News from the School Coordinator
With the passing of the solstice, we can now start wondering whether winter is more than half over. Thank you again to P. & F., the Winter Festival was a wonderful night and the stations set up around the lantern walk were a great touch appreciated by all. Thank you too to all the parents for the wonderful soup and apple crumble. Finally, we should mention how many people were impressed with the Cl. 6/7 students performing their poem so strongly and lighting the fire. Their performance was a highlight.

We have begun to collect feedback about all the school festivals and we would really appreciate you taking the time to write down the things that went well and things that you would like to see for next year. The form is at the school office, or you can just bring your written thoughts to school.

As the end of another busy term approaches we wish to say farewell to several students. Storm and Merlijn Heuvel will be returning to Bali (and Holland) while Leon Grayson will be attending Denmark Primary School for the rest of the year. We wish you all the very best.

The teachers wish everyone at the school a restful three week break and we look forward to seeing you all next term.

Thank you to all those parents who have contributed recipes for the forthcoming school recipe book. This will be a great school fundraiser and hopefully a fantastic resource for us all. However, we still need even more recipes to make it even better, so if you haven't yet submitted anything, please drop a recipe or two (or three!) into the office when you have a chance. Thank you.
**Important dates**

**Thursday, 4th July**
GHSS Musical Presentation starting 1:30pm at the hall

**Friday 5th July**
Last Day of Term
Finish 2:30pm

**Monday, 29th July**
start back for term 3

**Saturday 10th August**
Sean Burk’s nest seminar

**Thursday 26th September**
Term three finishes

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**News from the Office**

I will like to take this opportunity to thank the children, parents and teachers for being so welcoming to me. Everybody has been very understanding and friendly towards the new face at the office. I have really enjoyed and learnt so much over the past two weeks. Please stay safe and have a wonderful holiday.

Lucy Morris

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**Calendar of the Soul—Week 39**

Surrendered to my senses’ revelation,
I lose the urging of my own being.

The dream of thinking!
It appears---
dazzling me---
to rob my own self from me!

But in that sense appearance,
already fast approaching,
awakening me,
is---
cosmic thinking.
News from Playgroup

News from Peppermint Cottage:

Have you seen the wind?
Neither you nor I,
but when the trees bow down their heads,
the wind is passing by.

Well, term 2 is drawing to a close, and what a busy time we had at Peppermint Cottage: baking bread, planting seedlings and harvesting tiny beetroot, painting, making lanterns, singing songs, and celebrating a special early childhood winter festival.

We wish all our families a restful and rejuvenating winter break, and hope to see your smiling faces in the new term. Sessions will restart from Tuesday the 30th of July.

Our beautiful new brochure is out about town – please take a few to hand out during the holidays. We warmly welcome new families to all three of our groups.

With thanks, Silvia, Clare, and Theda.

News from Silver Birch Kindergarten

As this term comes to its close, I would like to thank all our families for your continuing care and support. Next term we will have a number of new families joining us. If you are considering more sessions please see me quickly as all sessions are filling quickly.

Enjoy the three week holiday break and do keep warm and playful.

Kind regards

Christine and Sophia
News from Karri Kindergarten

Most of the time slots for parent/teacher conferences have been filled, so if you've missed out, we can make a time early next term.

As the term comes to a close, we are all looking forward to a break. It's not a holiday for parents of course, although I hope you will enjoy time with your children, and a change from the school rhythm. It's a great time of the year to begin crafting some Christmas gifts, those cold rainy days are perfect to stay in and get busy making.

Some of the children have been asking us for our Friday recipe: Rolled Oat Slice. Here it is, just in time for some holiday baking:

1 cup rolled oats 1 cup sultanas
1/2 cup coconut
1/2 cup whole meal S/R flour
1/4 cup honey
1/4 cup oil
1 egg


Happy holidays!
Denise, Merveena and Clare

Reminder

SOUP DAY

Soup day will still be on Monday’s next term. If you haven't paid for this term or next, please drop into the office and do so.
Thank you P&F
News from Class

We have been enjoying nature stories about winter this week. These stories gave an imaginative picture of winter and why some trees lose their leaves, why there is less sun, seeds that lay dormant under the soil, and rivers that flood during Makuru.

