The Golden Quill

News from the School Coordinator

We know that a major difference between state schools and Steiner schools is the widening of the focus from strong attention on academic progress to a strong attention on the development of the whole human being, including academic ability. So it is a very strong signal when research from “the other side” concurs well with our ways of looking at life. The research that has recently become a mainstream focus is the effect of absenteeism on learning.

Up until now, it has been an unwritten norm that up to 10% absenteeism does not affect overall student progress. However, all the recent research from Europe and the USA has pointed to the long term impact any absenteeism has on long-term learning. The main reason being that absences create learning gaps and gaps always overlap into other areas of learning. To quote Balfanz and Byrnes from John Hopkins University, “simply... being in school leads to succeeding in school.” Rudolf Steiner noted the vital role played by the other students in the class. Having a class on task together directly aids the memory process in all the students (so long as the class is engaged on that task and not on something else). It is not enough for the material that has been missed to be handed out for catch up. It is also the other students “bumping” into each other that can, over their seven years plus together, help turn them from “rough diamonds” to polished jewels.

So it is with great alarm I note that our school’s overall rate of absenteeism over the last six years has always been more than 10% – the level that, even before this latest research, would generate action plans in most schools. Now, we can clearly state – if your child is sick, please keep them home. If you need to make an appointment for your child, please try to make it happen after school. If you take your child out of school for any other reason, it needs to be extremely important. Otherwise, you are directly affecting your child’s future educational options – and making their progress through their developmental stages much harder. The research findings are that black and white!

Robert Gillman
A message from Kristi McMullan, Shanti and Christopher’s mum:
Check out my Earth Parenting page on facebook:
www.facebook.com/earthparenting
I explore ideas about parenting that have come from asking what our ancestors did before this technological society and what indigenous peoples did in the raising of their children that produced such healthy, happy children. The answers are many and help us as parents to live more lightly on the Earth with our children.
Look to this page for inspiration about —
Living lightly with children,
Grounding children with the Earth and nature,
Introducing children to the elements,
Making the mundane sacred,
Techniques for overcoming ancestral patterns,
Finding love in the small places.

Parents and Friends Committee News
Don’t forget!
The P&F AGM will be held next Tuesday the 25th of February at 1pm at Peppermint Cottage or the school hall depending on numbers.
Childcare and afternoon tea will be provided.
Please make every effort to come along and support your school’s P&F!
Please RSVP to Silvia in the office on 9848 1811 or office@goldenhill.wa.edu.au if you require childcare for the AGM meeting.

Recorder and Ukulele Lessons
Recorder and Ukulele Lessons are available from Regi Peppin in 2014.
School lessons are available at limited times on a Wednesday.
For info. and enrolments please call Regi on 9840 9084

Home Wanted
Shared preferred.
Please call Sonja on 0408 122 515
Class Two Teacher

Mysteriously, my being is resurrected.
And I feel within myself all that I have preserved from the past—- alive again

Awakening cosmic forces shall pour into my life’s outer deeds!
And, evolving, these forces shall stamp me onto existence.

Calendar of the Soul—Week 19
News from Playgroup

Welcome to the new families that have joined our playgroup in the past couple of weeks.

We have been washing the dolls’ clothes and singing songs about the fine summer weather.

We still have plenty of room left in our Tuesday and Thursday playgroups and our parents and babies group on Wednesday.

Come and join us for a cup of tea, singing, baking, painting and craft.

Warm wishes,

Theda, Clare and Jade

News from Silver Birch Kindergarten

Many thanks to all my families for helping your child at the beginning of his/her new journey.

We are busy all morning and ready for our lunch and nap by morning’s end.

Kindly send a hat which can stay in your child’s Kindy box or bag.

Kind Regards,

Christine and Sophia

News from Karri Kindergarten

After we’ve finished modelling with beeswax, we gather in a "golden ring" for our morning circle, which begins with the blessing verse to the left. It sets the tone for the day, and all that is to come as our kindergarten rhythms lead us on our daily journey together. It’s early days yet in this new school year, and some of the children are still adapting to leaving the care of their parents each day to join us on this journey. We're trying a new rhythm this year, which is still evolving to meet the unique needs of our group, and we reflect upon how it could perhaps flow more smoothly.

