

**NEWSLETTER – November 2009
Issue 3 2009**



little but taking sauna and spending some quality time with family (plus just maybe a jouluolut or three...) sounds really good, never mind what joulupukki might bring me!

Getting back to the present I really should mention how well I think our classes are going, with a stable pool of teachers implementing the curriculum as prepared by Anna Vines with Helena Tuomainen last year we are starting to see the dividends pay out. Olivia is always proud to show me her work from class and seems more motivated than ever to do a little homework in between sessions. I myself am quite enjoying our classes with Helena, as always grammar has to be a strong focus for our group but with emphasis on everyday topics and the ways Helena is incorporating family orientated tasks I'm really kept motivated. I understand all our teachers put in lots of effort to prepare for classes for which the little remuneration they receive does not go a long way to repay, all I can do is offer my sincerest thanks for all their efforts, I'm sure all our students feel the same.

We've had a few committee members having to leave their positions, Mervi Alho is very busy now being a mum (my congratulations to her!), Anna Vines is concentrating on her studies to become a primary school teacher and in a short while Anna Meade shall also be resigning as she prepares for motherhood. So I'd like to give my thanks to them for all the efforts they have made over the last few years to keep our school on the move and wish them all the best for future, though I'm sure they'll all be visiting us now and again!

Take care,

Gareth.

A word from the Chair

Hi all,

Well it appears we're already halfway through the autumn term, the leaves have all but left the trees, I've already had to de-ice the car one morning before going to work and X-factor seems to have taken control of our Television!

With 'All Hallows Even' over and (hopefully) the last remnants of fireworks being fired this week it shall be Christmas that becomes the focus of our attention. This year for our family it's Kerimäki so of course flights to Finland HAD to be booked really far in advance, for us this was especially difficult this year as I was in the position of "looking for work". Nonetheless ours were booked in mid August, I don't think I'll ever get used to planning Christmas when it's still summer. I am though really looking forward to Christmas this year, I've got a great new job but two weeks away from it doing very



Christmas Party – Saturday 12th December 2009

Christmas is fast approaching and so is our annual Christmas Party! This year the plan is to have lessons from 2pm-3pm, followed by the party from 3.30pm onwards. If you have Christmas decorations, candles, Finnish Christmas music CD's or anything else you would like to bring to the party, or know what you would like to bake please make sure you add your name to the list which will be circulated at the school!

Situations Vacant

Secretary

The Secretary role is predominantly an administrative role. Generally not an onerous role but requires attendance in Executive Committee meetings (generally a couple per each semester + AGM).

Duties include:

- Liaising with the Chair and other committee members with regards to the agenda for each committee meeting
- Circulating the agreed agenda to the committee members prior to each meeting (generally by email)
- Taking meeting minutes in executive committee meetings
- Typing and circulating them afterwards (by email)
- Putting together the Finnish School Newsletter usually 3 times a year after the contents have been agreed within the executive committee.

Joint Education Officer

This post requires a fair amount of effort to ensure all our students progress. Anna Vines made a success of the role but she had to step down due to work commitments. We would love someone to take on some of the work Anna leaves behind as Helena, the other joint education officer, also needs to make preparations for the adults' intermediate class.

Duties include:

- Ensuring classrooms are ready before lessons
- To be aware of up-to-date changes in Finnish Language
- Ensure teachers' absences are covered appropriately
- To keep student attendance records
- To help prepare end of year reports for Suomi-seura, for grant application
- To help obtain teaching resources and materials from Finland

If you would like to find out more about one of these posts please speak to one of the Executive Committee members.



Spring School Dates:

9th January
23rd January
6th February
20th February
6th March
20th March
3rd April
17th April
1st May – Vappu Party only
more details to follow!
15th May
29th May – School & Spring Party

Order your personalised Finnish / English Calendar / Kalenteri

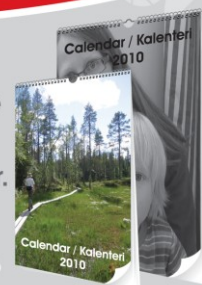
Use your own
photos to create
a completely
unique calendar.

Prices start from
£10 each + p&p

Including Finnish and
English notable days (Juhlapäivät),
as well as Finnish name days (nimipäivät)
and English Bank Holidays.

Download the software at:
www.fotopix-psw.co.uk

60p per calendar is donated to Finn Guild.



Please remember to check out our
website:
www.finnsinthemidlands.co.uk (and
more informally we also have a
group on Facebook: Finns in the
Midlands)!!

Comments and feedback:

We hope you enjoyed the newsletter. If you have any comments or would like to have your input in the next issue please contact Anna Meade on 07779 629 408.