please note these dates:

Wednesday 15 August
Council meeting 3pm to 5pm

Tuesday 7 August
3.00pm Class 6/7
Parent teacher meeting

Wednesday 8 August
2.30 Class 2/3 Parent Teacher Meeting

Monday 13 August
3.00pm Karri Kindergarten
Parent teacher meeting

3.00pm Class 4/5
Parent teacher meeting

Verse 44 from Steiner's Calendar of the soul

In reaching for new sense attractions
Soul-clarity would fill,
Mindful of spirit—birth attained
The world’s bewildering, sprouting growth
With the creative will of my own thinking

Restorative Circles Workshop

Over the weekend, a group of teachers, council members, parents and wider community members came together to learn about establishing a Restorative System within our school. John Cunningham and Cat Gilliam made the journey to Denmark to offer this workshop, having spent time at Sophia Mundi Steiner School in Melbourne, assisting the school community there to set up this system. At the workshop in February they gave us a little taste of this method used to support communities and groups having and learning from conflict, and were able to return to provide more information and opportunities to practice the circles. Conflict is a part of life that can lead to deeper understandings of the self and others if it is explored in an open way, rather than avoided or repressed, and the restorative system puts the ownership of conflict back into the hands of the community rather than in an external justice system. Many thanks to everyone who made this workshop possible, and especially to John and Cat for their enthusiasm, generosity and warmth of spirit.

Denise

Farewell Quentin

Our wonderful Gardener and Maintenance man Quentin Williams is leaving on 15 August.
Quentin has done an enormous job keeping the school grounds looking absolutely beautiful in the last 4 years and we thank him very much.
All the best for the future, Quentin!

Re-registration visit

The school’s re-registration visit last Thursday went very well. Months of hard work on updating, ratifying policies and improving on procedures by Council, teachers and office staff alike paid off. Thankyou Genevieve for baking a delicious cake. The day was sunny and big thanks go out to Quentin who ensured that the school looked beautiful.
Karri Kindergarten News

"Let us form a ring, dancing as we sing Ring-a, ring-a, rei-a, ring-a, ring-a, rei-a"

Now we turn ourselves around Watch the birds fly up and down
Kikeri, kikeri ki "

With this song the children join hands around our circle mat and so begins our morning circle each day, after we have tidied and cleaned and everything is back in it's place.

In the kindergarten, songs and verses are used to gather the children or signify the transition from one activity to another rather than verbal instructions. This helps to keep a dreamy quality in the kindergarten, and allows for gentle changes and a flowing rhythm of the day. This may be something you could try at home, even if you don't have any special songs, just try singing instead of talking and observe how your child responds!

Our parent/teacher meeting for this term will be held on Monday, 20th August at 3pm in Karri Kindergarten. I will be sharing information from the World Kindergarten Teacher's Conference, in particular about the six year old change and meeting the needs of boys, and also have some photographs of the kindergartens I visited. Any interested parents from Playgroup, Silver Birch or other classes in the school are very welcome to come along also.

Childcare will be available. Hope to see all Karri Kindergarten parents there!

Thankyou to those parents who have met with me for mid-year parent-teacher conferences. I am available on Wednesday afternoons between 1.30 and 3pm, for conferences or for any concerns you wish to share, so please make an appointment.

