Wishing all our students and families a wonderful and warm winter break!

The Golden Quill

News from the School Coordinator

This is the last newsletter before the three week break. I would like to wish all the parents at our school a great time entertaining our students over this time. It is a great opportunity for family activities and social gatherings that no-one had time for during school term. It is also a boredom magnet. Three weeks without the routine of getting up at an unreasonable hour, doing chores while it’s still cold and probably dark and then being at school for the nicest part of the daytime, is a great challenge. The following comments are gleaned from Griffin Longley, a Weekend West columnist who wrote a wonderful article on the topic of boredom during the last summer holidays.

His claim is that necessity is, at best, the auntie of invention. “If necessity were the mother of invention, labradors would have invented the can opener long ago!” Instead, Longley attributes boredom as the key driver of invention in human society. His argument starts with the observation that it is “their lack of boredom that allows flies to turn the same geometric patterns around the same patch of ceiling for hours on end, for cows to never tire of eating grass and for bird nests to not develop beyond twigs in more than 40,000 years. They are content with necessity.” Not so with human beings. It has been observed that hunter gatherer societies, like Aborigines, have been enabled to develop their immensely rich cultural life simply because providing enough food and shelter to survive only took, on average, half the day. To quote Longley again, human beings “met our necessities, became bored and invented salmon mousse, rock music and cricket. Not to mention quantum physics and insecticides.”

The fascinating thing as far as our school is concerned, is that Longley goes on to claim that it is only when “you combine boredom and playfulness that the magic happens. Ideas fill the void of boredom, games are built on ideas and ideas are built on games and all of a sudden you have the Sistine Chapel.” Now
the key sentence: “This is why it is so important children experience boredom.” And it is also why we must be so suspicious about the role of digital entertainment. For the first time in history, children, and parents, have access to a switch specifically designed to subvert boredom. Giving a child permission to use their PlayStation for an hour because they’re bored may avert a crisis, but it also avoids invention. Of course, some inventions are plainly messy or dangerous and sometimes children can relax easiest with the mind-numbing ability of television. The risk comes when we flick the anti-boredom technology switch too young, too often, and especially, too quickly. “This process outsources our children’s fundamental human inheritance (the ability to create) to a bunch of skivvies working in the games studios of Fresno, California.”

A research paper called “The Creativity Crisis” published in 2011 in America, showed that childhood creativity there had fallen dramatically across all measures in the past two decades. The biggest fall was in creative elaboration – the ability to expand on an idea in a novel way. The risk is that this lack of children exercising their “creativity muscle” will have very serious long-term implications for our society as a whole. There may yet be another Einstein; someone capable of linking great thoughts together, but perhaps technology exposure during childhood is making it harder for these types of people to develop the faculties they need as an adult to do this work.

Longley’s fervent hope in this article was that there were “still kids out there who are bored. Lots of them! The problem is staying bored.” The lesson for us as parents, is that it will be the children who learn how to keep from staying bored who will be the innovators and the leaders of tomorrow.

Robert Gillman

Cross Number Competition
In the spirit of Algebra, Class 6/7 is holding a cross number competition! Toby has created an awesome cross number puzzle which can be completed either by adults or children. After completing the puzzle, fill out your entry details on the same sheet and pop it into the entry box at the office. **The winning puzzle entry will be drawn on August 15th** and the lucky winner will be the proud new owner of a new fountain pen, custom designed by Class 6/7. Come into the office to pick up your entry form today! Great holiday entertainment :)

Goodbye from Silvia in the office
I will be leaving the office towards the beginning of Term 3. I have decided to accept a job in town that is part-time. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working in the school office and I will be very sorry to leave this busy hive of activity! I will still be around as a parent, volunteering for school events.
If you are interested in the office administrator/receptionist position at the school or know someone who would be perfect, please see the details in the ads section of this newsletter.
With deep gratitude, Silvia

Calendar of the Soul—Week 39

Surrendered to the spirit’s revelation,
I win back the light of cosmic being.
it grows and grows,
enlightening me,
to give my self back to me.

