The Golden Quill

News from the School Coordinator

What a stunning Bush Dance on Saturday! So much work went into creating a great atmosphere, great food and the band was exactly right. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a good family night out. I am scared to mention names because I will leave someone out, but P & F you did yourselves (and us) proud. And the parents in Eliza’s class who produced such great food, then served all night – thank you so much. If anyone took photos, could you please send the school a couple (either email or printed).

The next item of really good news is that Rachel and Sam Williams were blessed with a new member of their family last Friday. Oscar and Rachel are both doing really well. Also, Sharna and Sean O’Sullivan have just had a baby boy and baby and mother are well too. Caer and Odhran are delighted! Thank you Karri Kindergarten and Class 3/4 parents who are rallying around and providing meals and support. Continuing on with the good news, we welcome Chenoa, Kai and Cedar Thrupp-Probst into our school. They have driven all the way from the Sunshine Coast just to come to our school – well not quite, Greg got a job here first. Then, we have a steady flow of new people applying to come to our school, which now means that we have had to create a waiting list policy. Please ask your nearest Council member for details after the next Council meeting.
Let’s make this the year when the school finally gets the numbers to begin single streaming.

At the end of May, our school will be performing at the Festival of Voice again. We are in the Civic Centre between 4pm and 6pm. The whole (primary) school will be singing and many will later be playing violin. Please put this date in your calendar. Also, put the next day in your calendar because Sean Burke will be beginning a winter lecture series. He will be speaking in our hall on the topic of “The importance of curriculum choices: Education of the senses” from 10:00 to 12:00 on Saturday, 1st June. He is a highly recommended speaker and will be returning at the end of June, July and hopefully August to continue the series.

Every school is known for trying really hard to do some things especially well. At this school, our core business is progress through the thresholds and literacy, numeracy, history and geography. We must do these subjects really well. Then there are other subjects that fit this day and age and region, and are ones we want to do well. Our school has, at the moment, two impulses that come into this latter category: gardening and music. For these subjects the school is doing as much as it is able to ensure that these are points of excellence within a Waldorf educational context. Performing at the Festival of Voice and purchasing a class set of violins are just two examples of how the school is serious about its commitment to this subject. Having students produce music (particularly with stringed instruments) is a key way to strengthen their inner discernment, which will have a direct effect on their ability, as an adult, to make skilled judgments (Is this a wise business decision, wise party to be at, etc.?). However, no skills are won cost-free. Top flight sports organisations understand this very well and have youth development squads and meticulous training programmes for adults and children. They provide the will when the trainee’s natural interest is flagging. At this school it is both the parents and teachers who keep monitoring the progress and encouraging the dedication. We can do this easily when the child has a passion for what they are doing. It is a real skill when the dedication required to go on is flagging. Up until the end of primary school, I would really like full support from the whole community to have the whole school capable of producing beautiful sounds. The world doesn’t need symphony orchestras in every village, but it does need adults who can make sensitive, moral decisions and music is a major aid for developing those skills.

Finally, it is approaching the first anniversary of Rebecca’s passing on (in October). The school has committed to building a memorial garden to her between the hall and Playgroup. I have asked a parent to take responsibility for developing a design for this and I would invite anyone who feels they have a need to contribute to please contact me as soon as possible.

Finally, a chocolate fish goes to the first person who can tell Sandra what change appears for the first time in this version of the Golden Quill.
Calendar of the Soul—Week 33

The world I see: A frozen, empty, barren wasteland it would be
Without the work my head and heart and hands can do
To heal its pain.
All things must die and then be born anew.
To help in this great task, that life be not in vain,
The world needs me.

News from Playgroup

As part of our parent education during the baby and parent mornings, we have invited Pam Rumble (mindful parenting educator) on Wednesday, June 5 from 10.30am to 11.30 am at the Peppermint Cottage. Pam will speak about simplifying our role as parents, building confidence and how mindfulness leads to empathy. Questions will be welcome. All school parents are welcome!