Our winter poem:

*Golden light is turning grey,*
*Mists begin to rule the day.*
*Bare the trees, their branches lift;*
*Clouds of dead leaves earthward drift.*
*through the field the farmer goes,*
*Seeds of ripened corn he sows,*
*Trusts the earth will hold it warm,*
*Shelter it from cold and harm.*
*For he knows that warmth and light*
*Live there, hidden from our sight;*
*And beneath a sheltering wing,*
*Deep below, new life will spring!*

During our afternoon in the forest on Tuesday afternoon we got creative with glue, paper and nature. We made winter tree scenes, using twigs, dead leaves and moss.

Our knitted owls are coming along nicely and some are already sitting in our winter tree, while their babies are being knitted. I am happy to say that it seems I have a whole class who enjoys knitting!

Warm wishes,
Chrystal
News from Class 5/6/7

Hi everyone,

Class 5/6/7 has been doing lots of revision work on fractions this term and we've been gearing up for our quiz I will be sending a review sheet home on Monday with the children so they can revisit the concepts we have been working on in class and brush up for the quiz the following day.

The children in the 'spellers' group have been coming back to school with lots of reports of 'I did my words and got them all right last night!'. The students will be testing each other on their 20 words tomorrow and each 'speller' will be assigned another 20 words to study.

This term's music/violin concert will be held in the Hall this Thursday at 1.45pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

If your child attended the Spare Part’s Puppet show last Monday, please remember to pay the $7 cost at the office, if you have not done so yet.

Hope you all have a happy last week of the semester!

Regards

Eliza

News From P&F

A huge thank you to all the class reps and volunteers for making the winter festival run so smoothly and beautifully. It takes many hours to create all aspects of the festival from the magical lantern walk, to the Spiral in the hall, making apple candles, setting the bonfire, and of course making and serving delicious food. Special mention to the cleanup team – your work is very much appreciated. Thank you school community!

Thank you also for bringing in your winter festival feedback forms. If you haven’t found the time to fill in your feedback form yet, please do so before the holidays start – Lucy in the office has spare ones. Your feedback is invaluable to the P&F for planning next year’s festival to really suit our current families.

We will hold a meeting on the first Tuesday back at school, 12.30pm Tuesday the 30\textsuperscript{th} of July, at Peppermint Cottage. Please write the date in your diaries now. We will start discussing the Spring Fair/Open day and other ideas for the upcoming term. New faces are warmly encouraged! Thank you all for your support and enthusiasm, and enjoy the well-deserved break!

Your P&F Committee
Kwoorabup Community Markets at Golden Hill Steiner School

Well done all parents who have participated in the markets this term, through helping and through supporting the stallholders. Not only have we raised $553 but together we really are creating something wonderful. Last Friday’s was the biggest ever with a great range of stalls, and everything there just looked so appealing: bouncy green veg, rich raw chocolates, zingy citrus, traditional German gingerbread, golden honey, mellow tones of olive oil, creamy milk, wholesome cakes, snugly woollen handcrafts. Then there were the smells of chai, waffles and falafels wafting from the kitchen... On Saturday morning, as I sat down to a slice of Christy’s sourdough bread with Tracey’s Kefir cheese and Gavin and Sarah’s honey I thought, what a rich life I lead.

We are getting a lot more people regularly attending from outside the school,. These are people who probably wouldn’t come onto campus usually, but they are clearly are enjoying the diversity, creativity and beauty our school and the community of Denmark have to offer.

I am looking forward to what Term 3 brings along. See you at the Markets!

