please note these dates

Friday 7 September
After school Market
at School Hall

Wednesday 5 to Friday 7 September
Class 2/3 camp

Saturday September 18
Busy Bee

Thursday 20th September 5.30pm
Theft of Thor’s Hammer
A play presented by class 4/5

Saturday September 22
School Open Day
and Spring Festival

Tuesday 25 September 6.30pm
The Little Prince
A play presented by class 6/7

Thursday 27 September
Last day of term 3

Friday 28 September
All Staff Professional Development at
West Coast Steiner School Perth

Monday 15 October
1st day term 4

Verse 48 from Steiner’s Calendar of the soul

Within the light that out of world-heights
Would stream with power toward the soul,
    May certainty of cosmic thinking
    Arise to solve the soul’s enigmas-
    And focusing its mighty rays,
Awaken love in human hearts

From Karri Kindergarten......

Please come along to the Friday market at our school hall this coming Friday, 7th September and support our efforts to raise funds to purchase a new grain mill so the children can grind the grain for our bread. A roster of parents is needed to help set up, serve hot drinks, cakes etc and pack-away afterwards. We are asking each kindergarten family to please supply either sweet or savoury afternoon tea treats to be sold at the market, which will begin at about 3pm and finish around 5pm. Come along, celebrate the end of the week, chat to your friends, enjoy a cuppa and cake and support our market day! Please let Silvia know if you are able to help on the day, and put your name on the roster located on the karri kindergarten noticeboard.

Warm wishes, Denise

From Silver Birch Kindergarten

Rain Rain go away
Kindergarten loves to play!

It has been soggy week with lots of puddles to splash in which always delights the children. With bursts of sunshine in between, we have taken pleasure in finding delicate daffodils and sweet smelling jonquils in our garden and look forward to more spring surprises.

We watch with wonder as the children build cozy cubbies inside and they busy themselves with lot of ”cooking” and “organising”.

The importance of learning through play, using their wonderful imaginations, cannot be underestimated.

Blessings to you all

Christine and Sophia
Class One

The days and the weeks just pass so quickly. In fact, it is not uncommon that when we get ready to say the afternoon verse, the children say: ‘Is it already time to go home?’.

Gnome Plus and Gnome Minus have come back to visit the children. This has brought much excitement and laughter to the class. The children are eagerly waiting for the arrival of Gnome Multiply and Gnome Divide, who will visit our classroom over the next couple of weeks.

We have been practicing for the Maypole dance which will be presented at the Spring Fair. The Maypole went up on Friday which allowed us to do our first practice around the pole itself. What a joy to observe the children dancing and singing while making sure that the ribbons stayed in their correct order.

Cooking day is always much anticipated, this term we have focused on soups: lentil soup, vegetable soup, broccoli soup and the all time favorite…potato and cream soup.

I hope you are all enjoying the glimpses of Spring that we have been experiencing.

Yvonne

Class 2/3

We are off to Point Anne (wether permitting) for the rest of the week for camaraderie, fun, whale watching, tide pooling, rabbit proof fence gazing, spotlighting, basket making, scavenger hunting, and sharing good food. We are most excited. We marked off Noah’s Ark on the oval last week and found 300 cubits by 50 cubits reaches from the middle of the road above the oval to even with Eliza’s classroom about 4/5 the breadth of the oval. One big boat. A maths problem we had the other day which at first glance looked to have 32 triangles upon closer examination yielded 88 and that was what we could see. Rebecca

Song of a man who has come through  (HD Lawrence)

Not I, not I but the wind that blows through me!

A fine wind is blowing the new direction of Time.

If only I let it bear me, carry me, if only it carry me!

If only I am sensitive, subtle oh, delicate, a winged gift!

If only, most lovely of all, I yield myself and am borrowed

By the fine, fine wind that takes its course through the chaos of the world

Like a fine, an exquisite chisel, a wedge blade inserted;

If only I am keen and hard like the sheer tip of a wedge

Driven by invisible blows,

The rock will split, we shall come at the wonder, we shall find the Hesperides.