With thanks, Silvia, Clare, and Theda

News from Silver Birch Kindergarten

The shadows are lengthening in the kindergarten grounds and mud lives in our stream. This is a “wonder-filled” time for making cakes and pies. We have been changing clothes with frequency this term. All before 9.30am!

Our numbers are almost full on Tuesdays and Thursdays with new expressions of interest still coming to us. This is a very exciting time for GHSS. I noticed that new parents were made very welcome by those who have been with us longer. So many new friends here.

Today we are sharing our bread recipe with you all:

1 table spoon yeast          6 cups flour
1/3 cup honey                   1/3 cup oil
2 cups warm water           1 table spoon salt

• Stir together honey, warm water and yeast. Wait for it to become foamy.
• Stir in 3 cups of flour and let sit for about 45 min to rise.
• Stir in the remaining 3 cups of flour, the salt and the oil to form dough.
• Sprinkle flour onto table/board and knead until dough is firm. We then give the children a number of sultanas to bed into the dough.
• Form dough into rolls and bake at 160°C (325°F) for about 20 min, or until golden brown.

Enjoy! Christine and Sophia
News from Karri Kindergarten

“Walk to school, walk to school
What do I see when I walk to school?
Lots of leaves upon the ground
Make a lovely mulching sound
Lots of fruit upon the trees
I’ll pick an apple for morning tea
Walk to school, walk to school
As Autumn days are getting cool”

Some of us are looking forward to the completion of the dual-use path along Scotsdale Rd. so that walking to our school will be a safer option, let’s hope they complete it soon!

Congratulations to Aila and family on the birth of a new baby brother, Oscar, born on Thursday morning. We will organise a meal roster, if one isn’t already so look for it on the pin-up board.

This week we warmly welcome a new girl Cedar to our K6 group. We hope you and your family enjoy your time with us in Karri Kindergarten!

Kimberly (Poppyanna’s mum) has kindly offered to be our kindergarten librarian. Look out for some new books available for borrowing soon! Please just fill out the borrowing book before you take any books home, and ensure they are returned within two weeks. Thank you!

A very kind parent has donated some play silks which the children are enjoying incorporating into their play. They came from a shop, "Awe and Wonder" in Sanford Rd, Albany, which stocks a variety of natural play materials in keeping with Steiner philosophy.

Silver Birch and Karri Kindergarten parents are invited to our parent/teacher meeting for this term on Wednesday 29th May, 7-8.30pm in Karri Kindergarten. The evening will begin with the magic of a puppet play especially for parents, which will then be contrasted with a very different rendition of the same tale, followed by some conversation and a cuppa and cake to conclude the evening. This is our first evening meeting, and we hope as many of you as possible will be able to come along.

Warm wishes,
Denise

Soup Days

If you are interested for your child/ren to take part in the soup days each week on a Monday, don’t forget to fill in the slip sent out last week and return, or let Sandra know in the office. We are also offering a dahl and rice alternative, as well as the soup and bread.

The Hall Kitchen can be used to cook soup on your rostered day (which you can swap if it doesn’t suit you) and basic ingredients are available including onions, garlic, potatoes, stock cubes, lentils and there are some beautiful pumpkins that have been grown in the school garden.

Each week 3 participating parents are rostered on to cook and serve soup and dahl, with an extra support person from P&F to help out.

Ideas and feedback are always welcome! For further information, please contact Lena on 0405 630 651 or Emma 0405 475 437.

Many thanks and hope to see your children enjoying warm yummy soup throughout the colder months :)

P&F Committee
Recipe book

Just a reminder that our recipe book is still “under construction” and you are more than welcome to share your recipes. Please, leave a copy of the recipe in the office. Thanks.

Puppet Play

Kindergarten Parent/Teacher Meeting: Storytelling through the Puppet Play.

Wednesday, 29th May 7-8.30pm - Karri Kindergarten. All Welcome.

Redmond West Farm

Ilan and Karen will be selling organic beef in the beginning if June. This is an opportunity for a few families to get together and buy organic beef IN BULK at a reasonable price.

