**Important dates...**

**Friday 8 March**

School market at the hall
3pm to 5pm

**Busy Bee Saturday 16 March 16 March 9am - 12noon**

Please bring: Ladders, spades, buckets, brooms, window cleaning squeegees if you have... And some morning tea to share!

If you can participate please call Mark Jones who organises the tasks for the day on 0409 439 071 by 9 March to confirm.

**Friday 22 March**

Autumn Festival

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**From the School Coordinator**

The Shire of Denmark is working hard at the moment to improve Scotsdale Rd. Very soon the roadwork further up the road will be moving closer to town and therefore in a month or so be operating right outside our school. They are under a tight schedule to finish as much work as possible before winter and I pick we could have some quite difficulty manoeuvrinq, especially for the school bus, while it is taking place. Please be patient with them because the work will eventually be very beneficial for the school for several reasons. The first is that they are planning at the same time to extend the cycle/pedestrian path-way from the hospital out to our school - before July if possible. The second is that all the roading will be widened and properly kerbed and drained so that it won’t be quite so frightening when meeting a logging truck on the way to school. The third is that it is a fantastic opportunity for our school to smarten up our road frontage, certainly by clearing the weeds and the bracken and then adding some more appropriate planting, next we might be able to ease some traffic congestion by building separate entry and exit points allowing one way flow around the car parking areas and finally it might allow us to build an entry statement advertising the school with a proper gate that the last person on site will need to close every night. At this stage these ideas are just that – ideas Ilan, Chris (from GHSS Council) and I have thrown around while we explored options. I would now like to invite anyone else interested to talk to me about what you would like to see done along the road frontage. The opportunity of being able to use this big machinery while it is outside our gate is too good to lose, so I am sure we will be doing something.

On more mundane matters, can we remind parents that the children need picking up before 3pm? If you have not got to school by that time, all strays will be brought to the school office, including those who are hanging around the class rooms. It would be helpful, if you know you are running late, to please ring Sabine.

NAPLAN testing for class 3, 5 and 7 is around the corner and you, as parents/guardians, will be invited to allow your children to participate, or not, later this month. If you are unclear what’s best for your child can you please discuss this with Ingrid, Eliza or myself.

Next, we would like to emphasise how important the food you prepare with your child for recess and lunch each day is for their general well-being and learning. My interpretation of the anthroposophical view of digestion is that the harder our bodies need to work to break down the foods we eat, the more benefit we gain from their released nutrition. Measurements of a food’s Glycaemic Index, I believe, give a very similar message. I would like to suggest that items like Fruit rollups or the tomato sauce in Heinz baked beans are not that nutritious in this wider sense and could be given out more as a special treat than a regular item. I do understand that once a child has developed a taste for strong salty or sweet food, it is a very difficult habit to change. Finally, the teachers would like all parents to know that we don’t encourage children to swap food items. Most pre-teens are not really aware of the value of the food they have and are often very tempted by the green grass on the other side of the hill.
Finally can I give advance notice of Harmony Day on the 21\textsuperscript{st} March followed by the Autumn Festival the next day and that the school Council will be having its AGM in the not too distant future. I believe at least one Councillor will be stepping down, so we will be needing nominations. We all benefit from the positive contributions made by parents at these sorts of events.

Robert Gillman

\textbf{From Silver Birch Kindergarten}

It is amazing how quickly the time passes in the New Year, and here we are in week 5 already! How delightful it has been to know our little ones better as the term evolves.

Our mornings are busy, starting with a little outside play as the children arrive before coming into our activity which includes beeswax modelling (Tues), wet on wet painting (Wed) and baking bread (Thurs). The children then enjoy more imaginative playtime inside, important work for them!

Together we pack away to join again for our circle of singing, rhyming and movement. After all this hard work we enjoy a nutritious morning tea of organic fruit followed by our snack, using a different grain every day.

We would like to share our Tuesday snack recipe with you all to make and enjoy at home: Bon Appetit!