Warm wishes
Denise

World Kindergarten Conference - Part 3

At lunch one day during the conference I found myself sitting next to a German kindergarten teacher who introduced herself and then told me all about her kindergarten in the village of Hersbruck, just outside Nuremberg. I asked if it would be possible for me to visit her kindergarten and she not only agreed, but invited me to stay in her home for a few days! After a few weeks travelling through Switzerland, Germany and then Czech Republic, I was eager to visit a kindergarten, since my attempts up to that point had not eventuated, so I contacted Elise and made arrangements to travel to her village of Reichen-Schwand. I spent two days experiencing a taste of life at the Hersbruck Kindergarten. The younger children attend the original Kindergarten, in a two-story renovated house, and just across the road is the Nature Kindergarten which Elise established when she learned about the Forest kindergarten movement. With a strong belief that children in Germany need to spend more time in the natural world, Elise set out to create an environment to facilitate this, but also to allow for some time inside, especially in the colder months. We were blessed with perfect Spring weather when I was there, so the children naturally spent most of their time outside, choosing to play in the garden rather than in the Mongolian yurt which has been set up as an inside play area, and is also used for circle and story. In addition to the yurt, there are three wooden caravans (Elise called them "wagons") which have been renovated by Elise and her son to create a woodwork/craft storage area in one, a kitchen/ eating area in another and a bathroom/cloakroom in the third. The three caravans are placed surrounding a paved area sheltered by shade sails which has benches and tables used for outdoor eating, craft and drawing in fine weather. The gardens are gently landscaped with a sandpit, rabbit enclosure, simple play structures and lots of materials for building cubbies, etc.

Visiting the Hersbruck Kindergarten and staying in Elise's home, having a glimpse into German village life was one of the memorable highlights of my trip and I gleaned some ideas and inspiration too.

Denise
Class 2/3 News

In the beginning God created the heavens
And the earth was without form and void
And darkness was on the face of the deep
And God's Spirit shone on the face of the waters
And God said, "Let there be light:"
And there was light.
And God called the light day and the darkness He called night
And the evening and the morning were the first day.

Genesis

We heard creation stories from the Maori, Apache, and Noongar traditions and then began our study of the Hebrew stories with a darkened room, a candle, and this verse. The power of it rocks me. We painted the seven days of Creation as we walked through the coming of air, water, plants, animals, and humans.

It is a privilege to imagine.

Rebecca

Class 4/5 News

Thank you to all those people who supported us during our popcorn sale last week! It was a great success and many lessons were learned in teamwork, customer service and the benefits of perseverance!

We have been busy practicing for our play this week, in between simplifying and subtracting fractions. I am a bit hesitant to set a date for the play at this stage (just in case we need a bit of extra time!) but it will be held sometime towards the end of this term. All children have received their scripts so please encourage your child to practice his/ her lines at home. It is possible however that there might be some swapping of parts early next week...

Next Friday we are off to see the production of ‘Rome Sweet Rome’ at the Denmark High School. The children seem to be looking forward to this and I am hoping it will inspire them in their own play rehearsals. Please make sure your child has returned the permission form along with the $5 fee.

Another reminder that our class meeting will be held on Monday August 13th at 3pm in the classroom. If there is anything specific you would like addressed/ discussed during the meeting or any questions you have pertaining to Steiner education, please let me know beforehand and I will try to include it in the agenda.

Have a great week :)

Regards

Eliza

Class 1 News

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school and to their classroom.

The Smokey Way

Two brothers, Kanbi and Jittibidi, were sitting around a campfire high up in the sky, in the area of the Southern Cross, with their two firesticks resting beside them.

Food was running out up there so the brothers came down to Earth to hunt, bringing their firesticks to light their way.

Our days have been very busy: the children have been listening to indigenous stories, while at the same time building on their vocabulary. At the beginning of the term we started playing the recorder and we resumed our cooking lessons (healthy soups).

The morning skipping in the courtyard is much enjoyed by everyone and gives us the opportunity to practice the rhythms of 2, 3, 5 and 10. What a beautiful way to start the days.

Yvonne
**Class 6/7 News**

We continue to be scientists observing the different phenomena from our experiments within our physics main lesson. For the last two weeks we have been spending a lot of time in a darkened room exploring light and sound and we have come to realise what a huge part they play in our lives.

This week we shall complete this science block by delving into heat/warmth.

‘In the beginning was darkness swathed in darkness; All this was but unmanifested water. Whatever was, the One, coming into being, Hidden by the Void, Was generated by the power of Heat.