For more information call Ilan 0421 784 187

Markets

We have the next Market this FRIDAY!!! Come and enjoy the food, stalls and the activities for the kids. This Friday we will have a slack line for the children to have fun while practicing their balance.

Information about stalls, please contact Julie on 9840 9846 or juliesorganics@gmail.com

News from Class 1/2

Kia ora families and friends.

In Class 1/2 we have been enjoying learning string tricks and elastics games with verses. These are great activities for rainy days. Feel free to come and ask us to teach you a trick.

Have a lovely week,

Chrstal

News from Class 3/4

Kia ora families and friends.

In Class 1/2 we have been enjoying learning string tricks and elastics games with verses. These are great activities for rainy days. Feel free to come and ask us to teach you a trick.

Have a lovely week,

Chrstal

Redmond West Farm

Ilan and Karen will be selling organic beef in the beginning if June. This is an opportunity for a few families to get together and buy organic beef IN BULK at a reasonable price.

For more information call Ilan 0421 784 187

Markets

We have the next Market this FRIDAY!!! Come and enjoy the food, stalls and the activities for the kids. This Friday we will have a slack line for the children to have fun while practicing their balance.

Information about stalls, please contact Julie on 9840 9846 or juliesorganics@gmail.com

Scabies

We have NOT had any case of scabies in our school, but we have been informed that there have been some in town.

Scabies is a skin disease caused by an organism, the ‘itch mite’ (Sarcoptes scabiei var. hominis). It is smaller than a pin head and digs under the skin. Scabies is highly contagious and can spread by direct contact with another infested person.

Symptoms: Intense itching between the fingers or on the wrists, elbows, armpits, buttocks or genitalia. Exclusion: Infected children need to be excluded from school until the day after treatment has commenced. Should you require any further information, please contact your GP or the Health Department’s website www.population.health.wa.gov.au.

Please, tell Sandra urgently if you know of any cases in your immediate family.
News from Class 5/6/7

Hi everyone! The class sleepover last week was a big success, despite the lack of sleep! It was well worth it though. Thanks to Ingrid and Nigel (Ben's dad) for bravely staying over, Emma for firewood, Karen for soup, Kardi for popcorn, Anna for helping out with salad prep, Tim for making us the yummiest pizzas ever, Sophia for dropping them off and anyone else who helped out in any way, shape or form.

Class 5 is heading into their last week of Australian Geography main lesson - bushrangers are coming up on Monday! Look out for a project assignment sheet (for Class 5 geography) that will be making its way home this week. We will begin a short Geometry main lesson next week.

In our painting/drawing sessions on Monday afternoons, Class 5s have just completed a fungi watercolour painting and will be painting ferns this week. Meanwhile, Class 6 and 7 students are experimenting with charcoal (bowls, spheres, triangles, etc) and will soon be given the challenging task of drawing a positive-negative tree in charcoal. In Handwork, the children who are fairly new to Steiner are learning how to knit, and the 'old hands' at knitting have started knitting a beanie using the 5 needle 'knitting in the round' method. WE would LOVE to have some knitters come and join us either on Tuesday/ Wednesday afternoons - even more so if you can knit in the round. Please let me know if you are able to help out.

Festival of Voice is coming up and we will be devoting a fair bit of time to practise sessions over the next fortnight. Jude will also have the fiddlers performing at the FOV and has therefore asked all students to bring their violins along.

Please keep in mind that parent-teacher conferences will be held over the last two weeks of term. If anyone is heading away early, feel free to schedule an early meeting with me.

Regards, Eliza

Parent Education Seminar

Saturday, 1st June, 10am-12 pm at GHSS Hall Cost: Gold coin donation Everyone welcome!

