Verse 18 from Steiner's Calendar of the soul:

Can I expand my soul
That it unites itself
With cosmic word received as seed?
I sense that I must find the strength
To fashion worthily my soul
As fitting raiment for the spirit

Notes from the Council

Following the AGM we welcome Chris Robins (chairperson) and Silvia Lehmann (councillor), who join the existing committee in Ilan Trom (vice chairperson), Katie Bewley, Sabine Sommerhalder, Bruce Anthony, and a teacher rep.

Thanks to all who attended the AGM and especially to outgoing members Gavin Lacey, Sarah Carver and Sonia Dezius for their contributions.

Council’s agenda is currently dominated by policy reviews in readiness for the school’s forthcoming re registration application. Also of Note:

- Success in being selected as one of 1000 school’s Australia wide for the ELS (Empowering Local Schools) program which aims at developing knowledge and skills in independent decision making and governance.

Solar Panels

The new solar power system installation has been completed. Thanks to a WA Department of Energy Solar Schools grant, GHSS has been able to set up a second bank of solar panels on to the roof of class two (Rebecca’s classroom). These eastern-facing panels compliment the already existing northern-facing panels to provide maximum energy production throughout the day. This goes a long way toward decreasing the school’s carbon footprint and improving our energy sustainability.

Thanks go to Don Anderson and the team at Great Southern Solar for their expertise in installing the system in very a timely and efficient manner, and for their patience and knowledge in helping us negotiate the grant application process.

Anyone can now check out how much power the new solar system is delivering by logging on to: http://www.sunnyportal.com/templates/publicpagesplantlist.aspx and clicking on the Golden Hill Steiner link.

Power to the people!
Karri Kindergarten News

Friday is the day when many of us are tired and the younger ones have finished after a very busy week. As we sit quietly doing our finger knitting, a beautiful smell wafts around the kindergarten. Heads go up and noses start to twitch, it is the smell of freshly baked flapjacks, baked to perfection by Clare and eaten willingly by the children and adults. Often there is enough for seconds. We all look forward to this reward at the end of the week for a job well done. There have been some requests so I have included the recipe below in case some of you want to try cooking it at home. This week we planted some ranunculi bulbs in the garden and added some horse manure to the compost so now we wait for Mother Earth to do her work.

Thank you so much to Jason’s mum Jamie for sprucing up the dolls house for us, it looks wonderful now.

Winter Festival

The winter festival is fast approaching and I would like each child to bring in a glass jar to make our lanterns for the Lantern Walk on festival night the 22nd of June. The jar should be no taller than 10 cms with a wide mouth for easy access when lighting the candle. Vegemite jars or peanut butter jars are all suitable. Karri kindy parents have been relegated the job of blackening out the windows in the school hall for the spiral walk so volunteers are needed to please come in after school on Thursday.

The practice for the Festival of Voices was in full swing and it surely paid off. The children sang beautifully on the night, I am so proud of them. The knitting is still going strong, with the first recorder bag having been finished and the others are not far off.

The class has been enjoying the Russian fairy tales: they learnt about how the hunter was given the gift of understanding the language of the animals and the songs of the bird; about the young man with his warrior horse who caught the feather of the firebird and about the three princesses who were taken away by the wind….and yet we still have to find out where the wind deposited them.

We have come to the end of our English mainlesson. The next mainlesson is the math one, where the children will once again meet Yubuk and his nephew Yureka together with the stories of the gnomes and their jewels.

Keep warm and healthy.

Yvonne

Class 1 News

What a couple of weeks these have been! The cold/flu that was around Denmark caught up with most children (and myself). There was only one day where everyone was in class. However, we made the most of each day and enjoyed the sunny and the rainy days.

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Keep warm and healthy.

Yvonne

Class 2/3 News

We are planting trees with Greenskills today. Mmmm feels good.

We made a cake and celebrated seven brave beautiful souls yesterday. Mmmmm looked good.

We built some awesome cubbies and a bridge down by the river. Big fun.

We are learning about what is necessary and what is luxury. We traded, bartered, bought and sold with cold coins (made of paper)

We are learning to make change with our grocer Mark.

We wrote Shady on the laptop. A first. Probably a last. But she gave us this lovely readaloud which we adored called “The Little Witch” We had to tell her we loved it. (It was her favourite as a child.)

Class 3 and many of class two have a new spelling program where we "Have a Go" while journal writing.

We are looking forward to lantern making. Mmmmmm Gluey fingers.
Class 4/5

It was lovely to have (almost) everyone back in class this week healthy and happy after the nasty flu outbreak. We are well into our second main lesson block on Man and Animal and this week the children have been learning about the threefold human body and talking about various gifts the animal kingdom gives us. We have also been looking at different types of birds and their various features and examining how they could be grouped. I have decided to extend the due date on the children’s animal projects by a week, as we lost so much class time when we were sick. The projects are now due on the 18th June, after which we will move onto our first main lesson on Ancient Civilisations (beginning with the Indus Valley in India). I can’t wait!

