please note these dates

Monday 3 December
P&F Meeting at 1.00pm at Mrs Jones Café
Karri Kindergarten Meeting at 3.00pm

Tuesday 4 December
Kindy 4 parent meeting at 12.45pm

Tuesday 4 and 11 December
After School Markets at the School Hall

Thursday 6 December
Early Childhood Open Day 9.30am to 12.30pm
Sacred Earth Concert and Fundraiser for GHSS at the School Hall

Tuesday 11 December
Class 2/3 Play “Esther, Star of Persia” at 10am in the School Hall

Wednesday 12 December
3.15pm Council meeting

Advent

Each year, Advent begins on the Sunday nearest to November 30, St Andrews Day. This saint was renowned for his selflessness, and it is he who stands at the doorway through which we approach the deep mystery of God's Gift, reminding us that to receive can be a selfless deed. This year, the first day of Advent falls on Sunday December 2nd. When the cycle of the natural year comes to a close, the festival of Advent opens a new Christian year. One dictionary defines the word 'Advent' as: "the coming of an important person or event". If we are expecting visitors, or an important occasion is approaching, we usually like to prepare ourselves. So Advent is more a time of making ready than for a celebration.

A traditional advent wreath can easily be made with pine boughs. The candles can be lit at meals or story times (One candle in the first week of Advent, two candles in the second week, and so on), bringing a glow to the room and the heart. The first week of Advent honours the mineral kingdom: the earth, rocks, stones, and essential minerals and elements which make up our land and bodies. The second week of Advent is a time to celebrate the plant kingdom, the third signifies the animal kingdom and the fourth light of advent is the light of humankind. Best wishes for a happy Advent season!

The Calendar of the Soul, week 7

My self is threatening to fly forth,
Lured strongly by the world's enticing light.
Come forth, prophetic feeling,
Take up with strength your rightful task:
Replace in me the power of thought
Which in the senses' glory
Would gladly lose itself.
**News from Karri Kindergarten**

The end of the year is fast approaching and our preparatory children (six-year-olds) have been experiencing the big school, spending some of recess time in the playground most days and visiting Class One. They have each completed their beautifully stitched needlebook, received a needle and six pins and are working on standing puppets. A reminder to parents of these children to collect some gold cardboard to make a crown ready for graduation day, Tuesday, 18th December.

The waiting time is almost here! Sunday, 2nd December is the first week of advent. At kindergarten we will celebrate on Monday 3rd December, lighting the first candle in our wreath, and ask each child to bring a gift from the mineral kingdom on that day to place on our table. This could be a pebble, crystal, seashell, etc. Please see separate note about advent for further details.

Karri and Silver Birch Kindergarten parents are warmly invited to our last Parent/Teacher meeting for the year, also to be held this coming Monday, 3rd December at 3pm. At this busy time of the year, we will have an opportunity to come together, share a cuppa and nibbles (made by the children), and talk about ideas for soulful celebrations of the festive season. There will also be a chance to create a (very simple, I promise) hand-made gift for a child. Please let me know if you are intending to come along so I can prepare materials. Child-care will be provided. Please bring a snack for your child.

Warm wishes,
Denise

**Silver Birch Kindergarten**

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST 2013. We are looking for students who turn four next year. If you would care to visit our Kindy kindly speak with Sabine, organising a time to suit.

Clare’s Playgroup is visiting next Tuesday with an Open Early Childhood Morning Thursday 6 December

Silver Birch Kindergarten has a parent meeting Tuesday 4 December commencing at 12.45pm. Please bring lunch for your child. Sophia will organise a picnic lunch on the lawn for the children.

**News from Class One**

Play! Play! Play! The last couple of weeks the class has been practicing their play. Oh, what a joy to watch their excitement and their eagerness to learn their parts. Now we are nearly there: on Friday afternoon they will be ready to present their play to their parents.

This term the children heard the story of a tree which had needles instead of leaves. It so wished to have leaves but, upon receiving them, realized that it was happier with its needles. Leaves have been the subject of our painting lessons, where the children explored painting leaves in different colors: green, orange, yellow and brown.

