please note these dates

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
9am to 2pm

Tuesday 25 September 9.30am and 6.30pm
‘The Little Prince’
A play presented by class 6/7 in the Hall

Thursday 27 September 10am
End of Term Violin concert in the Hall

Last day of term 3

Friday 28 September—no school
All Staff Professional Development at West Coast Steiner School Perth

Monday 15 October
1st day term 4

School Photos
School Photos are ready now, please pick them up in the Office!!

Verse 50 from Steiner’s Calendar of the soul
Thus to the human ego speaks
In mighty revelation,
Unfolding its inherent powers,
The joy of growth throughout the world:
I carry into you my life
From its enchanted bondage
And so attain my truest goal.

A letter to The School Community

As we look around the school we see much to be grateful for. A lot of hard work over the 25 years since our humble beginnings with a small group of 4yr olds has led our beautiful School to the brink of a maturing phase with two playgroups, 4yr and 5/6yr kindergartens and a primary school of over 65 children.

With this ripening has come a need to evolve the School’s management and governance structure; in particular to address a legislative need to separate administrative and governance roles. It is therefore generally agreed that the School would benefit from a new leadership position of School Coordinator (SC).

Over recent weeks a comprehensive duty statement has been drafted and accepted by the School Council and College of Teachers. This document reflects a range of objectives which, over time, will see our School positioned towards a new growth phase. This will be an exciting development out of which we can expect a fuller and more effective Steiner schooling for our children.

We envisage the School Coordinator role as one of collaborative leadership in which the educational support of teachers and the School generally are drawn together under a single person. As a part of the College of Teachers, the SC will be responsible to the School Council in addressing general education and administrative matters across the School. The role will also encompass such duties as marketing, parent education and grievance resolution.

These changes will be reflected in amendments to the GHSS Inc. Constitution and in due course a General Meeting will be called to ask for the Community’s support.

In 2013 we envisage the SC to also engage in Class 6/7 teaching duties. This has a benefit in allowing the SC to gain insight into our current community and its practices as a platform towards restructure.

We are currently advertising the position and hope the School Coordinator will commence later this year or early in the new school year.

Chris Robins Chairperson for the School Council
Silver Birch Kindergarten

The children continue to enjoy the rhythms of our days as we gladly welcome warmer spring weather into our Kindy. They have delighted in meeting the “Three Naughty Kittens” as part of our story, with a chance to hold and cuddle them before home-time. How lovely it was to share our morning last Thursday with Silvia and her playgroup families when they came over to visit us. Our bread rolls were eagerly gob- bled up with not too many crumbs left for the birds!

Special thanks to Silvia for helping to organise this and also for the wonderful knitted animals that she has gifted our Kindy. If any families are seeking more information on our mornings and would like to see our Kindergarten, please come along to our Spring festival/Open Day on 22nd September. Christine will be available to answer any questions and gladly show you around.

Blessings to you all, Christine and Sophia

Karri Kindergarten News

“Three brown bears in a cottage of their own, lived oh so happily, the forest was their home, Deep in the forest, they would walk their way stir the porridge in the pot, at the break of day”.

So begins our new circle, based on the well-known and loved fairytale of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears". There is lots of rhythm and movement in this circle, which is perfect for this time of the year, which is often turbulent and transformative, too. Although Lady Spring has made her presence known this past week, I don’t think we’ve heard the last from King Winter ....... there is bound to be more cold, wet weather to come. Please ensure your child has a sunhat at school for the sunny days, and a set of spare clothes in case they get wet on the rainy days. Our stocks of spares are down, especially in the pants department, so please send back any that have found their way to your place. While we’re on the subject of clothing, it is preferable for children to be as independent as possible, with dressing especially with putting shoes on, so please choose shoes with this in mind! Most of the children are coming along dressed in accord with our clothing policy, although I have noticed a few with "cartoon" pictures, on their tops so for a reminder, this is what is stated in the kindergarten handbook...... "In keeping with the environment we are creating in the kindergarten we ask that you please dress your child appropriately in plain or patterned (e.g. spots, stripes, floral, checks) rainbow-coloured clothing. Please no T-shirts with logos, writing or images on them, black, fluorescent or "camouflage" clothing. Jewellery should be kept to a minimum, and nail polish, fake tattoos etc. are not appropriate for young children.........." By providing an environment that is free of commercial images, we are allowing children’s imaginations to flourish uninhibited by what "Disney" thinks a fairy looks like.

