The Golden Quill

News from the School Coordinator

Welcome back to the term when, I'm told, everything dries out again. Our thoughts go to the people and schools in NSW who are facing devastating fires right now. If you have been listening to the news, the fire service are warning that there has been such lush growth this winter, that we, in the South West, too are vulnerable to large fires when it dries out later this summer.

This term we welcome Richard Dunn as the new gardener/maintenance person, Silvia Lehmann as the office administrator for when Sandra is on maternity leave (October 28 is Sandra’s last day at the office) and Shiralee Goodwill who replaces Mark as the remedial literacy/numeracy teacher. We also, sadly, fare-well the McGroarty-Morris family.

Other big news is that several builders have been pricing the construction of a new classroom block to go where the basketball court currently stands. The first stage starts on Saturday, with the Heavy Lifting Busy Bee, removing the bricks from the basketball court. Heavy lifters are invited for an 8 o’clock start. The basketball court will be relayed in front of the two-rope bridge at a later stage.

All of you will have noticed that the new crossover is being built as we speak and there will be signs directing all in-traffic to the entrance closer to the hall and all out-traffic to the original crossover. This is to reduce the risk of chaos as the 9am and 3pm peak traffic flows increase over the next few years. To quote the NZ traffic campaign, please remember to “merge like a zip”.

Thank you to Theda, Denise, Silvia and Jim Underwood who organised a wonderful memorial for Rebecca last week. A couple of Rebecca’s past students were at the memorial and a good collection of parents. We now need to look after the plants until they become established. Any parents interested in helping with the watering, please contact Theda or Richard.

Robert Gillman
Calendar of the Soul—Week 2

Into the outer realms of the senses
the power of thinking loses its individuality.
Spirit worlds rediscover their human progeny,
as seeds within them.
But I must find within my self
the fruit of my own soul.

Family Participation Scheme

Dear Parents,
It is now time to fulfil your FPS hours and forward the information to the office (please use the FPS form) if you have done FPS work already. Please note that you will be invoiced the full amount if you do not fulfil your hours, as there will not be enough jobs on the last few days of school. To find out what jobs need to be done, please call the office.
Ilan Trom (GHSS Council)

Heavy Lifting Busy Bee

We are looking for GHSS dads who would like to help removing the bricks from our basketball court to give place to our new classrooms. This “male get-together” will be this Saturday, 8am, with the leadership of Richard Dunn, our maintenance person. Your hours will go towards the FPS. Please contact the office if you are interested. Thank you.

Rebecca’s Memorial

Thank you
A very warm thank you to all who contributed to the one-year memorial for Rebecca Wells last Friday. Special thanks to Silvia, Theda, Jim, Zdenka, Jude and Bruce and the children for their beautiful singing and playing also Robert and the teachers. Thanks to all who donated and planted plants, and attended the memorial, it was very special and moving. If you would like to donate a plant, it’s not too late. Please enquire at the office for suggested species.
From Rebecca’s sister, in the US

This is so beautiful - I’m just at a loss for words - thank you doesn’t seem adequate, but it’s all I have. Becca would be so incredibly touched and honoured. I so wish I could be with you! Sarah and I too are both very quiet these days as October approaches. Another level of sadness is settling in. Can’t believe it’s almost a year - to have gone a whole year without her, just incredible. I miss her dearly, have so many questions for her as I am now teaching kindy and 2nd grade to my children. How I could use her counsel.

Thank you - so dearly.........
Much Love, Mary

In Loving Memory of Diane Martin

During the holidays I found out that Diane Martin passed away in mid-September after a short illness. Diane was an Education Assistant in Karri Kindergarten, first working with Patricia Dougall, then with me, when I first started teaching in the kindergarten in 2005. I had the pleasure of working with Diane for 18 months. She retired from the position to go travelling in mid-2006. Diane had a beautiful flower garden at her home, and each week would arrive on Monday morning with a bouquet of blooms to fill our kindergarten vases. She loved working in the kindergarten, as it just felt like being at home. Diane has two adult daughters whom she saw married in the year before she passed away, as well as one son, and her husband Nick. I've been trying to find out an address so I can offer my condolences to Diane’s family.

Denise
News from Playgroup

A sunflower in a garden grew,
tall and straight, like me and you,
it’s face was round and shining.

The angels of the rain came by,
and gave it much to drink,
the sun called softly from above,
grow, little seed grow!

And soon the seed began to sprout,
at first so small and green,
but soon it grew to be
the tallest flower you’ve ever seen.

We planted some sunflower
t seeds at playgroup last
Thursday and the spring sunshine is smiling down on the start of our new

cubby house and path.

There are a few changes at playgroup this term, as Silvia is taking over the
office administrator position while Sandra is on maternity leave. We wel-
come Jade as the new Thursday playgroup leader, as well as our relief play-
group person.