Advent is not far away and we will make an advent wreath for our classroom before the end of the week. We started baking our first Christmas biscuits during our cooking lessons: Zimtsterne and Basler Brunzli (some of the traditional Swiss Christmas cookies) have been on the menu so far. There are a few more to explore.

A big thank you to the parents who cleaned the classroom windows at last Busy Bee, this is much appreciated!

Yvonne

**Class 2/3 news**

"Round and round the seasons fly and a year soon passes by ‘goes the line from our play ‘Esther Star of Persia’. Not long to go now and you will all be able to see the fruits of our labour. The children are doing such great job learning their lines with the help of their families and on Tuesday 11 December at 10.00 all shall be revealed. Please join us.

In the class garden Neal and the children have been enjoying the fruits of their labour with a harvest of potatoes and oats which the class had planted as part of the gardening main lesson earlier on in the year. It is always a thrill for the children when they are able to pick something they have grown themselves and also to watch the stages of development from a seed to a bud to blossom and then a fully grown plant producing food for us. It is also a thrill for me as a teacher to see the same process taking place with a production of a play. The children are at the blossom stage just now and over the next two weeks we will see them grow to full flower. Parents can help with this by giving the children lots of rest times not too much of a busy schedule and good nights sleep.

Warm regards
Mary Lou

**Class 2/3 Play**

Everyone is invited to attend the Class 2/3 play to be held on Tuesday 11th December at 10am in the school hall. The play is called Esther Star of Persia and is based on the Old Testament Book of Esther. It is a classic and moving story. We hope to see lots of people there on the day to support the class and fill up the seats in the hall. Its a marvellous play with lots of singing, dancing, and speeches which you are sure to enjoy.

Mary Lou
Toys at School
In the last few weeks children in class 2/3 have been bringing toys in their bags which are inappropriate for school. Please assist by ensuring that these toys remain at home. Thank you for your assistance.

School Fees for 2013
School fees will increase by 4.5% in line with the Australian CPI in 2013.

Family Participation Scheme
The Family Participation Scheme is at present being revamped and you will hear more about this in the near future.

Please bring your FPS forms indicating your FPS hours for 2012 to the office by the end of the term. If you have no such form, we are happy to give you one. Thanks, Sabine and Maggie

Notice Board
Please make sure that you have Office approval before posting items on the Noticeboard. Thank you for your understanding, College of Teachers

Denmark Markets
We are looking for a person to organise the GHSS stall at the markets in December and January.

This will be a paid position. Please contact Sabine at the Office for more information.

P&F News
We will be doing a fundraiser for the school as part of the Sacred Earth Concert Thursday 6 December.

All families will need to provide a plate of savoury or sweet finger food. Please drop off at the Hall on Thursday after school. We also need 4 volunteers to help on the evening who will receive a complimentary ticket.

Please call Silvia : 9848 3738 or 0435 006 228

Doll Making workshop
I will be holding a short doll making workshop in the Class 4/5 room on Saturday 15th December from 9.30am-12.30pm. While I am not an expert at the craft and certainly don't call myself a professional dollmaker, I have muddled my way through quite a few of these dolls over the years and have found that they are simple enough to make - no previous doll-making experience required. Cost is $30 per person (includes materials for one doll) and participants will need to bring a light coloured child-sized sock. Please see Eliza to sign up or call 0414 866 707 for more information.

Eliza Allan
**Class 6/7 News**

In our Human Health and Hygiene Main Lesson we have been exploring the Digestive System (The Metabolic System). We’ve been learning the importance ‘rhythm’ plays in the process of digestion (our digestive system is a very good time keeper and reminds us when it’s time to eat) and the importance of taking our time and chewing our food well before swallowing otherwise the poor old stomach has to work overtime and leaves a rather unpleasant feeling.

When you eat and take pleasure in the taste and Sweetness of food, bear in mind that it is the Lord who has placed in the food it’s taste and sweetness.