Sometimes children dress themselves, so perhaps if this is the case, they could have separate drawers for "kindergarten clothing" and "weekend clothing", so it is easy for them to choose appropriate clothing. One of our kindergarten parents last year found this system worked well for her girls... they even had colour-co-ordinated piles for each day of the week! Each day of the week is associated with a planet, which relates to a colour, and some parents choose to dress their children accordingly (of course this is completely up to you!). Just in case you would like to narrow down the choices in this way, here’s a list: Monday- Moon- Violet, Tuesday- Mars- Red, Wednesday- Mercury- Yellow, Thursday- Jupiter- Orange or Turquoise, Friday- Venus- Green

Warm wishes, Denise

News from Class 1

Last week we saw the end of our Math main lesson and we said goodbye to the gnomes once again. They will come to visit the class again next term. On Friday we went on an excursion. We walked from the playground by the river in town following the path along the river. We crossed the bridge near the inlet and followed the Denmark-Nornalup Heritage Trail until we reached the first hut. There we had a well-earned break and had our morning tea. We then made our way back, this time walking along the path on the opposite side of the river. Once back at the playground the children had a play before returning to school. Thank you Annett, Maddy, Gillian and Simone for coming on the walk with us. The walk was the introduction to our Science main lesson which will take us to the end of the term. We will explore the four elements of the world: earth, water, air and fire. During the walk we observed the various flowers that were blooming, we collected some rocks for our story, we smelled the various smells that were in the air, and we looked at how the water travels down the river. On Monday, the children heard the beginning of the story of Chloe, the fur seal which is coming to our shores to find a place to give birth to her pup.

Please remember that Saturday is our Open Day and Spring Festival. This is a school day which requires all children to be at school. I look forward to seeing you then. Yvonne
News from Peppermint Cottage Playgroup

A special thank you to Mark and Kanae who oiled our deck at the busy bee, and Liz who weeded our round flowerbed. The small pine outdoor play table went missing at the busy bee – has anyone seen it???

For our upcoming Spring Festival, playgroup will be open from 9.30am, with bread making as our main activity, as well as spring flower garland making on the verandah. If you are interested in joining, or have friends with small children who might be – why don’t you come along on Saturday morning – all playgroup leaders will be there to meet and answer all your questions.

During the last fortnight our Thursday group went on an excursion visiting the Silver Birch kindy for morning tea. It was a lovely sunny day, and we meandered our way past the veggie patch and orchard of the big school.

Silver Birch children and teachers welcomed us for morning tea with fruit and fresh baked bread. Everyone really enjoyed the visit, I had trouble enticing everyone back to peppermint cottage in time for the story to end our session!

We have also been making delicious apple muffins, here is the recipe:

2 cups self raising flour
1 cup whole meal plain flour (we used buckwheat flour)
2 tsp. baking powder
3 tsp. cinnamon
½ tsp. cardamom
½ cup brown sugar
2 red apples, peeled, cored and chopped finely
1 cup currants or sultanas
¼ cup sunflower seeds
¼ cup linseeds
3 eggs
1 ½ cups milk
100 ml vegetable oil or melted butter
140g apple puree

Grease muffin or mini muffin tins. Sift flour, baking powder and spices into a large bowl. Add sugar, apples, currants, seeds, and mix together. In a separate bowl whisk eggs, milk, oil and apple puree together.

Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and mix. Spoon batter into muffin tins and bake at 180 C for approx. 25 minutes This recipe makes 12 large muffins or many, many mini muffins (about 48!)

Next term, we will again be running sessions on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9.15am to 11.15am. We are also seeking expressions of interest for anyone who would like to attend Monday sessions.

With thanks, Silvia, Clare, and Theda

Lost and Found

There are a number of sweaters and shirts in the box next to the office, please come and have a look in case your child is missing any clothes. All uncollected items will go to the Op shop at end of term. We also found some kitchen ware left at the last Busy Bee. Please come to the Office to collect.
Class 4/5 News

A huge thanks to all those wonderful parents who came and helped out at the busy bee this morning- we now have sparkling clean windows and gutters and beautiful backdrop flats for our play :) We are so lucky to have such a supportive parent community.

Friday’s bush tucker walk was enjoyed by all and proved very interesting- who would’ve thought that bracken was a remedy for bee stings, or that Marri sap cures stomach complaints? Or that swordgrass shoots tasted like watermelon?

We are currently in the middle of our Australian geography main lesson. The children are hearing the story of a class who are travelling around Australia (who funnily enough seem to sound just like our class). Beginning in Canberra, our capital city, the class visited the Snowy Mountains and viewed Australia’s highest peak, before heading across to Botany Bay and hearing stories of Cook’s explorations. Next week come the convicts and a bit more on indigenous history!

A reminder that chocolate is not permitted at school in any form - please do not pack it in your child’s lunchbox (even as a treat) as it can create much lunchtime envy among other students! This also goes for lollies and chewing gum.

Also, please do not allow children to bring Ipods or mobile phones to school, even if it remains in their bag all day. It is just too tempting to take out and show to the other children. If your child has an important call to make, she/ he is welcome to use the office phone with the permission of the teacher.

The performance date for our play is looming- we are now counting down the days! Much of next week will be spent rehearsing. Please ensure that your child has got any last minute items needed for his/ her costume- if you are unsure of whether he/she still needs anything, please come and see me. Thanks to Belinda for making a fantastic pair of falcon wings.

Finally, it has come to my attention that violin hire is in fact compulsory. Even if your child does not take private lessons, learning the violin is an integral part of the Steiner curriculum and therefore your child needs to have access to his/ her own violin (even if he/ she does not practise at home). Please see Jude or Sabine to sign up for violin hire if you have not already done so. Of course, there is also the option of purchasing your own instrument- this can be done either through the classical music shop in Albany or online.

