The Golden Quill

News from the School Coordinator

Welcome back everybody. I met several students during the last week of the break and all of them said they were looking forward to coming back to school – I am sure the parents are too. We welcome several new people to the school this term. Rob Jones has agreed to be our roving teacher aide while Sonja Poelchow is completing her practical experience at Perth Waldorf School. We welcome Sienna Collyer and Molly Fountain to Denise’s kindy, also Bonnie Bruce, Lucy Credaro, Eden Malata, Reeve Evans, Oliver Collins and Noah Fountain have joined Christine’s Kindergarten. Jasper Evans has joined Chrystal’s class. Finally, we welcome back Sandra and her family after their time in Brazil. Our thanks go to Lucy Morris for stepping into the office for Sandra while she was away; we really appreciate the work you did.

There has been lots of work going on at the school during this break. Terry Farrell has completed the basic structure for a memorial garden for Rebecca Wells. We now invite any interested parents to come into the office and choose a plant or plants from the list Terry has provided us. You will next get hold of your plants and then we will have a community planting day before the end of August. Close to 13th October we will have a memorial celebration to which the whole community is invited. If you are interested in helping organise the celebration and the plantings, can you please contact me as soon as possible.

The Council met during the break and discussed at length the future development of the school. It decided that all the signs are as favourable as they could be for the school to become a single stream school over the next five years. We intend to build a new classroom for 2014, then two or three more classrooms over the period from 2015 to 2017. We will also be applying to the Minister to retain our Class 7’s from 2015 onwards. It is an exciting time to be on Council and we would love to hear from parents who might be willing to share in this excitement at our monthly Council meetings. Two major reasons for us being able to expand at this time, are that we now have four out of the five classes full or nearly so and the incredible generosity of Cultura, the organisation that bought our property and established the school here, leaving us with very low debt levels. It is an exciting time to be on the Environment Committee too and we would
love to hear from anyone who might be willing to share in this excitement as we work with the consequences of that decision.

However, this expansion of classes does mean a reduction in the student/teacher ratio until our numbers build up again, so Council is asking that every family makes a conscious effort to promote our school. We need everyone to work on recruiting as many people as we can to the school. The planned building program gives us the opportunity to eventually double the size of the school – and that really does sound exciting. We only need to keep the school growing at least at the present rate for another six or seven years for it to prosper. In addition to this, our ELS grant gave us a considerable sum of money that we must spend by December on marketing. So we invite anyone with skills and experience to urgently discuss with Council the way forward.

As announced last term, the school is relaunching its **Family Participation Scheme**. The scheme is used in many schools around the world (mostly Steiner schools) to help parents find ways they can contribute positively to the school. An introduction to the scheme was delivered to all families late last week. It is very important that all our families keep track of the hours they contribute and you will find a sheet that came with the manual to help you do that. Parents should also ensure the organisers of any events accruing FPS hours add your names to their list of participants. Sandra will use these lists to update our school database and Maggie will use this database at the end of each term to bill anyone who hasn’t completed their five hours. Jenny Schuh from Elleker, who designed our school database, added a special part to it just to cater for this scheme. Until someone volunteers to be the co-ordinator for the scheme, I will be keeping tabs on it, but most of the jobs will be assigned by the classroom/kindergarten/playgroup teachers or the P&F, so they are the first people to contact if you are looking for work to do. Just to be repetitive, it really is an exciting time to be in the P&F and we would love to hear from anyone who might like to share in that excitement.

Not so exciting, but quite urgent, is that we need to upgrade our asset register. This does not come under the FPS hours because we have received grant money to pay for it to be done thoroughly. Anyone with the skills and interest should contact me before Wednesday, 13th August. Otherwise the money leaves our community.

Finally, **Sean Burke** is returning to Denmark to present his third and final “winter lecture”, in Class 7 on **Sunday, 11 August at 10 a.m.** For those of you with long memories and expecting to come on Saturday, he has recently been offered work on that day, so he requested that his talk be postponed one day. Both previous talks were very well received by the audiences. You are strongly invited to attend and it will only cost a gold coin donation. We will provide child care.

Have a great start to the term.

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**Calendar of the Soul—Week 44**

*Stirring new sensual magic, recalling its own spirit birth, the clarity of my soul now fills*

*the bewildering, teeming, evolving universe with the creative willing of my own thinking.*
News from Playgroup

The river is flowing, flowing and growing,
The river is flowing down to the sea.
Mother Nature carry me, a child I will always be,
Mother Nature carry me, child of the sea, child of the sea.

Welcome back to all our families and children for term 3. Silvia will be taking on the running of the parent and baby group for the month of August while Theda is away overseas.

Please remember to bring gumboots and raincoats for your children, as some of the playground is nice and squelchy, and the children do enjoy some outdoor playtime as part of the session.

Playgroup is on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.15am to 11.15am, Parent and Baby group Wednesdays 10am to 12pm. All groups welcome new children and families.