You will, then, truly serve God by your eating.

-Baal Shem Tov.

We’ve also discovered that to be able to lead healthy, active lives, it is of paramount importance that we consume the right kinds of food in balanced proportions, i.e. the food that we consume needs to contain elements which provide us with energy: CARBOHYDRATES and FATS and as bodies require constant rebuilding, we need to consume substances which will aid this process in the form of PROTEINS. A homework assignment helped us to discover all the different types of artificial additives that are added to our food and that it’s wise to know what all those little numbers mean as a number of them are toxic to the body.

Last Friday we ventured out on an excursion to the Sandalwood Factory where Debbie Boon ‘gonged’ us into a peaceful state of bliss. Did you know that it takes over six months to make one of those gongs and if they make a mistake in making of it, they have to start all over again. We then had a mini tour where we smelt the many varieties of oil and we are now all connoisseurs in detecting quality sandalwood oil. The day was finished off with freshly made scones, jam, whipped cream and a mug of hot chocolate thanks to the generosity of Debbie Boon-a wonderful day was had by all!

Have a wonderful week!

Ben Mackenzie

**Graduation Update**

Our final term is quickly flying by, therefore, ‘Graduation Day’ for our graduating students is close at hand. The following students will be leaving GHSS and moving into high school next year: Caitlin Chappell, Willa Ryan, Indianna Marteene Chen, Ava Lyas and Jayden Samut. Graduation Day is the last day of term, Wednesday, December 19th and the ceremony shall begin at 11am.

- Acknowledgement to country by Christine Blamey
- Opening address by a Council member
- Speech by Class 6/7 teacher Ben Mackenzie
- Graduates presentation of certificates/presents/roses by Class One
- Graduate speeches
- Class 6/7 musical presentation
- Regis’ musical presentation
- Christmas carols by all
- Picnic lunch (each family brings own lunch to share)

Children may then leave school with parents by letting their teacher know first.
News from Peppermint Cottage Playgroup:

On Thursday the 6th of December Playgroup, Silver Birch and Karri Kindergartens will be holding a combined open day from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

The morning will begin at Peppermint Cottage Playgroup with an activity and morning circle songs and rhymes, will move onto Silver Birch Kindergarten for morning tea (fruit and fresh baked bread), continue with outside play while parents can ask questions and converse with the teachers, and conclude with a puppet play at the Karri Kindergarten.

This will be a great opportunity to see all the school’s early childhood facilities in action, and to meet and converse with the teachers and assistants. If you are thinking about enrolling your child for playgroup or kindergarten in 2013, please come along! The open day is completely FREE to attend, but places are limited, so please book your spot with Sabine in the office – 9848 1811 or in person.

Thursday playgroup regulars – please note the longer session on that day (until 12.30pm).

If you have any friends or family that might be interested in our early childhood facilities, please spread the word – Word of mouth is our best advertising!

Peppermint Cottage Playgroup, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30 to 11.30am

With thanks, Silvia, Clare, and Theda

Market Day! Market Day! Market Day!

Markets are continuing on TUESDAYS after school 2.45 – 4.30pm until the end of term:
Tuesday 27th of November – Class 1 Fundraiser
Tuesday 4th of December – Class 6/7 Fundraiser
Tuesday 11th of December – Class 4/5 Fundraiser.

Please contact me if you would like a stall, or have friends/family that would like one - $5 each – looking for fresh produce, craft, art, food...

The last market raised $140 for Class 2/3.

Remember - All help with the markets contributes to your FPS hours – and many hands make light work, please let your class rep know if you wish to assist!

Cheers

Silvia

9848 3738 or 0435 006 228

Please come and support the Tuesday markets!!!
Class 4/5 Nowanup Camp Bookwork

Highlights of Nowanup Camp

On Monday 11th November, our class took a trip to the Nowanup Campsite. We were very excited and packed our bags. When we arrived, we were greeted by a friendly lady. She gave us a tour of the camp and showed us the different areas, such as the campfire area and the nature trail. We then set up our tents and prepared for the night. That evening, we had a bonfire and told stories under the stars. It was a magical experience.