Have a great week, and I hope to see you all at the play on Thursday evening!

Eliza

Notes from the Council

We are very pleased to report that the WA Minister for Education has granted our School a renewal of Registration until end of December 2015. It is standard procedure to review all independent schools on a regular basis to ensure the quality of education standards.

Thanks to the teachers and all others who put in the hard work towards this.

Dear Parents/Guardians

The School has a Grievance Policy which outlines what you should do if you as a parent are concerned about any aspect of your child’s schooling. The first thing to do is to take up the issue with your teacher. If for any reason you find this a little daunting you can ask for help and support from the Parent Advocate who has been appointed by the school especially for this purpose. This year the parent advocate is Ilan Trom (Asher from class 4’s dad) and you can call him on 0421 784 187. All conversations will be treated as confidential. A copy of the Grievance Policy and flow chart what to do is available in the Office.
**Class 6/7 News**

It seems Spring is here at last (who knows with Denmark weather though) and the warmth feels like a new lease on life with the birds busily twittering and the flowers blooming to greet the new season.

With the term quickly coming to a close, the next two weeks will be busy indeed with our class play, open day and an excursion to Albany.

We are all working hard rehearsing our play ‘The Little Prince’ and we are discovering how many layers there are to putting on a theatrical production: learning lines, ongoing rehearsals, costumes, props, lighting etc. and constantly refining different aspects as we proceed along the journey of bringing the story-characters to ‘life.’

The children are embracing their roles and all associated challenges with enthusiasm, dedication and perseverance, therefore, I invite you all to come along to watch and support their performances and to discover the wonder of the ‘The Little Prince’s’ journey which is applicable to all our lives.

Performance Dates: Tuesday 25th September 9.30am and 6.30 pm

Next Wednesday, we’re going on a day excursion to Albany where we shall be visiting the Brig Amity, the Old Goal and Patrick Taylor Cottage.

Thanks to all those who turned up for busy bee as I see many crystal, clear, clean windows and the grounds look fantastic.

Have a wonderful week!

Ben Mackenzie

**Craft Group News**

Our last meeting for the term will be THIS Friday, 21st of September, 9.15am to 12pm. We are making small toys and building blocks out of wood.

Please come along, it will set you back a gold coin donation plus some extra occasionally for shared materials. Everyone is welcome – no crafting experience necessary!

I’m thinking of organizing a Waldorf doll making workshop for next term in time for Christmas – it would be a 7 week commitment. If you are interested in this, could you please let me know.

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

**Market Day! Market Day! Market Day!**

Our last market for this term will be at Saturday’s Spring Festival from 1.15pm onwards.

The tea/coffee and cake stall will run all day from 10am to 2pm. The kindergartens are aiming to raise the remaining money for their new flour grinder. Parents of Karri and Silver Birch kindy please remember to bring along a sweet food item to sell at the stall.

Please support this fundraising on the Spring Festival day, have some cake, a cuppa and a chat!

Market stalls are again being offered at $5 each. Market stalls can be set up from 12.45pm on the Saturday. Please spread the word – if you know anyone or are someone with something to sell - Fresh produce, craft, food – let Silvia know.

Remember - All help with the Spring Festival contributes to your FPS hours – please let your class rep know if you can assist! People who so generously helped a fortnight ago, please remember to claim the FPS hours with your class rep too!

Keep your eyes peeled for market days in term 4!

Cheers, Silvia 9848 3738 or 0435 006 228 Spring Festival – 22nd of September 9am to 2pm – see you there!
Garden Song
CHORUS:
Inch by inch, row by row
Gonna make this garden grow
All I need is a rake and a hoe
And a fertile piece of ground
Inch by inch, row by row
Someone bless these seeds I sow
Someone warm them from below
'Till the rain comes tumbling down
Pullin' weeds and pickin' stones
Man is made of dreams and bones
Feel the need to grow my own
'Cause the time is close at hand
Grain for grain, sun and rain
Find my way in nature's chain
Tune my body and my brain
To the music of the land
CHORUS
Plant your rows straight and long
Temper them with love and song
Mother Earth will make you strong
If you give her love and care.
Old crow watching hungrily
From his branch in yonder tree
In my garden I'm as free as that feathered thief up there.

With a Song of Joy
With a song of joy the buds shall break, with a song of joy the seeds shall wake
May the song of joy be the song that you sing in your heart. With a heart.
Joy will be the song, joy will be the song, joy will be the song in my heart.
Joy will be the song, joy will be the song, joy will be the song in my heart.

Round and round
Round and round we go
We hold each other's hands; we weave our lives in a circle.
The love is strong and the dance goes on.

Maypole song
Here's a branch of snowy May, a branch the fairies gave me.
Who would like to dance today with the branch the fairies gave me?
Dance away, dance away holding high the branch of May

Spring is coming
Spring is coming, Spring is coming, birdies build your nest. Weave together straw and feather each one doing your best. Spring is coming Spring is coming, flowers are coming too. Pansies, lilies, daffodillies, now are coming through. Spring is coming, spring is coming, all around if fair. Shiver, quiver on the river, joy is everywhere.