The end of the year is getting very close and all the teachers are under intense pressure to finish off work, celebrate Advent, write reports and so on. We also have Cl.1/2 practising for a play and Cl.7 preparing for graduation.

Last week the graduating students completed a writing camp while walking part of the Bibbulmun Track from Muttonbird Island back to Denmark. I want to publicly acknowledge the way those students pushed themselves to achieve the goals each day, not least of which was climbing and counting the 267 steps on the second day. Thank you too to the parents who helped make this camp as successful as it was. At the same time Cl. 5/6 went up to Perth for the Greek Olympics and had a fantastic time. Everything apart from the weather was really well organised and the students had a lot of fun.

I’m pleased to inform everyone that the school has two more new teachers! Both Justin Chester and Neal Collins have received limited registration with the TRB-WA to teach at our school. I believe this is good reward for their commitment to the school. We have had a few enquiries about the last teaching position to fill for next year. Applications close on Monday.

Lastly, you may notice that a new tree has appeared outside the school office. It is an Illawara Flame Tree that was bought by the teachers as a memorial for Rebecca Wells and has now, finally, found a place.

Robert Gillman
Calendar of the Soul—Week 8

The power of the senses, entwined with gods’ creating, now begins to grow—
and thus reduces the force of thinking to the dullness of a dream.

If a divine being would unite with my soul—
then human thinking must resign itself
to this dull dream existence.

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Parents and Friends Committee Corner
Please join us in working at the Christmas Parade Stall—set up from 4pm on the day.

Denmark Arts Markets
Each class is invited to man/woman the GHSS market stall. The dates for the first three markets are:

14th December 2013: Silver Birch and Karri Kindy to host
4th of January 2014: Class 1/2 to host

Please write these dates in your diary now.
Your class rep will be circulating a volunteer list.
Please write your name down in one of the 2-hour slots if you think you can help. This counts towards your FPS hours (either 2013 or 2014)

Christmas Parade 19th of December
If you and your family would like to walk in the parade here’s the details!

Dress: Please wear blue and orange (Thursday’s colours of the day)

When: please gather at 5.30pm
Where: the park on Barnett St, (Bottom of Strickland St) ready to walk down Strickland St at 6pm.

Visual Feast Workshop
This will be at the school on Monday 16th December from 3pm to organise prop making and carrying for the Parade.

If you have any queries please call Miranda on 0447 820 468

The Advent Calendar made by Thursday’s Playgroup. The star travels down the ladder to Christmas Day.
**News from Playgroup**

**Look at our new cubby!** Isn’t it beautiful? Many thanks Chris Robins, this has been an item on our wish list for more than 3 years.

We are enjoying making things for Advent this fortnight at both playgroups and baby group. We are making home made advent calendars, Christmas tree decorations, and baking gingerbread.

Warmly, Theda, Clare, and Jade

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**News from Silver Birch Kindergarten**

These lines are the words we sing as we light the first candle signifying the commencement of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation which for the children is a time of joyful anticipation. We begun this week with a celebration to mark the journey of Mary, Joseph and their donkey as they set out on the road to Bethlehem. We lit the first of four candles and shared gifts of stones, rocks and crystals. We sang songs and heard the story of “The Rocky Road to Bethlehem.”

A wonder-filled beginning to this joyful season of anticipation.

This Friday is Market Day and I would like to encourage you all to help with the Community Markets in some way. We are hosting this one and the benefit to both Kindergartens is seen in the ongoing upgrading of our play areas.

Our last session of Kindergarten is Wednesday 18th December where the children and I attend the “Stepping Stones Ceremony” in Karri Kindy. This is a time when the six year old children complete their Kindergarten years and are farewelled.