Blessings on this room of ours
Blessings on the garden flowers
Blessings on the birds and trees
On the butterflies and bees
Blessings on our dolls and toys
On our quietness and noise
Blessings on the children dear
On all the grown-ups who come here
Blessings on our work and play
Blessings on us all each day

Violin News

The Denmark Fiddlers will be playing at the Denmark Arts Markets on Saturday the 1st of March. All Steiner violinists are encouraged to join us.

Please be at the stage at Berridge Park at 9.30am for a 10am start. Please bring your violin, wear bright clothes and a big smile.

Please contact Jude
On 9845 1370 or 0409 110 645 if need be

Lost Items

Silvia has a few precious things accumulating in the office—a necklace, two funky magnets, keys, and a big yellow pocket knife/pliers. If you’ve lost any of these things around the school in the last few weeks, please come and inspect if the items belong to you!

Kind regards,

Silvia

Sheoaka’s Hamper

Thank you all who have contributed gifts to Sheoaka’s hamper. You have two more days to bring in your heart gift to the office (by Fri. 21/2).
News from Karri Kindergarten cont.

After feedback from a couple of parents about how a little time in our garden at the start of the day can perhaps ease the transition and make saying goodbye to mum or dad a little smoother, we've decided to begin our day this way just as we did last year. As the Silver Birch Kindergarten is now establishing its own outside play area, this is more practical. So, we will ring the bell at about 9am from now on, and everyone arriving from about 8.40 am onwards may enjoy some outdoor time before we move inside to model with beeswax. We're enjoying the earlier outside play, straight after our circle time, before the sun becomes too hot, and earlier morning tea, too, before little bellies begin to rumble!

Our Thursday rhythm is a little different, we will paint first thing, to enable us to create a quiet time to experience the play of watercolours on the paper. We've changed Tuesdays and Thursdays handcraft time to the end of the day, so the children can have some outside time after lunch and rest, before they sit down to work at their sewing, five-finger-knitting or French knitting.

The first Karri Kindergarten Parent/Teacher meeting for the year will be held this coming Wednesday, 19th February at 1.15pm in Silver Birch Kindergarten. You are warmly encouraged to join us for a cuppa and delicious kindergarten-baked treats, followed by conversation and connection. Come along and meet with other parents, share your dreams for your child this year, as well as any suggestions for future parent education. For those whose children attend mornings only, childcare will be available with Merveena and Clare. See you there!

Warm wishes, Denise

News from Class 1

Hi everyone,

Thank you to all the families that attended the parent meeting and the berry picking on Saturday. A lot was discussed and organised and many projects are now underway. A special thank you to Jessica who has stepped into the role of parent representative for Class One.

We still need some small glass jars for painting (about the size of jam jars) and interesting bits of wood that we can sand for our woodworking.

If you know of any young people who would be willing to organise games and activities for children while we have parent meetings please let me know. My phone number is 0416033706.

Class One has started learning the Native American Flute and we are busily making ribbon sticks.

Please make sure your child is wearing shoes they can take on and off easily by themselves.

Cheers,
Karen

News from Class 2

The children and I have settled into Cl.2. We've begun delving into Aesop's Fables. The children are enjoying listening to the short stories (and even want them to go on for longer), re-telling, enacting, writing and drawing, wax modelling and painting the scenes.

Parents are still welcome to join Cl.2 gardening. Please also bring recorders to school on Wednesdays. The children are hungry, so please add more snack sized options, e.g. an apple cut in halves.

Thank you :)
News from Class 3

Our Creation Main Lesson was met with much excitement, each day the class anticipating the next part to the story. We heard how Lucifer wanted to take God’s place as ruler, and thus Lucifer became the ruler of the underworld. Then the evil spirits from the underworld inhabited a dragon, and attempted to enter Heaven. Archangel Michael killed the dragon just in time. Which lead us nicely into the most exciting part, the first of the days of creation, with day one being ‘let there be light’.

Grade 3 children often feel quite misplaced and long to belong somewhere. Thus it is very appropriate to tell them the Story of Creation; how human beings were created by God and placed on earth where they could make a home for themselves.