Oh, for the wonder that bubbles into my soul,

I would be a good fountain, a good well-head,

Would blur no whisper, spoil no expression.

What is the knocking?

What is the knocking at the door in the night?

It is somebody wants to do us harm.

No, no it is the three angels.

Admit them, admit them.

Purchasing Steiner-friendly toys and craft materials

Several parents have expressed an interest in purchasing Steiner craft materials. Third Stone traders (near the Health Food store) stocks a variety of Steiner friendly items such as modelling wax, crayons and pencils. However, should you wish to buy several items or in bulk, there is often more variety online. Here are a few of our favourite sites:

Winterwood toys
Www.winterwoodtoys.com.au
Stocks beautiful hand-dyed felt as well as all sorts of doll-making supplies, such as skin-coloured tricot and tubular stockingette.

Honeybee Toys
Www.honeybeetoys.com.au
Australia’s largest range of natural wooden toys, Steiner toys, organic baby toys, eco toys and traditional toys for imaginative and creative play.

The Fairy Ring
Ww.fairyring.com.au
Great variety of handmade and Steiner type toys.

Head Hands and Hearts
The closest thing to a Steiner toy shop I have ever seen. Although I’m not sure they do online orders, if you are ever in the Adelaide Hills, it is definitely worth a stop! A veritable treasure trove of all things Steiner, it is packed to the rafters with craft supplies, beautiful handmade dolls and dollhouses, wooden animals, Steiner parenting books, and they even hold regular puppet plays and craft workshops. We need a branch in Denmark!

For wool fleece: The Alpaca Farm sells big bags of it for $10.

Waldorf Dolls
Somewhat pricey but great quality dolls and supplies for Steiner craft inspiration.
Living Crafts magazine
Www.livingcrafts.com

This magazine is a great source of inspiration for anyone who loves creating eco-friendly, natural clothing and toys for their family. Although it is a US based magazine, digital subscriptions are available.

Class 4/5 News

It is heartening to here that so many of us are of similar opinions when it comes to exposing our children to media. If anyone is interested, the short film at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ge5G_eYpj8g gives a good overview of how Steiner schools view media exposure.

Due to a timetabling clash as well as incredibly frustrating acoustic problems, I have decided to hold the class play in our classroom for this year. It will still be a grand affair with curtains, backdrop, etc, so please come along! It will be held on Thursday, 20th September at 5.30pm.

College of teachers and council have had several meetings over the past month to discuss 2013 class configurations and I thought it best to let all parents know what is in the works.

At this stage, the plan for 2013 is for me to remain as class teacher, with the class six girls from Ben’s group joining our class (which would mean between 3 and 5 new students). However, the class will be split for main lesson (which is the morning period before recess).

In the morning when the children arrive at school, I will greet them at the door and we will have morning circle together as a whole class, after which the class 5’s will stay with me for main lesson and the class 6 and 7’s will go next door for a main lesson with the school coordinator/senior teacher (whom we will soon be employing). After recess, the class will again come together as a whole group for the rest of the day. Due to the larger class size (23-24 students) and the extra planning that is involved when teaching across several grade levels, the children will have an extra two hours of so of class time with a specialist teacher (most likely for sport and music) which will allow me some extra prep time.

Personally, as class teacher, I am happy with this option. I think the current class 5’s and 6’s would 'gel' nicely as a main lesson class and are fairly well on-par with each other academically. The class 6 girls who would be joining our class are lovely, friendly and still rather 'young' and if I had any concerns about our class being negatively affected, I would certainly be voicing them. However, class configurations in such a small school are tricky and I do feel that this is the best possible outcome for all students. I welcome any comments or concerns on the matter and am happy to call a class meeting should the need arise.