Many of our numbers have now celebrated their fourth birthday meaning that it is their time to anticipate and to prepare for stepping into Karri Kindy next year. I shall miss them dearly yet look forward to seeing them often. To those who return to Silver Birch I delight in this time with you, my leaders and helpers. We shall celebrate new adventures all together making new friendships along the way. To all my Kindergarten families may you all share a happy and joyous Christmas season and holiday. Thank you for your continued support, helpfulness and kindness. Sophia and I will enjoy meeting with you all again…just a few more sleeps…..and then a few more.

Sophia and Christine

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**House Concert**

A classical concert featuring guitar, violin and cello will be held at Jude’s place on Sat 21st of December 2013 at 2.30pm.

An exquisite selection of Classical Music will be performed. Please contact Jude on 9845 1370 or 0409 110 645 for bookings and further details.

**School Cleaner needed**

The school will be requiring a part-time cleaner in 2014.

Please contact the office on 9848 1811 for more details.

**Busy Bee**

Don’t forget our busy bee! Please bring your cleaning cloths, step ladders, brooms, buckets, and gardening tools! This is one of the last chances to fulfil your FPS hours. It would be lovely to have a great turn-out and end the busy bee year with a bang!

Richard Dunn, grounds person
News from Karri Kindergarten

Advent time can be a good time to begin making some simple gifts and/or cards for friends and family. Kindergarten watercolour paintings make lovely cards or wrapping paper.

Advent is continuing to be celebrated in the kindergarten over the coming weeks, and we are asking each child to bring a gift for the table (please label with your child’s name if you wish it to be returned).

Monday 9th December— for the 2nd of Advent—a gift from the plant kingdom; flowers, small plant in pot, leaves, gumnuts or similar.

Monday 16th December— for the third Advent—a gift from the animal kingdom; animals made from wood, wax, wool, or some feathers, etc.

This time of the year is a waiting time for our K6 children too whose time in the kindergarten will soon come to an end. As well as a sense of excitement and anticipation, there may be feelings of anxiety. Each year, a graduation ceremony is held on the last day of kindergarten and this year it will be held on Wednesday, 18th December.

On this day the K6 children will participate in the Stepping Stones Ceremony. Please keep this day free as it is a very special occasion which all Silver Birch and Karri kindergarten children, parents, friends and family are invited to attend. This is followed by an informal morning tea to end the school year.

If you are a parent of a K5 child, please let one of the staff know if you are available to help with setting up the room on Tuesday 17th from 2pm, or Wednesday morning from 8.30am.

Traditionally, each graduate wears a gold crown (made in secret by their parents) when they graduate. Gold card will be available in the kindergarten office. Experience has demonstrated that the simplest crowns are the most effective, a cut-out style is preferable or just a few decorations attached well so it stays intact. Label completed crowns with your child’s name and return (in a paper bag or similar) discretely to the kindergarten office by Friday, 13th December. More details about graduation to come in the next weeks.

Warm wishes,
Karri Kindergarten staff

A Rose for Kindergarten

We would like to thank Nick Martin, for donating a rose from his wife’s garden to the Karri Kindergarten. His wife, Diane Martin, died recently. Diane was the kindergarten assistant at this school some time ago and the children had given her the rose as a farewell present when she left. It now has a place of honour back in the Karri Kindergarten garden. Thank you very much Nick Martin.

Class 1/2 celebrating the first week of Advent
News from Class 1/2

Class 1/2 are fully immersed in their Play Main Lesson. We are busy stitching tunics, learning our lines and songs.

I am amazed at how many of the children know the whole play by heart already, a testament to Steiner education and the curriculum we offer. It is, of course, a little different when merging the 2 classes. It is typical for the play to be experienced as rather a stressful adventure (gosh, I'm trying my best for it not to be), but with all big challenges in life, meeting them and pulling together to achieve something big provides a deep sense of accomplishment. This is evident in the children as they form new relationships and tend to notice different qualities in one another. These are often subtle but to the class teacher it is a joy to witness. This is the perfect way for the two classes to finish off their journey as one.

