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repost: steiner school new zealand

November 17, 2009 · by [alicia hamberg](#) · in [waldorf](#)

Update on September 22, 2011. I would very much like to warn people to get involved with the pair behind the Steinermentary project. I don't have the time to write more about it right now (see discussion threads), but I wish that nobody takes the post below as a sign of support for them or as a recommendation for people to get involved with them.

*

Repost [from](#) Posterous.

h/t thetismurcurio

<http://www.titirangisteinermessenger.com/TSM/Welcome.html>

This site aims to represent parents who are interested to know that there are unacceptable levels of bullying, harassment and uncontrolled aggression taking place at the Titirangi Steiner School. Those parents may have left, may be at the school or may be thinking of sending their children there.

It also aims to keep children safe, by bringing the safety issues into the public arena so that people will be properly informed. Some of what we will have to put up here is quite shocking and we wouldn't have believed it if we had not experienced it ourselves.

As parents we were asked to watch our daughter being hit and accept it. Now the whole school community have all been asked to watch us being hit, and accept it.



Tags: [waldorf](#)

11 Comments



[alfa-omega](#) · [June 7, 2010 - 8:08 pm](#) ·

@ ThetisMercurio and the few

“As parents we were asked to watch our daughter being hit and accept it. Now the whole school community have all been asked to watch us being hit, and accept it.”

Can you find some way to get this into the ongoing discussion in the UK?



2. *ThetisMercurio* · [June 9, 2010 - 9:46 am](#) ·

thanks to you, alpha-omega, I looked yesterday on the New Zealand site and saw that they'd posted something that very day. I'm presenting it in full [*]:

Titirangi Steiner Messenger

notice of intention to sue

One Year On

Today marks the one year anniversary of this school's disgusting and damaging response to very real concerns about real bullying that our child suffered – to throw out not only her but also her little sisters.

[...]

BE WARNED. If you find, as we did, that the school does not look after your children as well as they promise to, and you are persuaded, as we were, to work with them while they faff about doing nothing about it, during that time before you realise that they really have no intention of stopping any kind of bullying, your child/ren will have suffered immense harm.

[...]

Only through legal process will the school be forced to be explicit about matters that would show that it is using the fact that it is a Steiner School as a reason for not dealing with bullying.

[...]

It is also because the issues raised by this sequence of events illustrate so well some potential pitfalls in the future of Education in this country, as the Government plans to review the law on Private Schools. Schools should not be able to exist in gaps in the law and run themselves so badly, to the detriment of children, and in the name of education! The 'Independent School' movement is big on notions of 'choice', but without proper information, what kind of choice is there?

Also because of the growth of the Steiner Movement globally. With the UK about to enter into the world of Government funded schools of 'special character', in a climate of heated debate, we feel it is vitally important that, if what happened to our children is because it is a Steiner School, rather than that just being used as an excuse, this should be brought out, in front of the many many people who's current understanding is that Waldorf Education is humane.

Likewise if it is not because the school is a Steiner School, why should Rudolf Steiner be dragged into the gutter with these irresponsible, negligent people? All the other Steiner schools should know that this school is prepared to bring them into disrepute. If Rudolf Steiner was to see what transpired last year, and the effect it has had on our children, as we tried to exercise our moral duty to protect them, we believe he would be totally disgusted. Would he want people behaving like this is his name?

[...]

Regardless of the people who think we are selfish to protest the abuse of our children because theirs are ok, there is a quite extraordinary number of families who have 'had to leave' the school for similar reasons over a very long period of time. Why should people continue to eventually have to leave when their children are used as fodder to a few virulent bullies, and then to cap that, to really feel that they have no choice but to walk away, due to the lack of accountability, knowing others will fill their children's places as small punch-bags?

[...]

http://www.titirangisteinermessenger.com/TSM/News/Entries/2010/6/8_One_Year_On.html

[*] **edit** — passages excluded / zooley



3. *alfa-omega* · [June 9, 2010 - 10:23 am](#) ·

Thank you for bringing it forward, ThetisMercurio and Zooley.



4. [Steve · June 10, 2010 - 5:29 am](#) ·

Hi ThetisMercurio and thanks for linking to our site.

No biggie, but I'd like, if I may, to make you aware of a piece of internet etiquette: one should not quote someone else's post in its entirety as it gives the reader no incentive to visit the actual site, even if one was kind enough to link to the original post.

Better to mention it briefly and link to it. That way, the original poster gets all the visits and the readers may learn even more info :-)

All the best,

Steve



5. [ThetisMercurio · June 10, 2010 - 10:13 am](#) ·

Steve: in commenting about Waldorf in our experience things disappear, which is why I reposted your piece in its entirety as well as linking to it. I realise this is unusual. I have sent your post (as a link to your blog, not to this site) to several journalists and commentators in the UK via twitter etc. I did this to highlight your concern – which many people share – that policy-makers and parents in the UK should realise the implications of lack of accountability in potential new or free schools/Academies, Waldorf Steiner or otherwise.

Of course it's up to zooley to shorten the piece if you should wish her to do so or if she feels it would be best.

I urge anyone reading this to look at Steve's site, which I believe they would do even without my prompting. And more importantly I have great sympathy for any parent who is forced to take this kind of action against their child's former school and note their courage in doing so.

Best wishes to you. Good luck :)



6. [Steve · June 10, 2010 - 1:50 pm](#) ·

Hi ThetisMercurio

No worries. I guess we must've been lucky that our site is still up after all this time. Mind you, everything there is the truth. They'd have a hard time taking it down if they couldn't provide evidence to the contrary.

Please let me know if the media you've contacted will be using our info in some way. I know there's a lot of talk about Steiner at the moment in the UK. From what I hear they were working hard to get public funding. Is that still happening or have Cameron's drastic budget cuts put an end to this?