From: The Rig Veda. Book One

“...I am that living and fiery essence of the divine substance that flows in the beauty of the fields. I shine in the water, I burn in the sun and the moon and the stars. Mine is the mysterious force of the invisible wind...I am life.”

Hildegard of Bingen as quoted in “Creation Myths”. David Maclagan

A big thank you to all the parents and children who volunteered their precious time to help out with the fundraiser last Saturday outside the IGA. The sausages sizzled, freshly baked cakes wafted through the air and tempted many a customer, and a raffle was held with all the contributions made by the class as the prize. All the money made will go towards supporting our camp to the Balingup Medieval Festival in three weeks time. A humungous thank you to Kardi for coming up with the idea and organizing all that needed to be done. Much appreciated by all!!!

We have started the journey of rehearsing our play, ‘The Little Prince.’

This cherished story by adults and children alike is about a pilot stranded in the desert who awakes one morning to see, standing before him, the most extraordinary little fellow. ‘Please,’ asks the stranger, “draw me a sheep.” And the pilot realizes that when life’s events are too difficult to understand, there is no choice but to succumb to their mysteries. He pulls out a pencil and paper........And thus begins this wise and enchanting fable that teaches the secret of what really is important in life.

Wishing you all a wonderful week! Ben Mackenzie

**News from Peppermint Cottage Playgroup**

Round and round the garden,

Like a teddy bear,

One step, two steps,

Tickle you under there!

Round and round the garden,

In the wind and rain,

One step, two steps,

Tickle you there again

We are diving into the term making porridge and squeezing oranges, and exploring painting and crayon drawing. It’s a sunny morning, we might get to do some gardening. The jonquils are out filling the garden with smell and colour. We still have to be much more patient for our tulips though! Still winter is here, and if it’s raining, we are warm and cozy in our Playgroup house!

Why don’t you join us - Tuesday or Thursday mornings 9.15 to 11.15am

With thanks, Silvia, Clare, Theda
Market Day! Market Day! Market Day!

To market, to market to buy a...........

Our inaugural fortnightly market will be trialed on Friday August 24th, after school, starting 2.45pm. Hooray!

Eliza’s class 4/5 will be first off the bat to provide and sell tea/coffee and yummy afternoon tea. Class 4/5 will be putting the money raised towards their Ukulele project, so put the date in your diaries now and come have some cake or savoury treat, a cuppa and a chat!

Market stalls will be $10 each, if you have something to sell or have put your name down already, please confirm with Silvia your spot and requirements by next Friday (the 17th of August). Spread the word – the more there is to sell and buy, the more fun it’ll be! Fresh produce, craft, food...!

I will also require a squad of parent volunteers to help set up and clean away – if you’re that person, you get a gold star! And it all contributes to your FPS hours, of course!

Cheers  Silvia   9848 3738 or 0435 006 228

Friday August 24th after school, be there or be square, yay!

Parent Networking / email lists and Finance matters

The Parent networking list with all family addresses and phone numbers is being updated on a continual basis, please make sure that you inform as of any changes immediately.

Please come into the office and pick up a new list if yours is more than a few weeks old. We can also email them to you.

We would like to send the Newsletter via email but do not have all parent email addresses.

Can everyone please email their email address to: steiner@denmarkwa.net.au

Please pay your school fees on time otherwise there is a late payment fee $25 per term charged to your account.

Thank you, Sabine and Maggie

Craft Group News

We had a small beginning for the term for our craft group last Friday at peppermint cottage. The next craft group meeting will be THIS Friday, the 10th of August, 9.15am to 12pm and then we’ll go on fortnightly from there. We are currently still completing our felt fish game, and after that we’ll move onto another craft material, making something out of wood perhaps?

If you’ve been uhmming and ahhing about joining, why don’t you just pop in and see if you like it?