Thanks, Silvia, Clare and Theda

News from Silver Birch Kindergarten

Welcome back to Silver Birch Kindergarten. This term we have a number of new students and families in our group. Please introduce yourself and make new friends. Welcome to all of you.

At the end of our snack we sing:

_Hats on our heads_
_And shoes on our feet_
_And off to play we go…_

I have noticed that we are missing hats, and wearing a hat means that your child is warmer in this weather.

We will be having a combined Kindergarten parent meeting this term. It will be held on Wednesday 21st August, from 1.30-2.45pm in our classroom and the topic is "Discipline". We will provide child care.

Regards, Christine and Sophia

Sean Burke Talk

Sean Burke is presenting his talk on Sunday, 11 August at 10 a.m., in Class 7 classroom. You are strongly invited to attend, invite friends and it will only cost a gold coin donation. We will provide child care.

Book Donation

Spring Time - Book Clean Out Time!
If you have any books you like to pass on, the School Book Stall would love to have them!
You can donate them by using the box outside the office
Thank you very much – your donation is very much appreciated!

Soup Days

If you are participating in the Soup Days program, you will find the roster attached to this newsletter and please check your dates. Also, there is an outline of the procedure for the day, along with some suggested recipes. There needs to be at least 4 litres of soup or dhal to accommodate everyone.

If you have any doubt, feel free to contact your soup coordinator.
Thanks, Emma Jerrett
News from Karri Kindergarten

Welcome back everyone, I hope your three week break was a wonderful, relaxing time. This term we warmly welcome Sienna and Molly and their families to our school, Molly is in K5 and Sienna has joined our K6 group, just in time to celebrate her birthday this week! We farewell Evelyn and wish her all the best in her new school.

My experience at the Vital Years Conference in Sydney during the first week of the holidays was very inspiring, and I will write a summary to share soon.

You have probably heard or noticed by now that the stormy weather during the term blew over a marri tree in the neighbouring paddock. This knocked down our much loved little cubby and the melaleuca alongside it which the children enjoyed climbing. The good news, however, is that we have some money to spend on new equipment for our playground, and the staff are considering how this can be best spent. You can look forward to some renewal happening very soon. By now you will have received information on the school's Family Participation Scheme and may be thinking of how you can contribute your hours. If you love gardening, you could consider spending some time regularly in our garden, especially the circular herb garden, weeding, pruning, composting and planting. Let me know if you'd like to take this on. And on the subject of gardening, many thanks to Rosie who, along with Clare spent the last Friday afternoon of Term 2 adding some new plants to the garden opposite our main gate. Thanks also to Rosie for very generously donating many of the plants.

A parent is needed to collect our fruit box from the Health Shop each Wednesday any time after 12 noon (again, the time spent doing this can come off your FPS hours).

Our Parent/Teacher Meeting for Term 3 will be held on Wednesday 21st August, from 1.30-2.45pm in Silver Birch kindergarten, and the topic will be one that was requested by several parents who responded to the survey I sent out, namely "Discipline". For those of you whose child is not at kindergarten in the afternoon, childcare will be available. Please put the date into your calendar; hope to see you there! This term, I would like to do any remaining Parent/Teacher Conferences and Home Visits, so if you're waiting for either (or both), please email or see me to arrange a time.

Warm wishes, Denise

P&F Meeting

Tuesday 13th August
1pm – 2.45 pm
Peppermint Cottage
Chaired by Kanae Jones

We will be initiating plans for the upcoming Spring Festival and School Open Day.

Exciting new visions for the school have been developed in a series of governance meetings, involving Cultura, Council and College. Parent Participation will be a key factor in the implementation of plans to build on the past success of the school community. New strategies will be put into place to support and foster the wonderful efforts of our parent community. Please come along and find out more.

P&F

News from Class 1/2

I have had such a lovely warm welcome back to school from all the children. We have been enjoying the first week of our Maths Main Lesson, with the adventures of Portly Plus, our addition gnome. Portly Plus is a plump and rather lazy gnome who loves to collect things and add them! Keep an ear out for the adventures of our next gnome - Mini Minus.

Welcome to Jasper and his family who have joined us from Silver Tree Steiner School. Jasper is in class 2 and has slotted in like he has always been there.

Warm wishes, Chrystal
News from Class 3/4

Welcome back! It is great to see the children well rested and ready for another term.

Our classroom is full of rich conversation about a number of animals as we complete our Human and Animal main lesson with individual projects.

Warm regards, Ingrid

News from Class 5/6/7

Hopefully everyone has enjoyed their holidays as much as I have! In amongst moving house and building a yurt platform, I spent a week of the school holidays engaging in professional development. Steiner schools around Australia have a three week mid-year break rather than two weeks, as all Steiner teachers are expected to spend a week attending conferences/ intensives or some other form of Steiner-based professional development/ learning.

After attending the Gleneaon teacher intensives in Sydney last year, this year I chose to complete a Class 6 Online Intensive Conference run by Eugene Schwartz, a well known Steiner educator and author. The course explored aspects of the Class 6 curriculum in depth and why and how certain main lessons are brought to the children at this time, as well as more general aspects of education and child development.