“The Importance of Curriculum Choices; Education of the Senses”

Sean Burke is currently working as a teacher educator at Curtin University as well as an English teacher at Hakea prison. A published author, he has, amongst extensive teaching experience in a variety of settings, been a Class teacher at West Coast and Silver Tree Steiner Schools. This presentation will be the first of a winter series given by Sean.
Imagine a young child learning to stand for the first time. He has seen his older sister do it countless times, and he is determined that he, too, will stand and then walk towards the things that interest him. He crawls to the coffee table and pulls himself into an upright position, then his legs wobble and he promptly falls back onto his bottom. He pulls himself up again, and falls again. Again, and again. The wise parent watches without intervention, ensuring safety but not interrupting the learning that is going on. The child may become distracted at times, but he will keep trying until he is eventually standing solidly and walking confidently towards his interests.

At no time in this learning process did the child feel inadequate about his initial inability to stand and walk. He simply intended to stand and kept trying until he was successful. While he may have become frustrated, the young child does not possess the self-awareness to feel inadequate. He simply directs his will towards that which he wants to achieve, and, through trial and error, eventually gains mastery. As parents watching this effort, we might be struck by the vulnerability of our child or by his heroic perseverance, yet he isn’t feeling vulnerable or proud of his determination. He simply wants to stand and walk.

For the young child, inadequacy is a way of life. Fueled by curiosity and desire, he is continually learning how to manipulate his body and how to interact with his environment. Inevitably, in our culture there comes a time when a child becomes self-aware in relation to the rest of the culture and its norms. The child becomes aware of his inadequacy. Shame is born, and with it a sense of vulnerability. Metaphorically, this can be seen as “the fall” from the paradise of early childhood.

In Waldorf education, there is a conscious intention to delay this onset of self-judgment, a desire to “keep children young” so that unself-conscious desire for learning can endure. This is one reason that Waldorf educators hope to protect children from media exposure, where commercial content creates premature desires and judgments within children. This is a reason why Waldorf educators discourage the photographing and videotaping of children in their schoolwork and play—seeing themselves in pictures or on the screen awakens self-judgment; rather than remembering the joy of playing the lion in a second-grade play, the child watching a video of that play is likely to measure the quality of her performance against that of her classmates. This invites self-judgment; and feelings of inadequacy, vulnerability and shame enter into the young child’s life.

In our heroic culture, our common defence against the shame of inadequacy is to establish expertise. A ten year old who has yet to master riding a bike decides he “doesn’t like bikes” and becomes an expert skateboarder instead. He diverts attention away from the shame of his inadequacy and toward his expertise. As adults in this culture, we continually fix ourselves into areas of competence or expertise in order to protect against shame—and this stunts learning, which by its nature is dynamic, experimental and includes failure.

By focusing on what we know already—by becoming experts—we learn not to learn. As experts, we live only in the well-known. We do not explore the frontiers of our comfort zone, where learning—exploring something new and unfamiliar—necessarily occurs; instead, we remain in our defended expertise. Rather than learning, we end up static, repeating that which we already know.
Turning away from shame has become an entrenched neural pathway—biologically for individuals in our culture, and metaphorically for our culture itself. We default to our comfortable expertise without even thinking about it. Our aversion to the shame of inadequacy is so habitual that it creates a kind of trance state. This trance obscures the need to grow and learn. The trance blocks natural—childlike—excitement for the discovery of the unknown. It is as if the young child has decided he is content to be an expert crawler and denies any interest in learning to walk. We habitually settle for the static safety of familiarity instead of expanding through our inadequacy towards the unknowns where expansive learning lives.

In groups (schools, businesses, charter school development teams), expertise resides at the fixed centre, and learning—with its requisite inexpertise, uncertainty and inadequacy—lives on the periphery. A group tends to rely on the competence and confidence of its central experts. Group learning, however, is a dynamic process and is best served by the most sensitive member, often the most marginal or peripheral member, speaking about her sensitivity. This act names the shame that lies at the centre of the trance of expertise; once that shame is named the trance is broken, inadequacy can be explored and learning can occur for the whole group. The sensitive “inexpert,” much like a child, lives on the periphery of the culture—the frontier of inadequacy; when her process of discovering the unknown—learning—is shared with the centre, the whole group culture learns.