\textbf{Creamy Polenta}

\begin{itemize}
  \item 200 g instant polenta (ground corn), 120 g butter, 600 ml milk, Seasoning 100g grated parmesan cheese
\end{itemize}

Heat milk in a large saucepan without boiling and seasoning. Add Polenta a little bit at a time, whisking to prevent lumps. It may take time to thicken, keep to a simmer. When thickened, remove from heat, add the cheese and butter. Have a wonderful week!

Christine and Sophia

\textbf{From Karri Kindergarten...}

"Rosy apple, mellow pear, Bunch of roses she shall wear, Gold and silver by her side, I know who will be my bride"

Each week in kindergarten we take a break from our usual morning circle to sing and dance a traditional circle game. Singing games, like fairy tales, constitute an oral tradition which has been passed down through the ages. Originally the domain of adults, the singing games were eventually handed down to children and were played in the streets of villages, towns and cities. The tradition seems to be on the wane, but in the Steiner kindergarten the singing games still live and play an important role. Again like fairy tales, the singing games contain themes which touch on deep aspects of the human experience, both of individual development and of human evolution. In fairy tales these themes appear as verbal pictures; in the singing games, the elements of movement and form are added. As we walk a form, moving through space, we create inner pictures which are archetypal in nature."* I have found the children show a great enjoyment of these games, often asking for a favourite on the day of their birthday celebration, when they may choose for the group. Just as with fairy tales, traditional singing games resonate deeply with the little child, offering a connection to all that has gone before, and is yet to come!

On the subject of birthday celebrations...we are still searching for a delicious celebration cake, that is gluten, and preferably dairy-free, perhaps contains some fruit, and doesn't take too long to prepare or cook...not much to ask!! If you have a tried and true recipe that may be suitable, we would be very grateful. We are also still in need of a parent to collect our box of fruit from the Health Food Shop on Wednesday each week...let me know if you can help.

Thankyou so much to Belinda, one of our wonderful parents from last year, who has sewn a new set of painting aprons. She has also picked up some hessian, which now needs to be cut and sewn ready for the children's handwork projects. If you're handy with a sewing machine and can help out with this, let me know, Warm wishes, Denise

*Reference "Dancing As We Sing- Seasonal Circle Plays and Traditional Singing Games" Nancy Foster
Class 3 / 4 news

The class are enjoying their House Building Main Lesson exploring different types of housing and how each has evolved from what materials were available in that natural landscape. This helps the children develop a sense for the ways things were done and to have respect and appreciation for their own home. We are so fortunate in this community to have the first hand experience of homes made from diverse materials, there is much knowledge living within them already. It is great to see the children working together helping one another more and more in the classroom. Cooperation and reciprocal learning shows us the hidden gift that is offered when we extend ourselves outside the familiar circle of who, and what we know. It’s been great to see the children appreciating the qualities that others bring.

Arohanui Ingrid

Class 5/6/7 news...

A big thank you to parents for providing food/ help for the Brave New Works fundraising stall on Friday. I hear it was a big success. Egyptian dress up day also went well, the children all looked fantastic and enjoyed the novelty of it all. Please keep the costumes on hand as we may be needing them again for our play in term 3 :) The photos are just too fun not to share, so I have attached some with this email. The Class 6/7s also had their share of fun yesterday, with an excursion to the Nature Park/ Labyrinth with Robert.

Class 6/7 has commenced a Main lesson with Robert on World Geography and Class 5s will be commencing a Main Lesson on Decimals next week (although they will continue to hear some Egyptian stories). A friendly reminder that chocolate is not permitted at school :)

Regards Eliza
News from Peppermint Cottage:

In Thursday playgroup we sing some songs from other countries as part of our morning singing circle. Singing with other sounds is a wonderful way of stretching young children’s awareness of the playfulness of sounds our mouths, breath and bodies can produce. Unlike adults, they have not yet formed entrenched habits around sounds and meaning making, so they learn rhymes and songs through imitation – whether the song is in English or not!