The next day, we explored the surrounding bushland and went on a nature walk. We saw many interesting animals and plants. We also went on a scavenger hunt and collected interesting items from the bush. That afternoon, we relaxed by the lake and had a picnic. It was a perfect day.

On the third day, we went on a kayaking trip on the river. We paddled down the river and saw many beautiful waterfalls. It was a thrilling adventure. That evening, we had a campfire and watched the sunset. It was a perfect end to our trip.

Overall, the trip was a wonderful experience. We learned a lot about nature and had a lot of fun. We can't wait for our next trip to Nowanup Camp!
School pledges a commitment to childhood

By Silvia Lehmann

Golden Hill Steiner School provides one of the best possible starts to children’s schooling, and the town of Denmark is lucky to have viable alternatives available to parents of kindergarten and pre-primary aged children.

At Golden Hill the emphasis of your child’s education is firmly on allowing your child to have a childhood. We are committed to growing strong, happy, and intelligent learners – eager to absorb knowledge in a state of readiness and maturity to do so, rather than stressed children overwhelmed by tasks from too adult a world.

At the Silver Birch Kindergarten (for 3 and 4 year olds) and Karri Kindergarten (for 5 and 6 year olds) children are allowed to climb trees, sit on their teacher’s lap for a cuddle, help the kindergarten assistant wash the dishes, and explore the wonder and beauty of giant puddles made by the rain.

The Steiner kindergartens provide a supportive and nurturing play space for the children in their care, that is infused with beauty both inside and outside. Toys and play equipment are all made from natural materials and seek to foster the children’s very active imaginations.

Many studies point to the real value of learning early concepts of literacy, numeracy, as well as social and emotional skills, entirely through playful activities such as singing, music, craft, drawing, verses, movement and story. The two kindergartens at Golden Hill Steiner School offer a genuine play based approach to early learning – meaning that children are not pressured by any formal learning concepts. Rhythm, rhyme and repetition form the backbone of the structure for the day, with children given a chance to breathe in (more formal circle time, craft, cooking, and story) and to breathe out (outdoor unstructured playtime).

Flexibility in attendance enables the needs of individual children to be catered for.

Importantly, the WA Minister for Education, Hon. Peter Collier, has granted WA Steiner schools an exemption from compulsory full-time pre-primary attendance (coming into force in 2013), to be used with discretion according to individual children’s needs. If your child is struggling with full-time compulsory schooling at the age of 5 the Golden Hill Kindergartens may be the legitimate alternative you are seeking.

A central aspect of Steiner philosophy is to allow the young child to unfold and grow through self-directed play and simple, homely activities, and to begin formal schooling in the seventh year, when they are truly ready.

In the primary school years Golden Hill Seiner School is committed to teaching the new Australian Steiner Curriculum Framework (ASCF). The Australian Steiner Curriculum Framework has been approved in 2012 by the Federal Government as a viable alternative educational framework. This means that although the age of your child may vary at which some content is covered, the Federal Government guarantees that children taught in the ASCF will graduate from primary school with the same educational standard as those children taught in a state school system.

This is real peace of mind that gifting your child with some extra years of playful childhood will at worst have no repercussions, and at best will have enhanced their future academic, social, and emotional development.

If you believe your child deserves the best possible start to schooling, free from the pressures of full-time and abstract concept learning too early, the Golden Hill Steiner School represents a nurturing alternative to early childhood and primary schooling in Denmark.
Continued from page 6

The Early Childhood facilities at Golden Hill will be holding an open day on Thursday December the 6th, from 9.30am to 12.30pm. The morning will begin at Peppermint Cottage Playgroup (for children 18 months to 3 years) with an activity and morning circle songs and rhymes, will move onto Silver Birch Kindergarten for morning tea (fruit and fresh baked bread), continue with outside play while parents can ask questions and converse with the teachers, and conclude with a puppet play at the Karri Kindergarten.