The Old Testament, from the ancient Hebrew tradition, begins with God creating light in the darkness through the sound and power of His voice. Then He separates heaven and earth. In the same way, Grade 3 children are awakening to the duality of life on earth: they begin to notice the amazing world around them – not only what is beautiful, but also what is ugly, and they become aware of what they like and do not like.

Through the Creation Story the children unconsciously sense how they fit into the family of creation: how human beings are made in the likeness of God, with consciousness, intelligence, speech, love and creativity. It is important for the teacher to infuse these stories with reverence so that the children are filled with the wonder of creation. They must become aware of the power of creativity present in the human being enabling him or her to adapt the gifts of the earth in order to fulfil the human needs for food, clothing and shelter.

The teacher makes the children conscious of and grateful for the abundance of the earth, not by telling them what to think or feel, but by asking questions in the recall of the story, and leading them into deeper discussions. Grade Three Waldorf Manual by Catherine & Peter Van Alphen

Class Three is very excited to be doing woodwork with Justin. The boys and girls are doing alternate weeks, half the class staying with me each Thursday. During week one the boys began carving their tapping sticks, followed by the girls in week two harvesting wood in the forest to make dolls. Justin is gathering ideas from the children for what they would like to create next.
News from Class 4/5

A few weeks into term and things are slowly settling into a routine. We have learned some new songs, some new verses and a few new sport games.

We are still learning about Princess Fraction and her never-ending list of problems as she plans her big wedding. Fortunately, the Royal Advisor is always handy to teach the exact concept necessary to help the Princess through her dilemma.

It seemed as though our Week 2 was plagued with illness. Many students had absences and I had to take Thursday and Friday off from a nasty tummy bug. I am sorry we had to cancel our parent meeting. It is now re-scheduled for Monday the 24th of February from 3-4pm in Class 4/5 classroom. Please note that childcare will not be available.

Alex

News from Class 6/7

Hi there everyone

Things are going well in Class 6/7, although all the children seem to have really taken the next step up over the holidays and are growing up. I’m finding them rather a changed class - more independent but also more critical(!) which I’m told is a normal thing for Class 6. In our Ancient Rome main lesson, we have been learning the stories of Romulus and Remus, Horatius and the Bridge and Hannibal's great crossing of the Alps. The children have finished the clay Greek temple reliefs they have been working on and I hope for us to soon try our hands at creating a clay Roman Colosseum. We are also making tissue paper window stars to brighten up our classroom - these have been harder than expected and have been great for extending our Geometry know-how. Well done to all children for making such a great start on the weekly Maths assignments.

Surfing last week was a big hit, with all students managing to stand up and catch waves by the end of the lesson. Group 2 students will be having their turn on the waves this Friday.

A reminder that our class meeting is scheduled for this Friday afternoon, 21st February at 3pm in the Cl. 6/7 room. I hope for much of the meeting to be in the format of an open discussion/parent-sharing opportunity, and one of the topics raised will be how children are coping with travelling on the school bus. Please let me know if you would like to add anything else to the agenda or have any specific (not related to your child’s individual progress at school) questions you would like addressed in the meeting. I would like to add that I will not be going into the issue of the Class 6 students going to High School in 2015, as we are currently awaiting correspondence from the minister and I do not currently have enough information to enable a valuable discussion on the topic.

Regards, Eliza
Kwoorabup Markets

It was a lovely, intimate start to the market year last week. Highlights for me were Daniel Felton’s Watermelon - so sweet and juicy, Angela’s peaches picked that morning - ripe and fragrant,( there is something very Valentines day about a perfect peach), Kristy’s Wholemeal Bread, (I nabbed a green one with bean sprouts and spirulina!) Thanks to Cl. 6/7 who mobilised at short notice. Next week’s looking huge as we get back in the swing.

Thankyou to everyone who took the time to respond to our questionnaire about the tea and coffee stall. Sylvia and I have collated the votes, giving those parents with multiple kids multiple votes.

This worked out to be 43 votes in all. 33 voted they could support the stall and 10 voted they couldn’t. As a representation of the entire community, we can extrapolate that the majority are in favour. I hope this clarifies everyone’s feelings a little bit. Those who felt they couldn’t support the stall have made their intentions clear, and should hopefully still feel free to enjoy all the market has to offer.