Regards Eliza Allan

News from Peppermint Cottage Playgroup:

Pat-a-cake pat-a-cake Baker’s man,
Bake me a cake as fast as you can.
Pat it and prick it and mark it with B
And put in the oven for baby and me.

We have enjoyed baking cinnamon scrolls, making fire fairies out of wool tops, painting and making kites. A warm welcome to the new families that have joined us towards the end of last term, and this one. Spring is in the air, and when the weather is sunny, the children are enjoying playing inside and out.

One of our planting pots now has radish and chamomile seeds in it – something is popping up, we’re not sure which! If you’ve thought about joining in the fun why don’t you pop in - Tuesday or Thursday mornings, 9.15am to 11.15am.

With thanks, Silvia, Clare, and Theda
Class 6/7 News

Last Friday we donned our Medieval attire with swords, bows and shields in hand and we galloped off to Balingup Medieval Festival for our camp.

On the way we took a detour and started our adventures by climbing the Bi-Centennial Tree, (Warren National Park) which was not for the faint-hearted by the way. Within the blink of an eye the class was gone (I was saying a few prayers) and towering above the treetops and surveying the terrain ahead. All was clear and we ventured on!

Arriving at Balingup Primary School to seek shelter we unpacked and found our appropriate places of lodging. With a hearty appetite from our travels a feast was in order and soon we were off marching through the streets of Balingup with weapons in hand.

Meeting our fellow Medieval companions (noble knights, peasants, fair maidens, wizards and a king and queen) at the door of the castle, all was set for an authentic evening of yesteryear. But alas, surprises were in hand, as the folk organizing it all seem to have no comprehension of what Medieval entertainment or music entailed.

There we were being entertained by a few locals who occasionally come together to perform their newly acquired skills (or rather lack of) and were forced to endure not only one performance but three! We were all waiting for the traditional Medieval rotten fruit to be hurled across the tables but everybody just politely clapped (how times have changed!) Well, it could only get better from here!

Next on the entertainment agenda was the music side of things. At last, something authentic, perhaps a lilting harpist, a wandering minstrel, an acapella group-wrong! An electric band (as one of the children noted, “I didn’t think they had electricity back then?”). This was a tragic-comedy, though it weighted more on the tragic side of things. The songs were of yesteryear but they only went back to the 70’s and 80’s. The only person who seemed to be enjoying the music was the singer herself as she crooned each tune (off tune) whilst mimicking all the professional gestures of a seasoned performer. This can’t be happening but it is! I think you get the picture.

The children were able to entertain themselves and enjoy the moment of it all despite the lack of what was advertised, and as the saying goes, if you can’t beat’em- join them, and that’s exactly what we did. By the end of the night we were all dancing in joyous delight to the sounds of the band. We found the blessing in it all and learnt a valuable lesson of being able to turn things around and the children were the teachers in that department.

The weekend festival, thankfully, lived up to its reputation and an awesome time was had by all. We started off the weekend by performing on the ‘Main Stage’ and the children presented several pieces which included: recorder, Latin singing and violin pieces. These young people performed brilliantly, with such grace and professionalism and the school is extremely proud of the way they presented themselves. We also did a second performance the following day on the “Dragon Burning Stage” and though tired, they again did themselves and the school proud. Many folk enjoyed the fruits of their hardwork to prepare for these performances. They are talented indeed and it was an honour for me to be on stage performing with them.

The children were able to go off by themselves in small groups and explore all the festivities that were available and some of these included: knights in armour fighting to the death; wandering minstrels and jugglers; camel rides (one of the highlights); blacksmith demonstrations; storytelling; continuous inspiring music (the feast could’ve done with some of these performers); burning of dragon ritual; parades; endless stalls (many swords were purchased) lots of food (some yummy-some not!) and much, much more! A wonderful time was had by all-a rich time indeed!

A BIG THANK YOU to our chaperones: Theresea, Debbie and Ivar, who once again gave of their time to make it the success it was, and to Kardi for organising the raffle with the proceeds subsidising our camp (and to all the parents and children who participated in the raffle).