In our culture of expertise, the very process of learning has been scapegoated because it requires the dismantling of expertise, which brings with it exposure to the shame of inadequacy. Innovative charter schools are seen as experimental laboratories, whereas mainstream schools tend to be fixed in their established expertise. Charters live on the periphery of public education, pushing the boundaries through experimentation—and commonly experiencing inadequacy—in order to grow and support new learning. They are often scapegoated by the mainstream because they threaten the cultural trance of defended expertise. Charter schools inspired by Waldorf education are currently on the periphery of the traditional Waldorf culture, and their willingness to experiment on the edge can sometimes be seen as threatening.

Attuning our sensitivity to our own inadequacies awakens us to learning opportunities. When we feel ourselves pressing against our inadequacies, we are on the edge of something we do not know but are ready to learn. Rudolf Steiner, in founding the first Waldorf school in 1919, placed teachers outside of their field of expertise: the mathematician taught language arts; the artist taught science. Steiner believed that teachers striving beyond their expertise—or living dynamically with their inadequacies—would serve children as the best examples of learning how to learn. Whether we are educators, charter school developers, parents or mentors, we too can model how to learn by summoning the courage to live in the dynamic tension of our inadequacy. Expansion—individual and cultural—will be our reward.

Terri Ellis and Chip Romer were lead developers of Credo High School in Sonoma County, California, where Chips is currently Executive Director and Terri is a board member. For more information, visit www.credohigh.org.

Article from Waldorf Today magazine, May 2013.
Editor’s note: Charter Schools in the USA are given some state funding and then have to produce the results set out in their school’s charter. The degree of freedom for the teachers in Waldorf influenced charter schools is a hotly contested debate.
Perth Waldorf School
Perth Waldorf School
High School Journey and Beyond!

6.30pm Wed., 5 June
Perth Waldorf School Hall

This evening will include information about the PWS High School, an introduction to the High School curriculum, tertiary entrance details and reflections by past students and parents.

Tea, coffee and refreshments will be served.

SOUTH COAST LEARN FOR LIFE 2013
May to July—Winter Warmer Workshops & Opportunities

MAY 26th Sunday
Troubleshooting Problems In Your Veggie Garden with Neal Collins. Learn about getting the soil right, seasonal planting for the south coast and more. Bring along your own questions and let’s add them to the mix.
9.30 - 11.30am $35

JUNE 9th Sunday
Curious About Compost with Neal Collins. Learn about the matter and mixing tricks for magic compost. So yummy you may just want to dive right in!
9.30 - 11.30am $35

JUNE 15th Saturday
The Creative Journey with Annabelle Arnold. Dare to dream: an opportunity to look at your life from different perspectives, play with collage, explore creative opportunities, have fun and enjoy the journey in a supportive group environment. All materials and morning tea included. (BYO lunch) 10am - 3pm $45

JUNE 23rd Sunday
Time to Prune: Pruning Principles and Practice with Neal Collins. Learn the how, when and why of pruning. Get the facts and have a go. Location TBA. 9.30 - 11.30am $25

JULY 1st Monday
Garden to plate: Sourdough bread and pizza making with Louise Duxbury. From creating a sourdough starter to cooking and eating the loaf as well as making and sharing sourdough pizzas for lunch. No. 5 ‘The Wolery’, 9 Bell Road, William Bay. 9.30am - 12.30pm. $25

Bookings for Learn For Life Workshops call 9848 3310 or email denmark@greenskills.org.au

Dear friends,

Please see the flyer for the workshop that Teresa and I will be facilitating. Note that you don’t need any experience in moving, writing or acting in order to enjoy this workshop! We would love you to come both days, as the purpose of the workshop is to germinate some seeds for a new community performance project here in Denmark in the vein of ‘Unravelling: Denmark Stories’. The work from the first day will infuse the work on the second. If you’d really like to come however, and can’t for some reason do both days, we can probably accommodate you! Hope to see you at the workshop!

Kind Regards, Silvia Lehmann