Here is a Japanese lullaby about a red dragonfly that Kanae Jones and Yuma brought to us last year:

Yuya-ke koya keno
Akato-nbo
Oware-te mita no wa
Itsu no hi-ka

So far we have been busy with summery activities – planting some beetroot, baking bread, painting, washing the doll’s clothes, and making magic water flowers.

Playgroup sessions run on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9.15am to 11.15am.

Please come and join us!

The new parent and baby group on Wednesday morning 10am to 12pm has room for new members too. Please join in the fun and spread the word in the community about this new venture!

With thanks, Silvia, Clare, and Theda

Class One and Two News

Class One and Two have been learning beautiful folk songs, they really do sing like angels! Singing together unifies us as a group, it is such a lovely way to start and end the day. This week we have added in foot stamping and hand clapping to a song, I can really see that the class are finding their rhythm. We started our handwork project this week (with the help of some wonderful Mums), we heard the inspirational story of the ‘Rainbow Fish’, and are now stitching fish friends out of felt for a hanging mobile.

Feel free to come in to the class and say hello, and see what we have been up to. Chrystal

From Council

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. The parent advocate is Ilan Trom (Asher from class 5 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 showing what to do are available in the Office.

Parents and Friends Committee News

Our last meeting on Feb 26th was well attended – thank you!

The upcoming Autumn Festival on the 22nd of March is shaping up – you will be hearing about how you can help make the festival a fabulous event through your class reps very soon.

The P+F is in charge of organising the three main festivals of the year, plus various fundraising events, winter soup days, and creative ways the school can engage with the wider Denmark community. If any of this interests you, please come to our regular fortnightly meetings!

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday March the 12th at 1pm in the peppermint cottage. Please come and support us!

Your P+F committee

For further info please contact Silvia on 9848 3738 or 0435 006 228

Craft Group

Craft group will be held at Peppermint Cottage every Thursday from 12.30 to 2.30pm starting 7 March. Parents are welcome to bring their toddlers and babies.
It's Market Week

The first Markets last fortnight were a celebration of Summer’s bounty - big thanks to all those parents who shared their garden surplus and preserves, and to our children who provided the beautiful bunches of sunflowers and bags of cherry toms from the school garden. We also had seedlings, certified BD veg, organic garlic and even a live frizzle chicken! It was great to see people with arms full of produce picked that morning brimming with life. Also Class 5/6/7 added valuable funds to their camp savings with their arvo tea and busking.

This upcoming market on Friday 8 Feb will be hosted by class 3/4. We hope to add new season apples, macadamias, sourdough bread and whatever surprises appear. There will also be free kids activities with Sandra, mother of Luiza from Kindy 6 and her partner Brad who will be playing around on the oval with diablos and other circus stuff.

Last week I attended the first Transition Town meeting for 2013 to tell them what we’re doing and they have given us a big thumbs up - our school community market is part of a growing global movement towards future skills and food independence. So get involved as a stallholder or buyer and we’ll see you there.

Cheers Simone (Markets co-ordinator) simonecoleman@westnet.com.au ph 9848 1942

Items for Sale

As I will be moving to new Zealand I have some furniture for sale. Please call me for more information on 0429 910 159, Sabine. We will also have a Garage sale at 10 Bavin Street on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 March 8.00am to 1.00pm.

- Whirlpool big fridge excellent condition
- Chest of drawers and 2 bedside tables (tables need some painting)
- Small desk, beautiful wooden Balinese design
- Wooden square couch table
- A couple of nice rugs
- Wooden queen size bed base
- Queen size Futon mattress
- Bicycle

Lost

White IPod with black silicone case, taken to school without permission-then lost.Anyone who has found it please call Lena 0405 630 651 or leave at the office. Thank you
# Golden Hill Steiner School Calendar Term 1 2013

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