Our ‘Age of Discovery’ main lesson has come to an end and we are now embarking on our play, “The Little Prince.”

Have a wonderful week!

Ben Mackenzie
Working With Boys in the Kindergarten

A summary of the workshop led by Louise De Forest at the World Kindergarten Teacher's Conference 2012, Hope you find it useful.

*Males incarnate more deeply into the physical body, and do not take their experiences as deeply into the soul life as females do.

There are many physiological differences between boys and girls;

* Due to testosterone levels, boys; exhibit more aggressive behaviour
  - have more muscle, less fat
  - display more vigorous activity for a shorter duration
  - and take more risks.

* Boys have denser bones, but their organ development is six months behind that of girls.

* Verbal skills are about one year behind that of girls in the first year

* Boys brains are 10% larger than girls

* Boys look at objects intensely but for a shorter period of time than girls, their attention moves quickly from object to object

* Boys receive less sense impressions than girls.

* Male brain activity is very concentrated- it comes on when they have a task, and goes off when they don't.

* Boys use the right hemisphere of the brain more so are better with spatial awareness, and have problems identifying the emotions of others.

* Kindergarten boys take seven hours longer than girls to process their feelings

* They have several responses to a conflict situation;
  - Immediate physical action (punching someone is a totally normal response for a boy, and very often they don't know why they did it)
  - Withdrawing socially- isolating themselves (going "into their cave")

* Boys can almost never talk about their feelings so it's important not to ask them why they lashed out.

* It is appropriate to give them a task as they are service-oriented and have a deep need to make life better for others.

* A child that hits another needs to do something to help the child they've hurt- eg bring a cold pack

* Every child feels justified in what they do, they have a reason, but may not be able to put it into words.

* If we tell a child to say they are sorry, we are teaching them to lie.

* Children want to do what's right, and when they don't they suffer.

* Boys are tribal, and need a group around them, rather than the intimacy of one or two others.

* Boys need to be tested physically, and to learn their limits.

* Children today come with strong earthly intentions and want to transform substance (bridges, roads, etc have been created by men to make life easier)

* It is very important that they are given real, meaningful work. Tools should be used for a purpose, not just given as an activity to keep children busy.

Warm wishes, Denise
Market Day! Market Day! Market Day!

Our second fortnightly market is upon us - THIS Friday September 7th, after school, starting 2.45pm.

Parents of Karri and Silver Birch kindy please remember to bring along a sweet or savoury food item to sell for afternoon tea. The kindies will be putting the fundraised money towards a new flour mill that both kindies will share, so please come along, support the fundraising, and have some cake or savoury treat, a cuppa and a chat!

Market stalls are being offered at $5 each this Friday. Market stalls can be set up from 12.30pm on the Friday. Please spread the word – if you know anyone or are someone with something to sell - Fresh produce, craft, food, the more there is to sell and buy, the more fun it’ll be!

All help with set-up and clean-up contributes to your FPS hours – please let me know if you can assist! People who so generously helped a fortnight ago, please remember to claim the FPS hours with your class rep.

Cheers

Silvia

9848 3738 or 0435 006 228

Friday September 7th after school!

Market Day note

While the inaugural market last fortnight went extremely well, and was everything I had hoped for – parents supporting, chatting, connecting, there was a difficult issue:

The playgroup playground was accessed by most children while the market was operating, and without supervision there was a lot of willful damage there – the shade cloth got unpegged and swung on, most sand toys got extremely dented or actually broken, and nearly all the flowers were ripped out, or beheaded, including all of our jonquils and the first tulip in our pots. Some paving stones got broken, and the spades had been strewed all around the playground and the grounds of the hall, and I needed a lot of extra time to clear up the mess and make it presentable for the next playgroup session.

