**Important Dates**

**Wednesday 20 March**
Council Meeting at 3.15pm

**Friday 22 March**
Autumn Festival

**Thursday 28 March**
Early Childhood Easter Festival at 10am

**Thursday 28 March**
Market at the Hall at 3pm

**Friday 29 March to Tuesday 2 April**
Easter break

**Tuesday 2 April**
Assembly at 9.10am

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**AUTUMN FESTIVAL**

On Friday 22 March we will celebrate the Autumn Equinox (see attached orange newsletter for details). Day and Night are of approximately the same length - in perfect balance - so we give thought to balance in our lives.

Denmark Summer was wonderful and long this year. Yet the early signs of autumn are evident... Now Summer is fading and the Autumn mood transcends. The nightfall descends a little earlier and in the morning a cool mist hangs over the valleys. Autumn has, since early times, been the time to fortify and strengthen in readiness for the coming outer challenges of winter - the long darkness, the cold and the wet.

The human soul too, may experience this struggle with darkness. The challenge to overcome confusion, anxiety, fear is expressed in many traditions through mythology and rituals. Often, these darker forces are symbolised with by the dragon (our own dragons), and there are higher beings revered for their ability to fight the dragon and protect humanity’s right to goodness and light. Most familiar to us may be the image of St. George and the Dragon.

Michael is the being who watches over the Earth and protects the light of goodness and love, his shining sword pointing towards the higher spiritual nature of humankind. Today, more than ever, we need the image of Michael, his strength, courage and goodness.

At this time we also give thanks for Nature’s bounty, harvesting the fruits of summer with gratitude. At our school we are also giving thanks for the gifts of our school community members. This year we have new staff who have come from afar, bringing many gifts to enrich the community. The Autumn Festival this year will celebrate the enlivening of Golden Hill’s etheric forces from this inpouring of positive energy.

**Meditative Thoughts for Autumn**

“It is true that spring is fair, and it is a fine capacity of the human soul to perceive the beauty of the spring, the growing, sprouting, burgeoning life. But to be able to perceive also when the leaves fade and take on their fall coloring, when the animals creep away — to be able to feel how in the sensible which is dying away, the gleaming, shining, soul-spiritual element arises — to be able to perceive how with the yellowing of the leaves there is a descent of the springing and sprouting life, but how the sensible becomes yellow in order that the spiritual can live in the yellowing as such — to be able to perceive how in the falling of the leaves the ascent of the spirit takes place, how the spiritual is the counter-manifestation of the fading sense-perceptible; this should as a perceptive feeling for the spirit — ensoul the human being in autumn! Then he would prepare himself in the right way precisely for Christmastide.”

Rudolf Steiner
From Silver Birch Kindergarten

Mist on the hillside,
clouds grey and white,
Autumn, good morning!
Summer, good night.

As Autumn’s cool mornings and mild clear-light days are upon us, it is a lovely season to observe. From our window, our Silver Birch tree waves its golden leaves at us for a little longer before its branches are bare.

We have been enjoying Christine’s story of a sunflower so much it inspired us to picnic nearby our school’s wonderful veggie garden, surrounded by its tall sunny sunflowers. What a treat it is to feast upon our fruit and fresh baked bread rolls as the primary classes play nearby, and give a friendly wave. With thanks to Neil, we have been lucky enough to enjoy fresh rockmelon, cherry tomatoes and plums from the veggie garden and orchard. How blessed we are!

One final BIG THANK YOU to Darcy and Kale Malata for their great help in our kindy garden during our first Busy Bee of the year.

Much gratitude also to Annett Forman, who along with Kate cleaned out our gutters.

Have a wonderful week and Autumn Festival.

Christine and Sophia

From Karri Kindergarten...

The Autumn festival will be held this coming Friday, 22nd March, and we invite those children (and their parents) who don’t usually attend on Fridays to join us at the kindergarten at 10am, when the dragon will visit and lead us to the harvest display. All of the children have been added to the groups for the activities, and colours to wear, so please check the P and F newsletter for details. We hope to see you there!

This year, Easter falls only a week after our Autumn Festival. It is a moveable feast, with Easter Sunday occurring on the first Sunday after the full moon after the Equinox. Karri and Silver Birch Kindergartens and Peppermint Cottage Playgroups are joining together for an Easter Festival, to be held on Thursday 29th March.

Everyone is invited to gather at 10am in Karri Kindergarten for an Easter puppet play. Afterwards, we will walk to the school grounds to hunt for eggs, and enjoy hot cross buns, made in the kindergartens, and fruit for morning tea. We warmly welcome all of our kindergarten and playgroup families to join us for this special celebration. Kindergarten parents are very welcome to take their children home after the festival, for an early start to the Easter weekend, but please inform the teacher first!