"And this feeling of my self
awakening---
unravels itself
out of my strength
as a thinker."
News from P&F

Soup Days

We would love to be able to revive soup days in term 3. All going well, by week 3 our children will be enjoying warm soup on a Monday lunch time. **WE JUST NEED VOLUNTEERS!!!** As a soup day team member you will:

Once every 3 or 4 weeks, call the families responsible for soup that week to remind them of their responsibilities and what they are cooking.

Come to the school kitchen every 3 or 4 weeks about an hour before lunch time to get the hall ready, serve soup and clean up after it’s all done.

Liaise with other soup team members as needed to ensure the smooth running of the event.

If you think you could be up for this little belly warming adventure, please give Miranda or Gillian a call ASAP! Miranda 0447 820 468, Gillian 0438 965 425

Winter Festival

Thank you very much to all the volunteers who came along at just the right moment to make the Winter Festival come together. It was a huge success.

The spiral walk was a beautiful, reverent, heart warming experience as always. The lantern walk was once again full of wonder. The bonfire was superbly constructed by some hard working dads and all the food you provided warmed our bellies and completed the whole sensory experience. These annual moments of joy that we all come to anticipate throughout our families’ Steiner experience could not happen without your help—so thanks again. I really enjoyed getting to know a few parents I hadn’t met before and feel very honoured to have shared the experience of preparing the festival with you.

**There were definitely a few nail biting moments along the way!!!** Such as, arriving at school on the morning before the festival to find that only the tiniest pile of greenery had been delivered for the spiral as well as having only 1 person to help me right at the crucial moment of serving the soup to approximately 120 people!!! Luckily Richard (the school grounds person) came to the rescue to do some unscheduled pruning to ensure the spiral would go ahead. When people realised the soup was coming out rather slowly, they filed into the kitchen to give a helping hand.

It all worked out in the end. We walked, we reflected, we marvelled, we listened, we sang, we ate, we laughed, we enjoyed. We all live busy lives……..it’s beautiful celebrations like this that give us cause to pause and reflect on the passing of the seasons that may otherwise go unnoticed. **Perhaps, the next time a school festival or event comes along you could all pause for a little longer than usual about a week or so before to really think about whether you could spare an hour or so of your time to help minimise the risk of more nail biting moments for the P&F !!!!!**

Warmest Winter Wishes, Miranda Miller. (Iris and Gracie’s mum)
**News from Silver Birch Kindergarten**

What a wonder-filled taste of mid year we experienced for our Early Childhood winter Festival last week. I thoroughly enjoyed sharing the evening with you all. Thank you for coming with lanterns and shared food. This newsletter brings us to the end of another warm term for ourselves and your child. As we take a three week break might our hearts stay warm and bodies covered to keep the winter chill away. We will leave our frog in peace. Next term will bring its own awe and delight.

Kind regards

Happy holiday with your child

Christine and Sophia

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**News from Karri Kindergarten**

Thank you to everyone who came to our Winter Festival last Thursday evening, to share in our celebration of the solstice. We were grateful to be able to enjoy the wonder of the lantern walk before the rains came down! Many thanks to Sophia with help from her daughters and Clare for setting up this magical meander through the forest!

Thanks also to all who contributed to the celebration and brought along food to share.

This week we welcome a work experience student from Great Southern Grammar School, Isla Sheehan, a former student of GHSS, whose happy memories of Karri Kindergarten have led to her choosing it for her work experience.

Our parent librarian, Kimberley (Poppyanna's mum) has asked that all library books please be returned this week so she can do a stocktake. Thank you.

Parent/Teacher conferences are underway, and continuing this week. Please put your name down if you'd like to have a conversation about your child's progress.

Chook sitters needed! If you are able to help out with caring for our kindergarten hens during the second two weeks of the holidays (from Friday 11th of July onwards), please let us know. "Lightening" has just started laying eggs again, so you may be rewarded for your help!

Wishing all our families a wonderful, warm winter break!