One lecture that really struck a chord with me was on the issue of ‘choice’. Eugene feels that children in mainstream schools (and in the world at large) are being overwhelmed by choices, at far too early an age. Indeed, I must admit that when I first came to Steiner from a Montessori/ mainstream teaching background, the seeming absence of student ‘choice’ was a hard one for me to digest. ”Why can’t they just paint whatever they want? Why do they all do the same picture? Why do they all play the violin?”, I would ask. Yet after examining my own previous teaching practises, I realised that most classroom incidents in which I had presented students with a myriad of choices led to stressful episodes of “I don’t know what to write about!” or “I don’t know whether to do the poster or the flow chart!”, and inevitably, the regretful whine of “I wish I’d done the essay instead of the diagram”.

Psychologist Wendy Mogel writes, "Creativity blossoms when it faces limits. A sonnet is fourteen lines, a haiku just three. When water is allowed to sprinkle it loses pressure, but when it is channelled through a hose the flow is more powerful." While I of course believe that students should be presented with many decision-making opportunities in school, these days I feel much more reconciled with the Steiner approach of ‘Educating the child for Freedom’- in that we take the reins and largely take on the part of ‘chief decision maker’ for our students/ children, until a firm enough foundation has been established to better enable the child to make his/ her own decisions later on down the track, when it is much more important. It you have a few minutes to spare, have a look at the clip titled, 'The Paradox of Choice', at  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VO6XEQIlsCoM. It certainly provides some food for thought.

Regards, Eliza
Advertisements

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.

A MIDWINTER’S DREAM

BUTTER FACTORY

SATURDAY AUGUST 10TH @ 7PM

JOIN US FOR AN ENJOYABLE EVENING OF MULLED WINE, ELEGANT RENAISSANCE DANCE, MUSIC AND SHAKESPEARE.

Tx $20.00

Sarabande and Denmark Renaissance Dancers acknowledge the contribution and support of Denmark Arts Denmark shire Council.

SPRIT DRAWING

I connect with your energy and then channel a picture for you.

For more details please call Lana Jane on 0417 188 656. $50 for A3 picture.

Taoist Tai Chi™

Internal arts of health

Discover the workout the Taoist Tai Chi™ internal arts and methods offers for all ages and fitness levels.

This ancient art makes you supply and strong in body and mind.

• Founded by Taoist
  Master Moy Lin-shin
• 500 locations in 28 countries

Beginner class starting

Thursday 1 August 2013

9:30am to 11:30am
School Hall, Golden Hill Steiner School,
222 Scotalde Road, Denmark

Call James: 9848 3201 or Gail: 0427 371 554
for further information.

Albany/Denmark Branch of the
Taoist Tai Chi Society of Australia Inc
A volunteer, non-profit organisation

www.taoist.org

Movie Night

Part 2

The Challenge of Steiner

7.00pm, Friday, 23 August

Free entry – Seating Limited

Enquiries: 0417 188 255

Sponsored by Albany Study Group of the
Wil Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in Australia

PERTH WALDORF SCHOOL POSITION VACANT

Applications are invited for the following positions at Perth Waldorf School.

Playgroup Leader

We need a new Playgroup leader for Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. The applicant would need,

• An understanding of what it takes to be a parent.
• A warm ability to connect with young children.
• Some knowledge of Steiner’s Education.
• Experience to work with Early Childhood Faculty.
• Ability to run a Waldorf Playgroup.
• Current Working With Children Card.

Playgroup holds a much-loved place in the hearts of the PMS community, because for many of us it was our introduction to the ethos of Steiner Education.

If you think you are ready to take on the challenges and the joy of this work, feel free to have a conversation with Jennifer Byrne 0409 355443 or anyone in Early Childhood Faculty.

Applications do not need to be registered teachers.

Applications close Monday 26 August 2013.

PERTH WALDORF SCHOOL OPEN DAY & FAIR

Saturdays, 31st August 2013

10:00am - 3:00pm

14 Gwilliam Drive, Bibra Lake

(phone of Adventure World)

9417 3638

school tours and talks, classroom display, market stalls, children’s activities, music, food

THE DALAI LAMA’S CAT

and his non fiction book

Buddhism for Busy People

Saturday 10th August 2pm

Steiner School Hall
Scotalde Road

Denmark

Saturday afternoon including a sumptuous afternoon tea
Adults $15 Families $25
Books will be on sale for $13 and David will sign

David will lead a guided meditation on Sunday 11th August at the Steiner School Hall starting at 10.00am.

by donation

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THESE EVENTS WILL GO TOWARDS A RETURN VISIT IN 2014 FROM THE TIBETAN MONKS TO BUILD A SAND MANDALA IN DENMARK.

Enquiries 98482255 or 0419192900

Mahakaruna Buddhist Society

Perth’s leading provider of Buddhist education and meditation classes.

www.mahakaruna.org

David Michie is an internationally published author and meditation coach. Meet David and hear him talk about his recent novel

The Dalai Lama’s Cat

and his non fiction book

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