The Tuesday playgroup is quite full again this term, but the Thursday group
has some places available. There are also places at the Wednesday morning
parent and baby group. You are very welcome to come and try out the play-
groups with your young child.

School parents - please note that you receive a discount on the playgroup
term fees if you have one or more children enrolled full time at the school.

Eliza will be teaching a doll-making workshop on Saturday, 9th of Novem-
ber, just perfect for making a Steiner inspired doll for Christmas. Please re-
serve your place at the office on 9848 1811.

We are looking forward to a sunny and busy term, and welcome all new and
old faces!

Warmly,
Silvia, Theda, Clare, and Jade

News from Silver Birch Kindergarten

Well we are off to a Spring time start and quite awake. Please remember hats
this term and shoes which can be easily put on, so your child can practice.

We have received quite a number of Expressions of Interest for 2014. If you
have a child who turns 3 years old or is in his/her forth year, we can offer you a
place in Silver Birch Kindy. Please, get your Expression of Interest form in very
soon as numbers are becoming full quickly.

Kind Regards,
Christine and Sophia

Needed

Big backpacks to bor-
row for Class 6/7,
four day walking
camp last week of
November. They will
be carrying all food
and water for the
four days. Please,
contact the office if
you can help. Thank
you.

Doll Workshop

Learn how to make
a snuggly Waldorf
doll in time for
Christmas. Satu-
rday, November 9,
9am to 12 pm. $30
including materi-
als. Please bring a
child’s clean sock to
use for the inner
head.

Registrations at the
office.

Welcome back!

A big welcome to
Christopher McMul-
lan (Class 4), Evita
McMullan (Class 7)
and Fyfe Dowling
(Silver Birch Kinder-
garten). It is great to
have you back.
News from Karri Kindergarten

Welcome back to all our dear children and families, hope you had a refreshing break. Farewell to our dear friend, Abigail, who is now attending her local school along with her brother and sisters in Mt Barker, where they live, we will miss her gentle presence very much and wish her all the best.

Lady Spring has arrived, the roses are in bud, the daisies and sweet peas are blooming and the crab apple forms an archway of fragrant blossoms to welcome us through the gate each morning. Thanks to Clare and Rosie for plantings in the circle garden, along with a bamboo fence to keep little feet from trampling the new plants.

A lovely surprise for the children upon their return, was the new climbing structure/shelter artistically built for us using natural logs by Chris Robins to replace the cubby destroyed by the neighbour's tree when it fell in the storms last holidays. I've already seen the children using it in their creative play, as well as to climb atop and survey the surroundings. Thank you so much Chris, it is an exciting and interesting addition to our garden and I'm sure it will be loved over many years to come.

Warm wishes, Denise

Flow forms for Kindergarten

We would like to install a set of flow forms beneath the downpipe in kindergarten, to replace the broken one. The cost of freight for such heavy items from interstate is prohibitive, so we were wondering if there is someone experienced in cement work (or possibly other mediums) using moulds in our school (or wider) community. Moulds are available from Albany. This would be paid work for someone who has the skills to take it on. Please talk to one of the kindergarten staff if you can help.

Many thanks,
Denise

News from Class 1/2

Kia Ora.

I hope you all enjoyed the school holidays. I had a wonderful break, and was ready to be back for term four. I cannot believe how much the class seems to have grown (taller) over the holidays, they also seem to have come back really settled and happy, which is lovely to see!

We have had a great first week, kicking it all off with a Form Drawing Main Lesson. Class 1/2 practiced the straight and curved line forms outside in the sand, with chalk on the court, move them with their whole body, all before coming inside to practice them on our individual chalkboards until they felt ready to start them in their main lesson books. I was delighted to see the children enjoying form drawing so much. It was contagious!

Arohanui, Chrystal
News from Class 5/6/7

It's great to be back with the children again, who seem much more lively and refreshed after the two week break. Then again, perhaps it's just the thought of two camps and a week of swimming coming up! Camp seems to be the topic in all student conversations this week, and with all permission slips in and only a week to wait, who can blame them? Slips requesting information on children's dietary restrictions will be going home this week – please make sure they come back to school ASAP. Most of the children will be attending swimming lessons next week, with the bus returning at lunch. In the afternoons we will take the chance to catch up on our handwork projects, namely knitted socks, which are proving to be a healthy challenge.

In Main Lesson, we are onto 'Banking, Business and Percentages'. There was a chorus of groans as the children came in on Tuesday and read our Main lesson title, but it is one which I nevertheless find quite interesting and I am sure the children will largely appreciate when they give it a chance! This main lesson is an opportunity to link the mathematical thought processes to practical life situations on both a personal and community level, as well as build on students’ understanding of fractions and decimals by introducing and working with percentages. The children will also come to an understanding of the flow of goods and money, and elements of basic bookkeeping and banking are considered. Who says we only tell fairy tales in the Steiner school?