Simone

Ph 9848 1942 or email simonecoleman@westnet.com.au

Nurete Magazine

We have been kindly donated forty copies of the parenting magazine. Nurture Australia’s Natural Parenting Magazine. Nurture commenced publication in June 2012. They strive to have articles showing alternative, gentle ways of parenting. This also branches out into alternative schooling.

If you would like a copy please drop by the office and collect one.

Enjoy

Lucy Morris

Fire Winter Festival 2013

Lift To Perth
Available
Leaving Denmark
Monday 22nd July
around 12-noon
Leaving Perth
Saturday 27th July
after 4pm or
Sunday 28th July at
6am
Contact Anette For-
man

Accommodation
Required
Anette was hoping someone would know of any accommodation in the Bibra Lake Fremantle area for the dates above.

Please contact Anette on atomnett@west-
net.com.au
What Learning Cursive Does for Your Brain

Cursive Writing Makes Kids Smarter

Published on March 14, 2013 by William R. Klemm, D.V.M, Ph.D. in Memory Medic

Ever try to read your physician’s prescriptions? Children increasingly print their writing because they don’t know cursive or theirs is unreadable. I have a middle-school grandson who has trouble reading his own cursive. Grandparents may find that their grandchildren can’t read the notes they send. Our new U.S. Secretary of the Treasury can’t (or won’t) write his own name on the new money being printed.

When we adults went to school, one of the first things we learned was how to write the alphabet, in caps and lower case, and then to hand-write words, sentences, paragraphs, and essays. Some of us were lucky enough to have penmanship class where we learned how to make our writing pretty and readable. Today, keyboarding is in, the Common Core Standards no longer require elementary students to learn cursive, and some schools are dropping the teaching of cursive, dismissing it as an “ancient skill.”[1]

The primary schools that teach handwriting spend only just over an hour a week, according to Zaner-Bloser Inc., one of the nation’s largest handwriting-curriculum publishers. Cursive is not generally taught after the third grade (my penmanship class was in the 7th grade; maybe it’s just coincidence, but the 7th grade was when I was magically transformed from a poor student into an exceptional student). Yet scientists are discovering that learning cursive is an important tool for cognitive development, particularly in training the brain to learn “functional specialization,”[2] that is capacity for optimal efficiency. In the case of learning cursive writing, the brain develops functional specialization that integrates both sensation, movement control, and thinking. Brain imaging studies reveal that multiple areas of brain become co-activated during learning of cursive writing of pseudo-letters, as opposed to typing or just visual practice.

There is spill-over benefit for thinking skills used in reading and writing. To write legible cursive, fine motor control is needed over the fingers. Students have to pay attention and think about what and how they are doing it. They have to practice. Brain imaging studies show that cursive activates areas of the brain that do not participate in keyboarding.

Much of the benefit of hand writing in general comes simply from the self-generated mechanics of drawing letters. During one study at Indiana University to be published this year,[3] researchers conducted brain scans on pre-literate 5-year olds before and after receiving different letter-learning instruction. In children who had practiced self-generated printing by hand, the neural activity was far more enhanced and “adult-like” than in those who had simply looked at letters. The brain’s “reading circuit” of linked regions that are activated during reading was activated during hand writing, but not during typing. This lab has also demonstrated that writing letters in meaningful context, as opposed to just writing them as drawing objects, produced much more robust activation of many areas in both hemispheres.

In learning to write by hand, even if it is just printing, a child’s brain must:

- Locate each stroke relative to other strokes.
- Learn and remember appropriate size, slant of global form, and feature detail characteristic of each letter.
- Develop categorization skills.
Cursive writing, compared to printing, is even more beneficial because the movement tasks are more demand- 
ing, the letters are less stereotypical, and the visual recognition requirements create a broader repertoire of letter representation. Cursive is also faster and more likely to engage students by providing a better sense of personal style and ownership.