Obviously I’m a big fan of the market, and think it’s wonderful to have it on our doorstep. I hope it will continue to provide affordable fresh local produce and wholefoods, demonstrations for helping you grow and make your own nutritious foods. as well as other community events. Supporting our local growers and connecting with the seasons is something we can all do that is pro-active in making the changes we as a community need to do in the face of our current environmental and social challenges.

Next market we are having our kids’ clothing swap. This will be held inside the hall. Try to bring your clothes a bit before 2.45 so we can arrange them into boys/girls and sizes.

See you at the market! Simone

Dear dance fans

This is your invitation to a very special event happening this Friday 21 February, 5.30pm in Foundation Park on Parade Road, Albany. I have had the great pleasure of working with local community members from Denmark and Albany to create a short performance for this year’s Welcome to Country for the Perth Festival Great Southern Program. The performance merges contemporary and cultural dance. It starts from the moment Flinders’ garrison marched on the beach of Albany in the early 1800’s and captures the good humour and generosity with which the Menang people welcomed them.

This performance is a work of the imagination and takes its inspiration from a range of stories; fact and fiction. Over six short rehearsals we have heard each others’ stories and written ourselves with the voices of the past. Together we have found the humour and pain of our tangled story in this place that has known many names - Kinjarling, Frederickstown and Albany.

The event lasts for approximately half an hour and features a painting of the settlement map on the grass of the park.

Please join us for this free event to commence the Great Southern Festival.

Cast: Andrew Collins, Rachael Colmer, Harley Coyne, Thomas Dean, Ruth Dennison, Lauchlan Gillett, Randall Jasper, John Maddison, Taadjiduk Marsden-Coyne, Tarquin Smart and Andrew Wenzel

Kind regards, Annette Carmichael (Katherine and Lauren’s mum) www.perthfestival.com.au\greatsouthern
### P.I.P. News

Please contact Annett Forman on atomnett@westnet.com.au or 0458 069 049 if you can assist with any jobs on the list below.

**Don’t forget to write our TERM 1 Busy Bee into your diaries now:** Saturday the 15th of March 2014, 8.30am to 12.30pm. Clearing and organising the school’s storeroom is on the major agenda, as well as the usual busy bee jobs of washing windows, gardening, tidying, and clearing gutters. Many hands make light work, and it’s a wonderful community spirit at these busy bees. Please keep this date free so you can come along!

### PIP ideas / opportunities updated 18/02/2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Office</strong></td>
<td>Help with getting Newsletter ready to give out</td>
<td>Fortnightly Wed</td>
<td>1.30 – 2.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Biodynamic - Gardening</strong></td>
<td>Please contact Neal: Phone: 9848 1942 Email: <a href="mailto:nealcollins@westnet.com.au">nealcollins@westnet.com.au</a></td>
<td>Mon – Cl. 6/7</td>
<td>11:15 – 12:00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Everyone welcome</td>
<td>Mon – Cl. 3</td>
<td>12:00 – 12:45</td>
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<td>Mon – Cl. 4/5</td>
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<td>Wed – Cl.3</td>
<td>01:30 – 02:30</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Woodwork</strong></td>
<td>Please contact Justin: Everybody welcome</td>
<td>Fri – Cl. 6/7</td>
<td>11:15 – 12:45</td>
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<td>Phone: 0419 020 176</td>
<td>Fri – Cl. 4/5</td>
<td>1:30 – 2:30</td>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:brumbysrun@equinediscovery.com.au">brumbysrun@equinediscovery.com.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>P&amp;F Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Meet fortnightly in Playgroup Building</td>
<td>Tue – 04/03/14</td>
<td>1 – 2.40 pm</td>
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<td>Contact Miranda 0447 820 468</td>
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<td>Everybody welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Playgroup</strong></td>
<td>Make knitted / felted farm animals for PG</td>
<td>any day</td>
<td>Ask</td>
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<td></td>
<td>make story apron (ask for design)</td>
<td>any day</td>
<td>Silvia</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>make story props</td>
<td>any day</td>
<td>at office</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Karri Kindy</strong></td>
<td>Help to keep weed out of veggie garden</td>
<td>any day</td>
<td>10 min +</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Class 3</strong></td>
<td>Help with crochet project</td>
<td>Thursdays</td>
<td>2 – 2.45 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Silver Birch</strong></td>
<td>Cobwebs outside, windows cleaning, leaves from gutters and roof</td>
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**For somebody who can’t make it to the next Busy Bee (15th of March 2014)**
School hall landscaped for better community access

Article by Lydia Kenyon

As well as the building of two new classrooms, Golden Hill Steiner School has been busy with landscaping developments, especially around the school hall that was built in 2011.