On Wednesday morning, we had an interesting discussion about the following sayings: “Money is the root of all evil” (I was surprised just how many students, especially boys, were in adamant agreement with this one!), “Money makes the world go around” and “Money can't buy everything”. We have also been looking at Australian currency denominations and just who those 'random guys' (quoting Luka and Izabela) on our banknotes are.

Our class meeting for this term will be Tuesday, 5th November, at 3pm (The week after we get back from Dwellingup). Parents of graduating students will be meeting at 8.30am, on Monday, October 28th to discuss their Camp and graduation.

Regards,
Eliza

News from Class 3/4

This week we have been enjoying real life hands-on practice of fractions! On Wednesday we made pizzas and cut up the vegies into 1/3, 1/4, 1/5, 1/6, 1/8, 1/10 before spreading the ingredients. Whilst the pizzas were baking, we had a go at figuring out how to cut the pizza so everyone would get an even piece. After a few trials on paper, we decided on 10ths and some courageous volunteers took on the task of cutting up the pizza evenly for everyone. We even had enough left over to gift a piece to the friendly worker at IGA who helped organise the ingredients. Later on Friday morning we played a group fraction game with pancakes, practising cutting into equal parts and then doing sums with the slices. Thank you to those who brought in jam, maple syrup and honey to share with the class. It was greatly enjoyed.

Dear class, it was so lovely to be with you again. Thank you for all your contributions to making this week so enjoyable.

Warm regards,
Sonja Poelchow (relief teacher)
Please Don’t Help My Kids

By KATE BASSFORD BAKER

Dear Other Parents At The Park:

Please do not lift my daughters to the top of the ladder, especially after you’ve just heard me tell them I wasn’t going to do it for them and encourage them to try it themselves.

I am not sitting here, 15 whole feet away from my kids, because I am too lazy to get up. I am sitting here because I didn’t bring them to the park so they could learn how to manipulate others into doing the hard work for them. I brought them here so they could learn to do it themselves.

They’re not here to be at the top of the ladder; they are here to learn to climb. If they can’t do it on their own, they will survive the disappointment. What’s more, they will have a goal and the incentive to work to achieve it.

In the meantime, they can use the stairs. I want them to tire of their own limitations and decide to push past them and put in the effort to make that happen without any help from me.

It is not my job — and it is certainly not yours — to prevent my children from feeling frustration, fear, or discomfort. If I do, I have robbed them of the opportunity to learn that those things are not the end of the world, and can be overcome or used to their advantage.

If they get stuck, it is not my job to save them immediately. If I do, I have robbed them of the opportunity to learn to calm themselves, assess their situation, and try to problem solve their own way out of it.

It is not my job to keep them from falling. If I do, I have robbed them of the opportunity to learn that falling is possible but worth the risk, and that they can, in fact, get up again.

I don’t want my daughters to learn that they can’t overcome obstacles without help. I don’t want them to learn that they can reach great heights without effort. I don’t want them to learn that they are entitled to the reward without having to push through whatever it is that’s holding them back and *earn* it.

Because — and this might come as a surprise to you — none of those things are true. And if I let them think for one moment that they are, I have failed them as a mother.

I want my girls to know the exhilaration of overcoming fear and doubt and achieving a hard-won success.

I want them to believe in their own abilities and be confident and determined in their actions.

I want them to accept their limitations until they can figure out a way past them on their own significant power.

I want them to feel capable of making their own decisions, developing their own skills, taking their own risks, and coping with their own feelings.

I want them to climb that ladder without any help, however well-intentioned, from you.

Because they can. I know it. And if I give them a little space, they will soon know it, too.

So I’ll thank you to stand back and let me do my job, here, which consists mostly of resisting the very same impulses you are indulging, and biting my tongue when I want to yell, “BE CAREFUL,” and choosing, deliberately, painfully, repeatedly, to stand back instead of rush forward.

Because, as they grow up, the ladders will only get taller, and scarier, and much more difficult to climb. And I don’t know about you, but I’d rather help them learn the skills they’ll need to navigate them now, while a misstep means a bumped head or scraped knee that can be healed with a kiss, while the most difficult of hills can be conquered by chanting, “I think I can, I think I can”, and while those 15 whole feet between us still feels, to them, like I’m much too far away.

Source: http://www.waldorftoday.com/2013/07/please-dont-help-my-kids/
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VacSwim December/January enrolments now open


Organic Beef for sale

Ilan and Karen are now taking their last orders for organic beef for this year. For details please call Ilan on 0421 784 187.

Rudolf Steiner College Perth presents

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All talks from 7.00 - 8.00pm. For more information visit www.rudolfsteinercollege.com.au or phone 9331 1880

VacSwim December/January enrolments now open


Rental Wanted

GHSS family with two children, 6 and 8, are seeking long-term rental in or near Denmark. Your help is appreciated. Please ring Rushi & Jess on 0438903245 or 98452575.