Warm wishes,

Denise

Class One/Two news

Autumn is upon us, and Class One and Two have been noticing all the wonderful changes that the new season brings. We are singing autumn songs and reciting an autumn poem. We swirled yellow and red paints around a page like falling leaves, then when it was dry we used autumn coloured wax crayons to do leaf rubbings. Each of us hunted for our favourite leaf for the rubbing, then swapped with friends to experience different textures, sizes and shapes. Autumn is such a magical season; I am excited to see what other changes unfold in beautiful Denmark.

Arohanui, Chrystal

Class 3 / 4 news

Thank you to all that helped with the Busy Bee over the weekend—your efforts are truly appreciated.

This week we are wrapping up our Building Main Lesson with clay modelling, but our project to extend the Bush Tucker garden will continue. This merging of the curriculum areas suits our unusual timetable well. Once more planting has taken place, the children will design and build signage so we know what is growing and how it may be of use, encouraging a greater interaction with the space and continuing conversations.

Look forward to seeing you all on Friday. Regards, Ingrid
Class 5/6/7 news...

First of all, I'd like to apologise to anyone who may have received a strange email from my email address last week. It appears that my email account may have been tampered with. I have since changed the password and it shouldn't happen again, however, it may be best not to open any emails from me if they have strange titles (I have no connection to 'Mums making $$$ from home!')

It has been an interesting week in Class 5/6/7, with lots of laughs and several impromptu drama sessions. We had a visit from Arabians 'Mira' and 'Mohammed' (who bore a remarkable resemblance to Carina and Imogen) and enjoyed some tricky riddles and brain teasers. Can you work out the following?

*There is a black cat in the middle of an intersection of a town painted completely black. Everything in the town is black. There are no lights on because a storm had knocked out the power. A black car with broken headlights was driving straight toward the intersection with the black cat, but when the driver reached the intersection, he was able to avoid hitting the cat. The cat did not move from the middle of the intersection. How did the driver manage not to hit the cat?*

Ask your child for the answer, or try this one from Olive:

*I can be quick and then I'm deadly, I am a rock, shell and bone medley. If I was made into a man, I'd make people dream, I gather in my millions by ocean, sea and stream. What am I?*

These more lighthearted elements of the week have been balanced out with some heavy duty brain power being harnessed in our Class 5 Decimals main lesson. We are right in the thick of decimals at the moment and will next be looking at how to use the division process to convert fractions into decimals (remember that?). This will be quite a challenge for some of the children and we have some very demanding material to work our way through over the next fortnight, so please make sure your child is getting plenty of rest and a nice full nutritious lunchbox to power those brains. The children will be having a Decimals quiz on Thursday to check their progress and understanding.

Homework has also been a fairly regular feature of this main lesson for many of the children. Some of the homework assignments will be (and are intended to be) quite challenging for the children. In school, as in 'real life', not all lessons or learning comes easily and we often have to push through difficulties to get to the light at the end of the tunnel, often experiencing a degree of frustration along the way, and thus making the euphoria of success even sweeter! Therefore, it is often not a bad idea to encourage the children to push through difficult homework questions on their own for a while before rushing to their assistance, even if they are complaining of it being 'hard'. All homework tasks are explained to children at school and examples worked through, but occasionally children are apt to 'forget how to do it' once they are at home, especially when it comes to problems which have just been introduced or that require several steps. In this case, it is a great habit for the children to flick back through their books and look at some of the examples and problems worked in class, and work out how the answer was arrived at. This habit will serve them well during the high school years.

I honestly do not have a problem with anyone ringing me before 8pm on school nights to discuss school matters. However, please be aware that I arrive at school quite early in the morning and often don't check my phone until the end of the day. Therefore, texts sent to me in the morning are generally not the most efficient way of communicating.

Regards, Eliza
News from Peppermint Cottage:

Two red apples hanging on a tree,
Two red apples looking at me,
I shook that tree as hard as I could,
Down came the apples –
mmm, they were good!

We are enjoying the cooler mornings of autumn at playgroup, and our activities, rhymes and songs have started to bend towards the new season beginning soon on the equinox.

All Playgroup and Parent and Baby group parents are warmly invited to participate in the school’s Autumn festival on Friday 22nd of March, starting at 10am. Please bring a plate of finger food to share and a piece of fruit.

The following week will be our Easter Early Childhood Festival, on Thursday the 28th of March, beginning at 10am at Karri Kindy with a puppet play, followed by an egg hunt and picnic. Thursday playgroup parents – please come at the usual time of 9.15am to Peppermint cottage. We will wander over to Kindy for the start of the festival.

With thanks, Silvia, Clare, and Theda

GHSS Autumn Festival

The GHSS Autumn Festival will be held this Friday, 22nd March. The festival will follow much the same format as last year, with school commencing at the usual time, and then everyone gathering by the peppermint trees at 10am for songs and story, followed by various autumn activities. Children may go home with parents after lunch at around 1pm, or can stay until the end of the day to catch the bus. More information on the festival and Autumn songs will be published in this Tuesday’s newsletter.