This open day is FREE to attend for interested parents and children aged 18 months to 6 years, however places are limited so please register your interest ASAP with Sabine Blankner: on 9848 1811, in person at 222 Scotsdale Rd, or via e-mail: steiner@denmarkwa.net.au

The school also has a website: www.goldenhill.wa.edu.au

Enrolments are still being accepted for 2013 for Playgroup, Silver Birch and Karri Kindergartens, and Primary classes. There is currently a waiting list for classes 5,6, and 7. For further enquiries, or to arrange a personal school visit please contact Sabine as above.

Fiddling news

Here is list of fiddling performances to celebrate the end of the year.
Wed 28th Nov . 5pm at uniting church. Please be there at 4.40 pm. A $5 donation would be appreciated.
Thurs 29th Nov . Class 4/5 perform at Denmark hospital. Leaving at 10 am.
Thurs 6th Dec. Class 6/7 perform at Denmark hospital. Leaving at 10am
Sat 8th Dec from 10.30 -11.15am Performance on main stage at Denmark markets. Please be there at 10.10 am.
Thurs 13th Dec. 5.30 - 6.00pm performance at Xmas pageant. Main stage on Strickland St.
Please be there at 5.10pm
Tues 18th Dec at 1.30 pm. Final concert at Steiner school hall
The children have a list of tunes they have been working on for these performances.
The children need to bring their violins
If you have any questions please contact Jude on 0409 110 645

Everyone is invited to join us at the RSL Hall, for
NOELLENE’S FAREWELL PARTY
SAT 8TH DEC
12PM
We have all been touched by her tireless efforts to pass on the joy of dance over the years.
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SAY THANK YOU
Please bring a plate, some flowers and a donation for Noellene’s present.
We need helpers to make this happen. If you are interested in helping please contact, Claire: 0400 271 06 or Nani: 0405 443 790
Global Hive
Bee crisis and compassionate ecology by Horst Kornberger

Horst Kornberger writes,

“This was a book that needed to be written and because no author took it up, it chose me. I’m not an expert on bees and yet have written on their collapse. Perhaps it was this lack of expertise that allowed me as an artist to see the obvious in the maze of facts. In this book I have plotted the link between the history of science and modern bee keeping. The facts I encountered tell a riveting story and this story resolves the mystery behind colony collapse. But this book is not just about bees. The bee-crisis is a master metaphor for the world-crisis in which we are all involved. Ultimately, Global Hive is about paradigm-change and imagination. It is about the possibility of a new science that knows through relatedness, and a new civilisation built on compassion and care.

The book is self-published and available in hardcopy through Amazon and as an e-book through Kindle. I trust in the global hive of friends and like-minded people who find this book useful. If you are one of them please help the book to find its way into the world through your social media networks.


Honeyclock News
Creative nourishment for our time

Advent Calendars & books have arrived & our shop is full of Christmas - a different kind of Christmas, one with ritual, rhythm, heart warmth & reverence. You will find gifts to nourish, inspire, uplift & awaken.

Our Coffee Nook is now OPEN with great coffee, chai, teas & locally made organic tummy treats. We also have tables & chairs for you to sit, relax & enjoy a different pace at this busy time of year.

Christmas & Holiday Hours

Extended hours will begin on Monday 10 Dec(see below for details) We will then be CLOSED from 25 Dec, reopening again Tuesday, 8 Jan.

Christmas wishes

We wish all of you holiday breaks full of pyjama plodding, belly laughs, daydreaming, nourishing food & conversation, and gentle company. Thank you for your support over 2012, we appreciate & value you all.

The Honeyclock
Shop 7, 3 La Fayette Blvd, Bibra Lake 6163
(08) 9434 1944

Extended hours from Monday 10 December Mon - Wed & Fri 8.30 - 5.00
Thurs 8.30 - 6.30 Sat 9.00 - 5.00 Mon 24 Dec 9.30 - 2.30

Check our website for upcoming workshops in Term 1, 2013