



Programme Language Week

Theme: Invoking the power of the word

Venue: Michael Oak Waldorf School

<i>Monday 24 September</i>	<i>Tuesday 25 September</i>	<i>Wednesday 26 September</i>	<i>Thursday 27 September</i>
<i>8.00 Coffee Start and Registration</i>	<i>8.00 Coffee Start</i>	<i>8.00 Coffee Start</i>	<i>8.00 Coffee Start</i>
<i>8.20 Introduction to Language Week</i>	<i>8.20 Tuning in</i>	<i>8.20 Tuning in</i>	<i>8.20 Tuning in</i>
<i>8.30 The Knowledge we have Lost in Information Norman Skillen</i>	<i>8.30 From Language of Thought to Language of Creation Geoff Norris</i>	<i>8.30 Mightier than the Sword Saul Chanarin</i>	<i>8.30 The Stars Spake Once to Man Michelle Kaplan</i>
<i>10.00 Invoking the power of the word in speech, movement and colour</i>	<i>10.00 Invoking the power of the word in speech, movement and colour</i>	<i>10.00 Invoking the power of the word in speech, movement and colour</i>	<i>10.00 TEA</i>
<i>11.00 TEA</i>	<i>11.00 TEA</i>	<i>11.00 TEA</i>	<i>10.30 Sharing, Voicing and Reflecting</i>
<i>11.30 Pedagogical Workshop</i>	<i>11.30 Pedagogical Workshop</i>	<i>11.30 Pedagogical Workshop</i>	
<i>1.00 LUNCH</i>	<i>1.00 LUNCH</i>	<i>1.00 LUNCH</i>	<i>12.00 CLOSE</i>
<i>2.00 Artistic Workshop, including Tea</i>	<i>2.00 Artistic Workshop, including Tea</i>	<i>2.00 Artistic Workshop, including Tea</i>	
<i>5.00 CLOSE</i>	<i>5.00 CLOSE</i>	<i>5.00 SUPPER</i>	
		<i>6.30 Artists Evening</i>	
		<i>8.00 CLOSE</i>	

Morning Pedagogical Workshops

11.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

1. Norman Skillen The language of Nature and the Nature of Language

What does the language of nature say about the nature and history of language? We will try and shed some light on this question by looking both at language history and at the language organism as it is expressed in human development. What can we read from the forms we observe in human development and what do they tell us about the history of language?
2. Louisa Oberholzer Discovering the Nature of the Word in Primary School Grammar and Spelling

Discovering grammar gives the child a sense of the rightness of its place in language and helps them to internalise these forms without having to learn them pedantically. Speech will play an important role in the activities as we explore the parts of speech and tenses in the lower primary and the more complex forms of the senior primary. Activities will show how to bring fun into the experience of grammar and spelling.
3. Yvette Oxlee Healing Through Language

“If we can imbue our whole teaching with an artistic quality we influence the rhythmic system of the child. Work artistically and allow the intellectuality of the child to unfold steadily. If we force intellectual powers in the child we arrest growth but if we liberate the forces of growth of the intellect through art, we create the possibility of health and healing.” How do we approach these thoughts of Rudolf Steiner on healing in the language teaching of our children and students in our care?
4. Ester Ruttman Stories to Teach Grammar in a Second Language Classroom

As a follow on from our storytelling with Louise Oberholzer at the Sharing Conference this year we will focus on storytelling in the second languages with Classes 5, 6 and 7. Children in these classes are ready to explore the grammar of their second languages slowly at first, but always playfully and with beautiful stories. We will work with Afrikaans and Isixhosa stories that lend themselves well to the teaching of grammar.
5. Joy Levin Early Childhood Development of Language

This module will look at early childhood development of language, the meaning of standing, naming and speaking, the role of attachment to the mother, early gaze on self regulation and how movement and touch lead toward language. It will cover other related aspects such as: finger games, nursery rhymes, stories and play. We will consider also the notion of language development leading to cognitive development, acting in the kindergarten, movement games, craft and drawings as emergent literacy. Handouts will be provided.

Afternoon Artistic Workshops

2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

1. Saul Chanarin Bringing the Text to Life

These sessions will focus on how we can infuse living artistic form and shape into texts of various kinds. Poetry, prose and drama can be quickly transformed in the classroom by developing a heightened sensitivity to the techniques of speech, gesture, tone, pause, pace, volume and emphasis. Use of the six gestures of speech open the door to creative speech, depth of characterisation and deepened experience of vowel and consonant. By mastering these qualities in oneself they become powerful tools in our lives and in our teaching.

2. Norman Skillen Telling Stories

Using games, movement, singing and speech exercises we will try to get “into the zone” of storytelling, or at least to approach it. As material we will use some traditional stories from different countries.

3. Michelle Kaplan The Beauty of the Word in Movement

Through Eurythmy we will explore the gesture and movement qualities living inherently in the sounds of speech and we will discover their relationship with the Zodiac and planetary forces and in so doing deepen the connection to the sounds in our own names. We will touch on the Evolutionary Sequence of Consonants, which provides insights into developmental process work. As we explore poetry together we will meet Apollo (grammar) and Dionysus, (thinking, feeling, willing) in the elements of language. Then we will bring our discoveries into artistic expression.

4. Geoff Norris The Teacher’s Voice - Body, Soul and Spirit

We will work with the question, What is the creative gesture of language in the past and what does it need to become in the future? Using mantra given by Rudolf Steiner to Marie Steiner and to language teachers, dealing with sense, soul and spirit and love of the Word, we will explore the placements of thinking, feeling and willing in the instrument and use of the breath in recitation, declamation and conversation, opening up the styles of epic, lyric and dramatic speech.