Sabine’s Farewell

Our gorgeous Sabine has resigned from the position of Office Administrator to relocate to New Zealand with her partner. Sabine will be sorely missed, but we welcome Sandra (Luiza’s mum), who took on Sabine’s role as of Monday. The school will be holding a farewell gathering for Sabine on Thursday afternoon (21st) at 2.30pm, outside the office. Parents are welcome and encouraged to join.

Assembly

School assembly is held every Friday at 9.10am (we rotate to a different class room each week). All parents are welcome to attend.

Easter Markets by the river - Denmark Arts

It appears that we will have a wonderful variety of crafts and produce to sell at the Denmark Easter markets in town as part of our camp fundraising project. Please send in your items for the markets by Wednesday 27th so that they can be labelled. Eliza

Busy Bee

Saturday’s busy bee was one of the busiest we have had for some time. Huge thanks go out to all those parents (and children!) who braved the weather and gave up their Saturday mornings to wash windows, remove cobwebs and clean gutters. And of course none of it would have happened without the coordination efforts of our wonderful Mark Jones, whose enthusiasm and organisation skills meant that the morning was a great success and everything went smoothly.
Parents and Friends Committee News

Markets are going well and the BOOKSTALL is going to be a regular feature of these. If you have books to donate for this, all funds raised go to the school. Also, if you have time to man the bookstall, please let Simone know.

A change of season CLOTHES SWAP is on Wednesday 5th April in the school Hall. Please, put aside clothes suitable for school that have been outgrown and bring to the hall, to take away some fantastic next size up garments! The more people involved, the better this will work! A separate information pack detailing all you need to know for the AUTUMN FESTIVAL will be coming to you as soon as possible. Thanks to all parents for their dedication and enthusiasm for the school’s activities. Our children are certainly thriving on it!

Best wishes, Lena Grayson

Library Committee

We have decided to revamp our school library and introduce a new borrowing system. This is a huge job which will require books to be catalogued, covered, stamped, coded, pocketed - the list goes on!!! Sharna (Caer's and Odhran's mum) has very generously offered her time and expertise to help with this project, but we need a committee to make it happen. Please let me or Sharna know if you are interested in joining the library committee. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th March from 9-10am in the library. Please register your attendance with Sandra in the office and let Eliza or Sharna know if you are interested in joining the committee. There is also talk of future fundraising projects to enable us to purchase more books and other library items - very exciting changes happening and a great thing to be a part of.

Good Bye

I would like to thank all parents, teachers, staff, Council members and of course the children for your support and appreciation you have given me.

It is such a joy to watch the children grow, to watch them have fun and play with each other and learn in this safe and nurturing environment skills for the whole life.

I am confident that Sandra will do a great job as the new Office Administrator, she has worked in schools as Teacher, School Coordinator and Counsellor for many years and loves being part of Golden Hill Steiner School.

With much love, Sabine
**Student Exchange Australia New Zealand**

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand is a not-for-profit secondary exchange organisation which is registered with education & regulatory authorities in each State and Territory.

Hosting an exchange student can be a truly rewarding experience. It allows a family to experience a foreign culture first hand, be exposed to a new language and pass on a bit of our own culture. They might even make a friend for life!

You can find out more about this organisation by visiting [www.studentexchange.org.au](http://www.studentexchange.org.au)

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**Lunch Box Idea Corner**

It can be difficult to come up with quick, nutritious ideas for school lunches, so our 'Lunchbox Idea Corner' will serve as a space to exchange recipes/ healthy lunchbox fillers. If you have any great sugar-free recipes or lunchbox ideas you'd like to share, please email to Sandra at steiner@denmarkwa.net.au so we can include them in the next newsletter.

Tahini Biscuits—from Eliza Allan

Ingredients:

- 6 TB tahini
- 1/3 C honey
- 1/2 sunflower/chia seeds
- 1 1/2 C rolled oats
- 1 tsp vanilla

Method:

Preheat oven to 180C. Stir together tahini and honey. Add other ingredients and mix well. Drop teaspoonful onto a baking sheet and bake 10 mins or until just beginning to brown. Watch carefully, they burn easily. Cool on baking sheet for a few minutes and carefully remove to rack to cool completely.

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**Soccer Registration Days 2013**

Thursday 21st March - 3pm to 5.30pm

Saturday 23rd March - 10am to 12 midday

VENUE: DENMARK RECREATION CENTRE

Full Payment is required at registration. Fees-SSG $50, Yr3,4,5 $95, Yr 6-12$110

**KIDS SPORT AVAILABLE** – Michelle will be available on Thursday 21st at Rego to process vouchers on the day. Health Care Card/Pension Concession Card or Letter from Doctor required.

**BRING OLD SOCCER BOOTS TO POSSIBLY SWAP FOR OTHER SIZES OR DONATE. OLD TEAM SHIRTS WILL BE FOR SALE AS TRAINING SHIRTS.**

Contact – Heather 0409 466 477 or Bernie 0418 959 710 for more details.