A few weeks ago, I suggested to the children that we learn ukulele as a class. This idea was taken up with gusto and the children come up with some great fundraising ideas to buy our class ukes. The first of these was busking, and a dedicated group of nine buskers sang and played violins, recorders and ukuleles outside IGA on Sunday. It was a great success and our buskers made well over $200. Thank you also to the parents for giving up part of their Sunday to drive the children there and wait around.

The bag of money will make its way to school on Tuesday to be properly counted up as part of a Maths lesson and the older group will use the money to look at averages (ie- if there were nine buskers and they earned a total of $240, how much money did each busker make on average?) Learning can be much more fun when it is done in context! The next ‘phase’ of our fundraising project will involve a cake stall so watch this space for more info.

Our class sleepover will be held this Friday so please make sure children come to school on the day with bedding and some extra layers and changes of clothes. Have a great week everyone.

Eliza Allan

Festival of Voice

Last Friday 1st the GHSS students participated in the Festival of Voice. They certainly did us proud and did an amazing job of learning all the songs. Well done children!

News from Playgroup

A little brown possum
knocked at my door
I gave him an apple,
he wanted some more.
With eyes so big and brown and bright,
he peered around into the night.
The apple he took with dainty paws,
then nibbled, holding it in his claws.
When all the apple he'd taken from me,
away he scampered into a tree.

The apple he took with dainty paws,
then nibbled, holding it in his claws.
When all the apple he'd taken from me,
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We are continuing to revel in autumn at Peppermint cottage: making leaf crowns, finger knitting, painting with autumn colours and making wind wands. The beautiful sunshine in the last weeks of May has meant that our sunflowers we planted three months ago are actually in flower, hooray!

Our thoughts and activities now bend towards the winter solstice with lantern songs, and stories for a rainy day. Please join us Tuesday or Thursday mornings, 9.15am to 11.15am!

With thanks,
Silvia, Clare, and Theda
First of all, congratulations to all the children of the school who attended the Festival of Voice last Friday. You’ll all sang so beautifully with such heart and the Golden Hill Steiner School is extremely proud of you all. Also, a big thank you to the parents who were able to come and support your child and the school.

I would also like to say how deeply touched I was (as many people were—some even cried…) by the courage, commitment and graceful way the Class 6/7 girls (Chelsea-Marie, Liliana, Evie, Mirani, Ava, Rose and Caitlin) held themselves in singing John Lennon’s (I’m sure he was smiling and singing along too) song ‘Imagine.’ They sang wonderfully and I was immensely proud as the school was.

“Life is either a daring adventure, or it is nothing.” –Helen Keller

We have finished our Wish, Wonder and Surprise Main lesson but I would like to share some of the children’s work. As part of the ‘wonder’ component the children spent 20 minutes in nature, in silence, to observe, experience and then report back in the written word.

Nature’s Gift
As I walked I saw a beautiful, big, strong majestic tree with its branches stretched out wide and its strong, thick bark. It swayed softly as the wind drifted past and I could hear its leave gently rustling as I stood there; the stillness of that moment really was pure. Mirani

Dewdrops
Resting on flowers, leaves and trees, the dewdrops sit light as a feather, fragile as a slight twig and as beautiful as crystal. No two the same—each with their own singular shine. Rose

By the Brook
I stood by the brook, looking at the water as it rushed by—somewhere in bush a frog croaked. I walked over to a she-oak and looked at its leaves—it struck me with wonder to see that every needle had a tiny dew drops on the end of it. I shook the branch and every drop fell at the same time. My eyes wondered down the trunk of the tree and stopped at the bottom. A the bottom of the trunk there was moss. I looked closely at the moss and I was captured by the beauty—every little piece was a different shade of green, ranging from fluorescent to a deep mouldy colour—it was amazing!
I looked at the leaf litter and I saw heaps of bright, red mushrooms. They were so little, beautiful and so obvious that I was amazed that I hadn’t noticed them before. Next, I looked at the sword grass and there was one particular blade that had started to wrinkle up into a zig-zag pattern. It was green and spotted with brown patches. The tip was a dark brown (almost black) as I looked at it and I could see the fibres on it in neat straight lines.
I walked away feeling satisfied with what I had seen. Evie

Moss
The damp crunch of leaves underneath my feet. I press my hands against the tiny world of rotting log. There are hundreds of types of moss all resembling a different thing; some are like the trees in winter, bare with barely any limbs at all with a lime green colour and another looked like a bushy plant with lots of place of insects to live in. It is the best world an insect could live in; hundreds of little dark crevices for termites to make their homes in—the tiny spider webs glisten in the sun. It is one of the most beautiful places I’ve seen and if I were an insect I would live there. Onanya

We are now in the middle our Australian Explorers main lesson, ‘Journey into the Great Unknown’. In this main lesson we follow the journeys of extraordinary individuals e.g. Blaxland, Wentworth, Lawson, Oxley, Hume, Hovell, Sturt, Eyre and Wylie etc. who pioneered our continent during the 19th century.