Other research highlights the hand's unique relationship with the brain when it comes to composing thoughts and ideas. Virginia Berninger, a professor at the University of Washington, reported her study of children in grades two, four and six that revealed they wrote more words, faster, and expressed more ideas when writing essays by hand versus with a keyboard.[4]

There is a whole field of research known as “haptics,” which includes the interactions of touch, hand movements, and brain function.[5] Cursive writing helps train the brain to integrate visual, and tactile information, and fine motor dexterity. School systems, driven by ill-informed ideologues and federal mandate, are becoming obsessed with testing knowledge at the expense of training kids to develop better capacity for acquiring knowledge.

The benefits to brain development are similar to what you get with learning to play a musical instrument. Not everybody can afford music lessons, but everybody has access to pencil and paper. Not everybody can afford a computer for their kids—maybe such kids are not as deprived as we would think.

Take heart. Some schools just celebrated National Handwriting Day on Jan. 23. Cursive is not dead yet. Parents need to insist that cursive be maintained in their local school.

Readers who want an easy way to acquire a neuroscience background will want to know about the 2nd Edition of my e-book, “Core Ideas in Neuroscience.” Check my web site for available formats and sources (http://thankyoubrain.com/neurobook).

Also check out the Neuro-education discussion group I just created on Linkedin (type “Neuro-education in Linkedin's search field).


### Timetable 2013

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<th>Tues-Day</th>
<th>Wedn-esday</th>
<th>Thur-sday</th>
<th>Fri-day</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>School</strong></td>
<td>Verse in staffroom at 8:30, then all class teachers on duty, in and around classrooms.</td>
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<td><strong>Recess</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Bus</strong></td>
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### ADVERTISING

My name is Marie and I am a Swedish mum of three living in Sydney. My company, Tiny Trolls, imports and sells unique children’s rain gear from Sweden. The Abeko rain gear is soft, lightweight and PVC free and comes in a set which consists of overalls and a jacket. The material is made out of polyurethane coated stretch fabric with welded seams. They also act as a windshield which prevents children from getting cold. The sets come in generous sizes for 1-2Y, 2-4Y, 4-6Y, 6-8Y and 8-10Y and are machine washable. For quality, effectiveness and value, there is no comparable product on the market here in Australia. Please visit my website at [www.tinytrolls.com.au](http://www.tinytrolls.com.au) to browse some more.

Looking forward hearing from you.

Kind Regards,

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Disclaimer: the articles, advertisements and community notices in this newsletter are provided as a service to the school community. The carrying of an article, advertisement or community notice does not imply endorsement by Golden Hill Steiner School.
Do you ever wish that your child came with an instruction manual?

Do you wonder if there are other ways to help teach your child? Ever wish that your child came with an instruction manual? If so, then this is the course for you!

MAKING SECURE CONNECTIONS

The Circle of Security Parenting Course

Term 3, 2013

This will be a 7 week course, that runs for around 1 ½ hrs in the morning during school time. The course format uses DVD material and small group discussion to discuss child – parent relationships.

Cost is $30 for the whole course and includes workshop materials and morning tea.

Registration is essential and places are limited.

Venue: Denmark TBA

To register please write down your name on the form attached to express your interest.

For more information please contact Colleen Middleton, Non Government Schools Psychology Service

Ph: 9892 5201 or middleton.colleen@cat hednet.wa.edu.au

Upcoming Workshops

Needle felting with Vimol (a selection of 5 different projects, make the items you love or treat yourself and do them all) and “Our Past and Parenting Now” with Suzanna Taylor (create deep, loving connections with your children, partner, family, friends and yourself...)

For more information visit our website http://honeyclock.com.au/talks-workshops/

The Honeyclock

Shop 7, 3 La Fayette Blvd, Bibra Lake 6163

(08) 9434 1944

Read our latest news at www.thehoneyclock.com.au or LIKE us on facebook http://www.facebook.com/thehoneyclock

OPENING HOURS Tuesday - Friday 8.30 - 4.30, Saturday 9.00 - 1.30