and develop ideas, and continue to strengthen the sense of community and care.



WILLOW WORKSHOP

• wind spinners & tension trays •

The Tension or Catalan tray is a simple weaving technique to make a flat tray or wall decoration. Wind spinners are five rods of willow made into a spiral which will twirl in the breeze. Choose your favorite willow colours & learn twisting them to pieces of art.

WHERE: GREAT ROOM AT DRUMDUAN
WHEN: Sunday 14th of April 11-2 PM
COST: 20 £ * willow inclusive (100% towards fundraising)
BOOKING: www.drumduan.org/drumduan-events
QUESTIONS: workshops@drumduan.org



FUNDRAISER FOR DRUMDUAN SCHOOL



5 RHYTHMS[®]

**SWEAT
YOUR
PRAYERS[®]**

SUNDAY DANCING IN THE UNIVERSAL HALL

No Previous Experience Necessary

With Bettina Jespersen // April 14th

Doors Open 6:45pm and Close 7:00pm Class Ends 8:30pm

£15/£10 Concession, extra donations to school welcome

More info here: <https://bettinafundraiser.eventbrite.com/>



One-Day Choir

19/04/2024

We will be singing
'Suddenly, Seymour' from
Little Shop of Horror.

@
**DRUMDUAN
SCHOOL**



A one-day choir is introduced, formed, practiced and performed all in one day!

Studies have shown that when people sing, endorphins and oxytocin are released by the brain, which in turn, lowers stress and anxiety levels. We will be singing a different song in each class.