Great Southern Earthworks have provided storm drainage solutions to the site as well providing a much improved entrance to Golden Hill students, and Denmark Community members, who use the hall regularly for arts and leisure, and of course the growing Kwoorabup Markets.

Terry Farrell, the landscape architect responsible for Denmark’s Adventure Playground, designed the changes to the entrance as well as building a creative nature based play space.

‘The play space will be a great asset during the markets and other parent and Denmark community social events as a focus for imaginative activities,’ says School Co-ordinator Robert Gillman.

‘The entranceway to the hall is so important for enhancing the gatherings we organise there. Seasonal celebrations and the practice and display of performance art are key to the culture and curriculum of Steiner education.”

A Memorial Rose Garden has been planted for Rebecca Wells, a very dedicated staff member who taught at Golden Hill for many years and sadly departed in 2012.

‘Further planting will commence this winter season and we look forward to offering a resplendent welcome to visitors and users of the hall this time next year,’ says Robert Gillman.

The hall hosted a book promotion for Buddhist author, David Michie, in 2013, as well as a Bush dance and several other musical performances. Tai Chi, Chi Gong, and two yoga classes are also held regularly in the space.

The Golden Hill Steiner School office welcomes hire enquiries from the Denmark community. More details also available on the website, www.goldenhill.wa.edu.au.

Many thanks go to Richard Dunn (pictured) who has worked tirelessly over January and February, helping to make the school grounds ready for the commencement of the 2014 teaching year as well as extending and beautifying the playgroup and kindergarten gardens.
FREE Two day Workshop and Information Sessions for PARENTS/CARERS of school age students on the autism spectrum

**When:** Tuesday 11th & Wednesday 12th March  
**Where:** Albany Entertainment Centre

The Positive Partnerships initiatives have been developed and delivered by Partnerships between Education and the Autism Community (PEAC) and funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations through the Helping Children with Autism package.

**What will PARENTS/CARERS LEARN?**
- A greater understanding of the impact of autism both at school and at home.
- Knowledge about how to develop effective parent, school and teacher partnerships.
- Information about local school system’s processes.
- Opportunities to network and share strategies with other parents/carers and key community members.
- Opportunities for discussion around a range of topics relevant to students with an ASD and their families.

Some key community representatives that support families living with autism will be identified and invited to participate in the workshop with a view to supporting a community focus beyond the workshop.

To register for this unique opportunity go to [www.positivepartnerships.com.au](http://www.positivepartnerships.com.au). If you are not able to attend a workshop the website has FREE resources, interactive modules and information about autism.

For more information call Kim on: 0407 897 368

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Dear Friends,

We are delighted to announce that from September until December it will be possible to study Anthroposophy at the Goetheanum in English, German and also in Spanish and Portuguese. For further information:

Kontakt · Contact · Contacto · Contato  
Edda Nehmiz · Studium und Weiterbildung  
Goetheanum · Postfach · CH-4143 Dornach  
Schweiz · Fon +41 61 706 44 14  
studium@goetheanum.org  
www.goetheanum.org

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February  
Sunday February 23rd  
Pruning Fruit Trees - Join Neal Collins and learn how to prune deciduous fruit trees at the most appropriate time of the year. Hands on practical approach to good Organic pruning techniques that will help reduce pest and disease in your trees.  
Venue advised upon registration 10 am – 12.30pm $30

For registration or information for all Learn for Life workshops call 9848 3310 or email denmark@greenskills.org.au

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BRB—Be Right Back,  
a verse novel by Albany Poet Maree Dawes  
Book Launch this Monday, 24th of February 2014, 3-4pm at the Vancouver Arts Centre Gallery, Albany.  
Silvia Lehmann is directing a ten minute excerpt from the book, with actors Nicole Spanbroek and Tarquin Smart.  
For more info. please got to [www.perthfestival.com.au\writeinthegreatsouthern](http://www.perthfestival.com.au\writeinthegreatsouthern)