Take care,

Steve



7. [ThetisMercurio · June 10, 2010 - 4:14 pm](#) ·

Thank you Steve.

I will keep you informed.

Yes, they're working hard and are putting the machinery in place, as are other groups seeking state funding through either the Academies or potential free schools route. The latter still seems uncertain, we can hardly afford it and it isn't overwhelmingly popular. There is a concern that Academies will be less accountable – & I don't mean just academically – that's important of course but the general welfare of children: the relationship between the family & their school, the community & a school are the things that count when something goes wrong.

The structure of Steiner schools internationally appears to discourage genuine accountability.

I have my reservations about Steiner Waldorf education which extend beyond individual schools, so you can tell I don't recommend public funding! I don't believe it would solve problems which arise out of a particular view of childhood, the responsibilities Steiner teachers

believe they have towards their pupils, in short the influence of anthroposophy – even if it's little understood, even though it isn't taught to the children – and its effect on the school community.

But however you're feeling about that atm, you have our attention and our best wishes,

Thetis



8. [zoey](#) · [June 10, 2010 - 5:52 pm](#) ·

True, things do disappear suddenly from the internet. True, also, that we ought to send visitors to Steve's website. Of course, there's lots more on it than just that particular text, which I'm sure people understand. Still, I will edit Thetis's quote. I have a headache and must cook dinner now, but I will try to remember to do it later this evening (which is middle of the night, early morning in NZ I suppose...). Ok?



9. [ThetisMercurio](#) · [June 10, 2010 - 7:07 pm](#) ·

thanks for letting me lounge around your blog zoey; opening the beer, reading your magazines & answering the telephone ;)



10. [zoey](#) · [June 10, 2010 - 7:13 pm](#) ·

Please continue lounging around! You know where to find the chilled champagne bottles and how to open the freezer (with the ice creams) — what more could one ask for in a visitor!!



11. [zoey](#) · [June 10, 2010 - 8:01 pm](#) ·

Have edited the quoted text, I hope it's ok now, although it's still quite extensive I'm afraid. I couldn't decide which parts to choose...

please leave a howl, a bark, a growl, a tail-wag or a comment! (comments are currently moderated, which means it might take a while for them to appear)

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'Perhaps humankind can't bear too much reality, but neither can it bear too much unreality, too much abuse of the truth.' (Saul Bellow)

'448 OMAR KHAYYÁM Omar had a personality; I, for better or worse, have none. In an hour I'll have strayed from what I am at this moment; tomorrow I'll have forgotten what I am today. Those who are who they are, like Omar, live in just one world, the external one. Those who aren't who they are, like me, live not only in the external world but also in a diversified, ever-changing inner world. Try as we might, we could never have the same philosophy as Omar's. I harbour in me, like unwanted souls, the very philosophies I criticize. Omar could reject them all, for they were all external to him, but I can't reject them, because they're me.' (F Pessoa)

'Mrs Glass looked over, abstractedly, at the blue bathmat, across the tiled floor. Zooney stood as still as possible, in order not to break her mood. "You can't live in the world with such strong likes and dislikes," Mrs Glass said to the bathmat, then turned again toward Zooney and gave him a long look, with very little, if any, morality in it. "Regardless of what you may think, young man," she said.' (JD Salinger)

'Art only begins where imitation ends.' (Oscar Wilde)

"I like zooney's blog," Steiner would say, "It's the only internet site with a foyer. Saul and I often meet there, by the ethereal kiosk. The ice-cream is splendid.'" (ThetisMercurio)

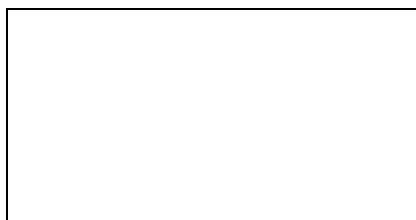
'What is the use of telling people repeatedly that the Society is not a sect and then behave as if it were one?' (Steiner)

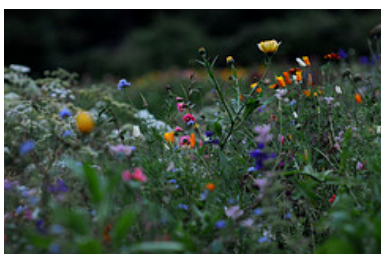
'Laughter means distance. Where laughter is absent, madness begins. The moment one takes the world with complete seriousness one is potentially insane.' (Jens Bjørneboe)

'If you want to tell people the truth, make them laugh, otherwise they'll kill you.' (Oscar Wilde)

'Let's act like sphinxes, however falsely, until we reach the point of no longer knowing who we are. For we are, in fact, false sphinxes, with no idea of what we are in reality. The only way to be in agreement with life is to disagree with ourselves. Absurdity is divine.' (F Pessoa)

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- @Puffigt Vi hade alltid kårotslåda och potatislåda. Jag vågade aldrig äta av dem som barn. Inte nu heller, egentligen... [3 hours ago](#)
- @ThetisMercurio unless it is a perversion to use an umbrella, in which case I advise him to abstain from it. [3 hours ago](#)

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the basics

the posts on this blog are written by alicia hamberg, with the guidance of mr dog, the canineosophist, and with inspiration from rudolf steiner, the anthroposophist, and the rest of our friends, people, dogs and strange beings who hang out with us in this remarkable ethereal kiosk



comments & discussion

comments in swedish, norwegian, danish, english, german are very welcome and much appreciated; and even though I do understand some french, spanish, dutch and italian, I prefer the aforementioned five languages. As a side-note: I eat food, not anthroposophists. And I'm not half as evil as you might think.

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