Please come along to ‘The Nixie of the Mill Pond’ on Thursday 12th December or Friday 13th December, both days at 10am (duration approximately 30mins). It would be lovely to have a shared morning tea afterwards, BYO picnic rug and nibbles.

Arohanui,
Chrystal

Class 1/2 are busy sewing their own costumes for their upcoming play, 'The Nixie of the Millpond' based on a Brothers Grimm fairy tale.

Costumes wanted

Do you have: old fashioned long dresses/ boy’s attire that fits an 8 year old? Fairy dresses, fancy dresses in watery colours?

If you do, please bring them in to Chrystal ASAP for the Class 1/2 Play.

Many Thanks!
News from Class 3/4

We would like to thank the school community as a class for your support of our play! We had big audiences for both performances.

The children were impressed that the audience sat quiet and attentive, laughed at the jokes and all the right places, and really seemed to enjoy the show. One comment was that the appreciative audience gave them the courage to perform their very best.

Also a huge thank you to the parents and volunteers who helped with props and costumes, setting up of the hall, and clearing away at the end of the journey.

Regards, Ingrid

Gardening News

It’s been a busy time for the school gardeners removing old winter crops to the worm farm while establishing summer crops. We’ve been starting everything from seed, and some crops (like Lady Godiva Pumpkin, Sunflowers, Lettuce and Corn) from seed we have saved from the school garden!

Class 3-4 have been busy re-working the old potato patch into a cucurbit forest: pumpkins of many kinds, rockmelons and watermelons will no doubt soon invade the bamboo forest...may the battle begin! They learnt how to set-up a gravity fed irrigation system to water the vines too.

Class 1-2 have been delving into some bush gardening down near the creek. With spoons and paper bags, we have been targeting Gladioli bulbs, scooping all the seeds into the bags. We also planted tomatoes and sunflowers (in the garden, not by the creek).

Class 5/6/7 have been so busy with Greek Olympics and Dwellingup camp that the garden awaits their return to keep the kikuyu from the fruit trees now that they have weed-matted the whole orchard. The fruit trees have never looked healthier and we are set to enjoy peaches, nectarines, oranges... and later apples and feijoas look promising.

It’s inspiring to see such enthusiasm from the children in growing their future

Happy Growing Season

Neal

Graduate class walking along the Bibbulmun track
News from Class 5/6/7

Hi everyone,

Class 5 have just returned from their Greek Olympic camp - the second camp for us this term! Lucky us. Our wonderful drivers were Julie, Simone and Sarah, and our first visit was to the Perth Mint for a gold pouring demonstration and a talk on the history of gold mining in WA. We then made our way to Perth Waldorf School, where we set up our sleeping gear in the library. Not many of us can claim to have slept in a library before, and Simone commented that it was like a fantasy come true! The next day we were up bright and early for the Greek Olympic competitions. GHSS was well represented - all students gave everything their best shot and everyone managed to complete the marathon. We were also very excited that 'our' Imi won best girl - great stuff! The Olympic activities were followed by an afternoon at the pool and a meal at the Freo markets. We all returned to Denmark the next afternoon tired but happy. Thanks to parents who came along both for the camp and on the day, and also to everyone who contributed food.

Regards, Eliza
From the FPS Coordinator

Thank you very much to all the ones who have provided very vital and honest feedback!
So far there are a few changes in place:

- you can record the hours you helped directly **on the day** in the office
- on days when the office is closed, the same list will be available. Please remember to use it!
- there is a list of little helping jobs to choose from in the office with a rough time estimation

Please continue to give feedback to be able to get the Family Participation Scheme to the point where it is better understood and experienced.