Have a wonderful week!
Ben Mackenzie
**News from the craft group**

We are now a bunch of seven parents gathering fortnightly on a Friday morning at peppermint cottage for craft group. We have bought some 100% wool felt and are making a shooting star toy, followed by a felt fish game. If this interests you, please jump aboard!

We are also in the process of gathering ideas for what to get up to crafting together, so if you have a project you would love to do in a group, please let us know.

Our next gathering is Friday the 8th of June from 9.15 (school drop-off) to 12.30pm. Please come along, or feel free to contact me with any queries,

Kind Regards

Silvia

9848 3738, or 0435 006 228

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**Market Day Stalls**

P and F is pondering the possibility of starting up a fortnightly market after school in term 3. We are seeking any expressions of interest from parents or friends for a possible stall or spot – just to see if the idea is actually feasible.

So – do you have surplus eggs or veggies/fruit from your garden? Do you make any crafty things you would like to sell? Are you good at making cakes/biscuits you would like to sell? Do any of the classes want to sell handmade crafty goods or their garden surplus?

The idea is to have a time and place to gather as a community and take time to chat and catch up rather than doing this in the car park J. Once a fortnight after school, providing tea and coffee and afternoon snacks for the children for a small fee while browsing hand-made or hand-grown goodies...

Please contact Silvia if you may be interested in a stall, or have ideas to contribute!

9848 3738 or 0435 006 228

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**Ukuleles Wanted**

Next term, Class 4/5 will be commencing a ukulele program in which each student needs their own ukulele. The children have been doing some fundraising to cover the cost of purchasing a class set, but if anyone has an old unloved ukulele lying around that isn’t being used, we would love to take it off your hands! Please contact Eliza on 0414 886 707.
Assembly

Did you know that all primary aged classes at GHSS gather for an Assembly on Thursday mornings at 9.10am? Parents are always welcome to join us. We have been practising our winter songs at assembly so if parents would also like to learn these for the festival they are encouraged to join us. Assembly will be held in Class 1 this week.

Dear families

Last Year six children from our school walked 1,200 kms through the desert to Perth.
Please show your appreciation and support for their efforts by coming to see a photo exhibition of the ten week walk held this Saturday 9 June at the centre for Sustainable Living at 6pm.
A shared meal will be provided and families are asked to bring a salad or a dessert if possible.
Come and celebrate our community with our children who are the voices and footsteps of tomorrow. Kristi Mc Mullan

Flapjack recipe

Ingredients: 125 g butter, 50g honey, 225g rolled oats, 25g coconut, 1/2 tsp vanilla essence, 50g chopped dates

Method

Melt butter and honey in saucepan
Mix in oats, dates, coconut, vanilla essence
Press into oiled tin
Bake at 180C for 20 minutes until golden brown
Cut into squares while warm
Leave in tin to cool.

House sitter wanted

Clean tidy person to look after our house near Ocean Beach and border x Collie dog. Dates are from 18th to 30th June. If you are interested contact Mary Lou 9848 2989 or 0424 225 045
Busy Bee

Our Busy Bee will be held this Saturday morning (9th June). Jobs that need doing include:

- Cleaning windows (please bring a ladder or two!)
- Paint the interior of shop/ kitchen (paint is ready and waiting but parents will need to bring rollers/ brushes/ other painting materials)
- Re-organise the storeroom behind the toilets
- Tidy the library
- Some gardening work (Geraniums?)
- Putting felt under chairs in the Hall

Workshop at Spirit of Play Community School

There is a interesting workshops with Nikki Buchanan, Educational Consultant happening over the next weeks at Spirit of Play.

Saturday 9th June, Motivational Maths  2pm to 4.30pm

Please contact Spirit of Play to register and for more information: spiritofplay@westnet.com.au  Phone: 9848 2285

Creative Writing Club

I am now offering young people the opportunity to be a part of after school creative writing clubs.

Each club will consist of the same 5-6 children who will come together once a week to have fun with the creative writing process.

I wanted to start them, so that young people had a place where they could fire up their imaginations, feel safe to share their written work with each other, support each other’s creativity, develop their skills and come to love the creative process.

To do this we will play an interactive game through which children learn the components and structures of creative writing - like character development, setting, plotting, timing, language, world building and imagination!

There will be an attendance fee for members of the clubs.

If you feel this is something that I can provide a flyer for to go home to parents, or something that could go into your schools newsletter, that would be great. If not of course this is also fine! :)

Many thanks, Jemma Hipper

Next edition of the Golden Quill!

Next Newsletter will be issued on 19 June.