Denise, Merveena and Clare.
News from Class 2
Hello everyone,

Unfortunately, the term ended early for me with suspected glandular fever. Fortunately I have been able to rely on two wonderful teachers, Mary Lou and Emily to carry my class through to the end of the term. And I have been able to get a sense of what it means to be part of a community. Far away from my family, and feeling like death could be a preferred option, my spirits have been buoyed by the kind words and practical support given to me by my friends at Golden Hill. I intend to make a speedy recovery and will be back at work next term. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday.

Cheers, Karen

News from Class 1
Hello everyone,

Well done! Cl. 2 has been working very well on their latest math main lesson. It has been lovely to see everyone helping each other. We have enjoyed having the Pixie’s Popcorn Party! Whenever it was a ‘take away’ the children got to eat part of their math sum! We did munch some of the popcorn before starting our math, so our temptation to ‘just eat’ was somewhat quenched.

I wish everyone a happy holiday! I look forward to hearing about all the small and big adventures…and about the magical moments you have when you ‘just be’.

Warm regards
Sonja

Lost Property!
Our lost property box is overflowing once again, including items from camps (pillows, mozzie nets…) Please check for you child/family’s belongings before the term break as all items will be donated to the opp-shop.

Cheers, Silvia

Cranes for Kardi
Some members of the Spirit of Play community have begun making paper origami cranes for our lovely Kardi. Anyone who wishes to contribute to this visual creation of love and hope are welcome to do so and bring what they have made into the school by Friday the 4th of July (this Friday). If you would like to join in but are unsure of how to fold the paper cranes please come along to the Spirit of Play playgroup today (Wednesday the 2nd of July) 9:30 am - 11:30 am for folding instruction and companionship.

For more info please call Katie on 9848 2285, or e-mail: katie@spiritofplaydenmark.com

There is a card for Kardi in the school office from our school community. Please come in if you would like to sign it.
Please respect Kardi’s right to her privacy and don’t contact her yourself.
Thanks,
Silvia

Abi, Cassidy, Xavier and Shanti watching the popcorn pop.

Xavier, Abi and Elizabeth making bags of ten.

Shanti, Angelina and Cassidy making bags of ten.
Hello everyone,

Wow, another week has flown by. I can hardly believe this week is the final week of Term 2. This week we have enjoyed stories of ancient authority and rulership from the Old Testament. The children listened intently to stories about Daniel in the Lion’s Den, David and Goliath, and Jonah and the Whale. Cl.3 are eager to receive their play script on Monday - The Story of Moses.

Cl.3’s creation stories are coming along beautifully, with most of the children ready to publish work. I am amazed by their use of language to make their stories creative and interesting.

During practice lessons this week we have been playing time games, which is really helping Cl.3 grasp the concept. We have also been working on long addition and subtraction equations with carrying and borrowing numbers.

On Tuesday we had a whole class violin practice for the end of term concert on Thursday 3rd of July at 1.30pm. I was blown away by how far they have come, a true testament to Jude’s skill as a violin teacher.

Here’s to a wonderful final few days of Term 2.

Warm wishes,
Chrystal

Parents’ Singing Group
Next Term on Tuesdays, 9am-10am
This is a lovely, heart-warming way to start the week. We are a fun and supportive group. No experience necessary, just bring your voice.

MISSING FOOD PROCESSOR
It has come to our attention that the Sunbeam food processor from the Hall kitchen has gone missing. Class 6/7 was hoping to make use of it for some winter soups! If you know of it’s whereabouts, please inform a staff member.
News from Class 6/7

And so Term 2 is coming to a close. It has been a very busy term and the students have worked very hard. They deserve their break!

We are just finishing off the story of Sir Richard Porter in our Language main lesson. After writing some book reviews on the novels we have read in class, we started work on Narratives. The students created characters whose personalities and backgrounds provoked them into conflict with each other. At last the students were able to create their own stories where they decided exactly what happens!

We then practised the art of arguing in the formal style of Persuasive Essays. My apologies to any parents who find their child's arguments too convincing now. I fear I taught them too well...