Many thanks and enjoy the rest of the week :O)
Annett Forman (Teo and Ethan’s Mum)
atomnett@westnet.com.au

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### FPS ideas / opportunities updated 02.12.2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office</td>
<td>Make 12 Kindergarten handbooks</td>
<td>Mo – Fr</td>
<td>8.30 – 4 pm</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Make Parent handbooks</td>
<td>Mo – Fr</td>
<td>8.30 – 4 pm</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Help with getting Newsletter ready to give out</td>
<td><strong>Wed, 18th Dec</strong></td>
<td>1.30 – 2.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Office – Clean inside walls and windows</td>
<td>Mo – Fr</td>
<td>8.30 – 4 pm</td>
<td>30 min +</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playgroup</td>
<td>Repair peg board</td>
<td>any day</td>
<td>not sure</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weed sandpit</td>
<td>any day</td>
<td>30 min +</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weed garden beds</td>
<td>any day</td>
<td>30 min +</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Karri Kindy</td>
<td>Compost around lemon tree (material at school)</td>
<td>any day</td>
<td>30 min +</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Help to keep weed out of veggie garden</td>
<td>any day</td>
<td>30 min +</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>cover books from library – info sheet on each box</td>
<td>at home or</td>
<td>1 hour +</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>at school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 3 / 4</td>
<td>Clean inside walls, windows, veranda</td>
<td>3 – 4 pm</td>
<td>Around 1 hour</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Build more shelves under sink</td>
<td>3 – 4 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 7</td>
<td>Cleaning inside walls</td>
<td>3 – 4 pm</td>
<td>30 min +</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Market Day</td>
<td>Set up, sell and pack up Mercurius products</td>
<td><strong>Friday 6th Dec</strong></td>
<td>2.15 – 4.30 pm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mercurius: Steiner &amp; Waldorf inspired art materials</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>possible at home</td>
<td>Make knitted / felted farm animals for PG</td>
<td>any day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Busy Bee</td>
<td>Please let me know asap if you can make it</td>
<td><strong>Sat 7th Dec</strong></td>
<td>9 am – 12 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Richard will be there to coordinate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Denmark Art Market</td>
<td>Karri Kindy &amp; Silver Birch help at the stall</td>
<td><strong>Sat 14th Dec</strong></td>
<td>8 – 10 am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2 parents for each slot</td>
<td></td>
<td>10 – 12 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12 – 2 pm</td>
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<td>Please contact Miranda 0447 820 468</td>
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<td>2 – 4 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 – 5 pm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>P&amp;F Meeting</td>
<td>Meet every fortnight at Playgroup</td>
<td><strong>Tue 4th Dec</strong></td>
<td>1 – 2.50 pm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gardening</td>
<td>Thursday and Fridays</td>
<td>lunch time</td>
<td>45 min</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Parade</td>
<td>help set-up and man the stall</td>
<td><strong>Thu 19th Dec</strong></td>
<td>4 – 8 pm</td>
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Why the Brain Prefers Paper
By FERRIS JABR from Waldorf Today, Issue 51, 12/11/13

"Kids remembered more details from stories they read on paper than ones they read in e-books enhanced with interactive animations, videos and games. These bells and whistles deflected attention away from the narrative toward the device itself. In a follow-up survey of 1,226 parents, the majority reported that they and their children prefer print books over e-books when reading together."

One of the most provocative viral YouTube videos in the past two years begins mundanely enough: a one-year-old girl plays with an iPad, sweeping her fingers across its touch screen and shuffling groups of icons. In following scenes, she appears to pinch, swipe and prod the pages of paper magazines as though they, too, are screens. Melodramatically, the video replays these gestures in close-up.

For the girl's father, the video—A Magazine Is an iPad That Does Not Work—is evidence of a generational transition. In an accompanying description, he writes, "Magazines are now useless and impossible to understand, for digital natives"—that is, for people who have been interacting with digital technologies from a very early age, surrounded not only by paper books and magazines but also by smart phones, Kindles and iPads.

Whether or not his daughter truly expected the magazines to behave like an iPad, the video brings into focus a question that is relevant to far more than the youngest among us: How exactly does the technology we use to read change the way we read?