Love, Silvia  9848 3738, or 0435 006 228 if you have any queries

Gardener/Maintenance person required

The school is looking for a part time (35 hours per fortnight) Gardener/ Maintenance person.

Organic/biodynamic gardening experience preferred. Please email your application including 2 referees to steiner@denmarkwa.net.au or mail to: GHSS 222 Scotsdale Road. Denmark by 20 August 4pm. If you have any questions please call 9848 1811

Soup pot missing

Jessica Heller-Bhatt is missing a red cast iron oval shaped soup pot from Tuesday soup day. Please call her on 9845 2575 if you know of the whereabouts of the pot.
Television

The most important thing we've learned,
So far as children are concerned,
Is never, NEVER, NEVER let
Them near your television set --
Or better still, just don't install
The idiotic thing at all.

In almost every house we've been,
We've watched them gaping at the screen.
They loll and slop and lounge about,
And stare until their eyes pop out.
(Last week in someone's place we saw
A dozen eyeballs on the floor.)
They sit and stare and stare and sit
Until they're hypnotised by it,
Until they're absolutely drunk
With all that shocking ghastly junk.
Oh yes, we know it keeps them still,
They don't climb out the window sill,
They never fight or kick or punch,
They leave you free to cook the lunch
And wash the dishes in the sink --
But did you ever stop to think,
To wonder just exactly what
This does to your beloved tot?

IT ROTTS THE SENSE IN THE HEAD!
IT KILLS IMAGINATION DEAD!
IT CLOGS AND CLUTTERS UP THE MIND!
IT MAKES A CHILD SO DULL AND BLIND
HE CAN NO LONGER UNDERSTAND
A FANTASY, A FAIRYLAND!
HIS BRAIN BECOMES AS SOFT AS CHEESE!
HIS POWERS OF THINKING RUST AND FREEZE!
HE CANNOT THINK -- HE ONLY SEES!

'All right!' you'll cry. 'All right!' you'll say,
'But if we take the set away,
What shall we do to entertain
Our darling children? Please explain!'
We'll answer this by asking you,
'What used the darling ones to do?
'How used they keep themselves contented
Before this monster was invented?'
Have you forgotten? Don't you know?
We'll say it very loud and slow:

THEY ... USED ... TO ... READ! They'd READ and READ,
AND READ and READ, and then proceed
To READ some more. Great Scott! Gadzooks!
One half their lives was reading books!
The nursery shelves held books galore!
Books cluttered up the nursery floor!
And in the bedroom, by the bed,
More books were waiting to be read!
Such wondrous, fine, fantastic tales
Of dragons, gypsies, queens, and whales
And treasure isles, and distant shores
Where smugglers rowed with muffled oars,
And pirates wearing purple pants,
And sailing ships and elephants,
And cannibals crouching 'round the pot,
Stirring away at something hot.
(It smells so good, what can it be?
Good gracious, it's Penelope.)
The younger ones had Beatrix Potter
With Mr. Tod, the dirty rotter,
And Squirrel Nutkin, Pigling Bland,
And Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle and-
Just How The Camel Got His Hump,
And How the Monkey Lost His Rump,
And Mr. Toad, and bless my soul,
There's Mr. Rat and Mr. Mole-
Oh, books, what books they used to know,
Those children living long ago!
So please, oh please, we beg, we pray,
Go throw your TV set away,
And in its place you can install
A lovely bookshelf on the wall.
Then fill the shelves with lots of books,
Ignoring all the dirty looks,
The screams and yells, the bites and kicks,
And children hitting you with sticks-
Fear not, because we promise you
That, in about a week or two
Of having nothing else to do,
They'll now begin to feel the need
Of having something to read.
And once they start -- oh boy, oh boy!
You watch the slowly growing joy
That fills their hearts. They'll grow so keen
They'll wonder what they'd ever seen
In that ridiculous machine,
That nauseating, foul, unclean,
Repulsive television screen!
And later, each and every kid
Will love you more for what you did.

Roald Dahl