While I appreciate that one of the main aims for the market is for parents to connect and chat, the playgroup playground is set up for very little people, and as such is easily trashed by the bigger and stronger kids. The tulips and jonquils were planted as part of playgroup activities and we have been watching their progress, as well as using the flowers for our morning tea decoration. The little kids were extremely disappointed to find their lovely red tulip gone.

Two requests come from this:

If parents could please be mindful that teachers have passed responsibility back onto them at the end of school, so as parents you are responsible for your child/children – if you could just keep a closer eye on their activities, and ask them not to play in the playground of the playgroup, that would be awesome.

If your child is boisterous after school and needs a run around, could you perhaps bring a ball or some activity that your children could get up to on the oval during the time the market is on.

If you have any other suggestions or comments how we can make the market run as harmonious as possible, please feel free to chat to me!

Thanks, Silvia

9848 3738 or 0435 006 228.
Spring Festival

Our Spring festival will be held on Saturday, September 22nd from 9am-1pm.
Parents are asked to bring a plate of the following:
Class 1: Sweet finger food (ie cakes, muffins)
Class 2/3: Savoury finger food
Class 4/5: Savoury finger food
Class 6/7: Savoury finger food

Children will need to bring their own plate and cup, which can be taken home and washed after the festival.

It is expected that parents/guardians will attend the festival with their children (please no dropping off!) However, children are expected to remain in their class groups for the morning and teachers will have duty of care until lunchtime. After lunchtime, parents are asked to collect their children (please inform your child’s teacher when doing so) and to be responsible for them for the afternoon. Please ensure that you know where your child is at all times during this period and that he/she is behaving in an appropriate manner.

A P&F meeting will be scheduled within the next fortnight to discuss preparations for the Spring festival.

Spring Festival Program

(Children stay in class groups for the morning)
9:00 Garland making
Bread making
9.45: Welcome to Country and Puppet Play at Karri Kindy
10:15: Presentation in Class One
10.30: Presentation by Class 2/3
10.45: Snack (bread, fruit and juice)
11:00: Presentation by Class 4/5
11:15: Presentation by Class 6/7
11:30: Maypole Dancing
11:45 Lunch (to be set up on basketball court)
Children collected by parents
12: 15 Afternoon Activities and Markets
Program finishes at 1:00pm
Violin Concerts by classes 4 to 7 at Denmark Hospital

Classes 4/5 and class 6/7 violinists recently delighted some of our senior citizens at the Denmark Hospital by playing the Violin, Recorder and singing.

The audience was singing, clapping and smiling and invited us back to play some more Australian tunes so they could sing along. Some people also said they would love to come to our end of term concerts.

I hope that performances at the hospital and other venues outside the school will become a regular part of the Steiner School’s violin programme.

I believe it was a meaningful and uplifting experience for everyone involved and would like to thank Ben and Eliza, Belinda Chappell and the parents who drove us to and from the hospital.

Violin News

The Australian Chamber Orchestra Ensemble together with The Albany Chamber Orchestra are performing at Albany Entertainment Centre at 8pm on Sat 8th Sept.

Elgar, Shostakovich, Dvorak, Mozart. Bookings through AEC.

Students can attend the rehearsal at 2.30pm. I highly recommend coming to the rehearsal to see an orchestra in action.

Jude

Denmark little Athletics Registration Day

Wednesday 19th September

3.30pm to 5pm at football club rooms.

Fees need to be paid at time of registration by cash or cheque. For insurance purposes no child will be permitted to participate without full payment of fees.

Fees are $85.00 for one child.

$75.00 for sibling

$50.00 for each subsequent sibling

$45.00 for under 6s

Kidsport funding applies to this sport for eligible parents.

Parents/Guardians of under 6 and 7 athletes must be in attendance at all training and competition.

Fees provide for your child’s association fees, insurance protection, equipment, ground fees and access to qualified coaches.

PLEASE do not wait until the start of the season to register as it is time consuming on our registrar and makes it difficult to program and plan for the season.

Further enquiries and season newsletter available by e mailing pj.ross8@bigpond.com