Since at least the 1980s researchers in psychology, computer engineering, and library and information science have published more than 100 studies exploring differences in how people read on paper and on screens. Before 1992 most experiments concluded that people read stories and articles on screens more slowly and remember less about them. As the resolution of screens on all kinds of devices sharpened, however, a more mixed set of findings began to emerge. Recent surveys suggest that although most people still prefer paper—especially when they need to concentrate for a long time—attitudes are changing as tablets and e-reading technology improve and as reading digital texts for facts and fun becomes more common. In the U.S., e-books currently make up more than 20 percent of all books sold to the general public.

Despite all the increasingly user-friendly and popular technology, most studies published since the early 1990s confirm earlier conclusions: paper still has advantages over screens as a reading medium. Together laboratory experiments, polls and consumer reports indicate that digital devices prevent people from efficiently navigating long texts, which may subtly inhibit reading comprehension. Compared with paper, screens may also drain more of our mental resources while we are reading and make it a little harder to remember what we read when we are done. Whether they realize it or not, people often approach computers and tablets with a state of mind less conducive to learning than the one they bring to paper. And e-readers fail to re-create certain tactile experiences of reading on paper, the absence of which some find unsettling.
Golden Hill Steiner School Graduation Day, 19th of December

8.50-10 am Clean-Up/End of year ‘thank-yous’ in classrooms. Parents are encouraged to be in the classroom with the children during this time.

10am CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

10am All Classes to assemble in the hall for an interactive Christmas story told by Class 5/6/7. This time includes carol singing.

10.45am Christmas/Craft/ Summer activities in rotating stations. Fruit/snacks/drinks will be available at each activity station.

11.30am Break.

10.50am GRADUATION CELEBRATION

♫ Introduction speech by Robert Gillman
♫ Graduate Speeches
♫ Class 5 song
♫ Class 5/6/7 song

12.20pm Speeches about individual students by Eliza Allan and Robert Gilman.

12.40pm End of graduation ceremony. Graduates proceed to restaurant for a shared lunch.

Other school children can be taken home by their parents (please advise your child’s class teacher when you are taking your child home).

Supervision will be available to the end of the school day at 2.50pm, when children can be picked up or take the school bus home.

Parents please bring a piece of fruit to share per child. If you have a popcorn maker at home, please bring it on the day.

Avoid the Toy Shop this Christmas - 20 Alternatives to Toys

Doesn't it seem that the children of today have so many toys? With each Christmas, birthday party or day at the shops, more toys seem to appear. But there are alternatives! It is only a recent trend that families give children piles of gifts. It is fun to give, but by keeping it simple with a few well-chosen and earth-friendly gifts, we can enjoy an inexpensive, sustainable festive season with the focus on spending time together, rather than spending lots of money.

Here are some gift suggestions for children;

1 Terracotta plant pot and a packet of seeds
2 A bag of Spring bulbs ready for next season
3 A tomato planter box and trellis and a tomato seedling
4 A good quality set of gardening tools, child-sized wheelbarrow or rake
5 A pair of gardening gloves
6 A fruit tree
7 A worm farm and 1000 composting worms
8 A teapot for one and a packet of chamomile tea
9 A Good Morning Tray. Fill it with a brass bell, a special cup and a teeny vase. What a lovely way to wake up your children on a weekend morning
10 A bath bomb or organic bubble bath for a deep soak
11 An embroidered towel set of their own for bathtime
12 A matching set of cutlery
13 A money box
14 A sewing kit containing pin cushion, needle case and needles and a pair of scissors plus some felt
15 A small mixing bowl, biscuit cutters, rolling pin and apron
16 A child-sized broom or dustpan and brush
17 A few pieces of coloured beeswax for modelling (great for long car trips!)
18 A pom-pom kit containing balls of wool, cardboard circles and a pair of scissors
19 A toiletries bag containing shampoo, conditioner and a new hairbrush
20 Tickets for a boat trip, or other outing.

Happy Alternative Gift Giving
Denmark High School
Open Day

Open Ceremony
11.00 – 11.30am
Official Opening
Of New Facilities
Hon. Terry Redman
MLA Warren
Blackwood

Sausage Sizzle
Free
11.30 – 12.00
BBQ Area
Drinks for purchase
$2

Guided Tours – All Areas
12.00pm, 12.30pm, 1.00pm & 1.30pm
Book a place
www.sobsonline.com

Demonstrations
FESA Cadets
1.00 – 1.30pm
Robotics – Computer Lab
12.00 – 1.00pm
Basketball – display of skills & drills –
Gym 12.00–12.30pm & 1.30–2.00pm
Maths Competition –
Rooms 3 & 4 - 1.30 – 2.00pm
Science – Room 18 -
12.00 – 12.30pm
Aquaculture – Room 18
1.00 – 1.30pm
Textiles – Design Studio
1.00 – 2.00pm
Food Science – Room 23
1.00 – 1.30pm
Drama Performance – Room 26
11.30 – 12.30pm
Displays
S&E – Student Work –
Rooms 7 & 8
English – Student Work – Rooms 9 & 10
Library – 11.30 – 1.30pm

Afternoon Tea
12.30 – 2.00pm
Scones, Jam,
Cream, Tea/Coffee
Home Ec Area
$3.00

Guided Tours – All Areas
10.00am & 10.30am
Book a place
www.sobsonline.com

Demonstrations
Art Room
Science – Room 18
It will make your hair stand on end!!
Textiles – Design Studio
Computing – Computer Lab
D&T – Students at work!
Maths – Prizes to be won!
Rooms 3, 4 & 5
Food Science – Room 23
10.00 – 11am
Displays
Gym – Displays of student work & specialist equipment.
English – Rooms 9 & 10 – Writing and Photos
S&E – Rooms 7 & 8
ANZAC Spirit, Exhibitions
Library – Open 10–11.00am

Entertainment

Drama Performance
Year 9 Drama
10.00 – 10.30am
Drama Room
School Band
Outside Library

Music Central
10.00am Pop Band
11.30 – 12.00pm Student Performance
1.00pm Vocal Ensemble
Dance Class
12.00 – 12.30pm

Drama Performance
Year 8 Drama
12.30 – 1.00pm
Drama Room
Year 10 Drama
1.30 – 2.00pm

Saturday 7th December - 10.00am - 2.00pm

Strive to Achieve
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.

LOOKING FOR A HOUSE

Annabelle Arnold is looking for a peaceful country cottage within a 10km radius of Denmark town, to rent longer-term. She has a small white dog and a cat that are very well behaved. Minimum of two bedrooms and reasonable rent preferred. If you know of anywhere, please contact her urgently. She has excellent rental references.

Please contact Annabelle on 9848 3953 or 0408 600 384, or e-mail: Annabelle.arnold@gmail.com

Mark and Kanae’s monster garage sale

Furniture, Jarrah windows, doors, kitchen carcass, Japanese items, books, CD’s, DVD’s, clothes. Free stuff. Come for a bargain, stay for a cuppa.

Saturday 7th December
8am - 1pm
13 Mohr Drv, Denmark

The Albany Leisure & Aquatic Centre Swim School offers an extensive range of classes from babies through to adults and lessons for children with special needs. Lessons are held all year round, Monday to Saturday. All lessons are conducted in our indoor heated pools and are 30 minutes in duration, with the exception of squads which run between 30 and 60 minutes. Timetables for term 1, 2014 will be issued Friday, 6 December 2013 and enrolments commence Friday, 13 December 2013.

For further information, please contact Swim School Manager, Nola Osborne on telephone number 9844 2261 or email nolao@albany.wa.gov.au

House Concert

Jude Iddison and Steve Scanlon

@ The Earl of Spencer, Albany, on the 22nd of December, 5-8pm

Celtic fiddle, guitar, and mandolin with an odd bit of ukulele.