Of the topics that we discussed, most popular was the issue of having access to the forest during school time. The perfect opportunity to remedy this presented itself when we studied poetry. We trouped down to the creek and the students wrote beautiful couplets describing the sounds and sights of the Karri forest.

Happy holidays!

Alex

News from Class 4/5

Hi everyone,

The holidays are almost upon us. It was interesting to speak to a few non-teachery friends last weekend who were suggesting that not much happens in the last week of term. This seems to be a fairly common belief, but the last week of term in our class always seems particularly hectic as we try to get everything finished off.

I will be spending a fair bit of time in the holidays going over our class reader for next term, The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho, and seeing how play-worthy it is. I have a feeling that the class and I can easily adapt it for the stage and it is a project I am feeling pretty excited about. Other things coming up for next term are working together with the hospital on some shared activities between the class and the residents of Blue Wren Lodge as well as a collaborative art submission for Brave New Works.

Hope that you all enjoy a well-earned break!

Regards, Eliza

Hi, Justin Chester here (Woodwork teacher)

I will be taking Cl.4/5 on an excursion with Alex on Friday 4th of July at 9.30am. I will be taking them to Harewood Forest and do a historical walk focused on the forestry period of Denmark.

Please remember to hand in your permission slips and help out with transport to and from Harewood. We will return to school at lunchtime.
Excerpts from Class 6/7 Poems on the theme of sound

from *Fishing* by Luka Underwood

There was movement in the water
For the fish were coming out
And the splashing of the Sambos
They were all about.

Among them was a biggy
Such a Sambo never seen
He charged upon my pippies
And I hooked him nice and clean.

The zinging of my reel
The aching of my hand
The barking of the seals
Out upon the land.

From Molly’s poem:
Up the hill on Rushton Street
It’s a very stormy night
In my room all alone without a single light

The ticking of the clock
The banging of the doors
The purring of the cat
The scratching of the floors

From Olive Collins’s poem
My brother is a terror
He can be an annoying boy
But when he starts to hassle me
I come up with a ploy

I love being in the bush
I have a special tree
When I’m angry or upset at home
That’s where I feel free

Sometimes I go there just to read
I enjoy nature’s sounds
Trees rustling, frogs croaking
As I take in my surrounds.

From Asher Trom-Wright’s poem:
This morning at the beach
it was wet and cold out there
Squid about, fish were biting,
Seagulls everywhere.

The sun is beating down
On the silvery fish
The white bait dart around
And their tails flip and swish

*Ears are Eyes* by Carina Cocking

In the night when I cant sleep
And there’s darkness all around
I can only sit and listen to
The large array of sound

Like a lullaby to my ears
Are the sheets of rain
It calms the beating of my heart
And occupies my brain

When the night is calm and dry
The air completely still
The noise is carried far and wide
Through the valleys and the hills

A distant flock of sheep
All bleating from a fright
And sounds from restless cattle
They echo through the night

Or when a frog gets eaten
By a hungry snake
The curdling scream makes me jump
And shocks me wide awake

If the tap is dripping
From the faucet to the sink
It becomes so frustrating
I can not even think

Without sight it is not the same
Your eyes replaced with ears
Noise paints the pictures in your mind
Be it loves or fears.

*Redman Rhythms* By Caer O’Sullivan

I was sitting in the forest when some ponies trotted by
The parrots started talking and the birds began to cry.

I saw some bright red fungi; I was swinging Daire high,
I looked into the distance- an eagle flying by!
Kwoorabup Market News

Last market the Winter Festival lived on, with Belinda cleaning, processing and cooking up all the apples from the spiral walk into mega trays of apple crumble, whilst Flynn Collins offered a candle decorating activity on his candle stall with the leftover candles. It really is important to me that the markets live up to the value of “resource respect”, even though, for those behind the scenes, this involves an often-times unnerving level of flexibility to whatever presents on the day.

Making use of what’s “in season” can take many forms. Moriya, a travelling musician originally from Israel, was conducting sound healing workshops in Denmark last weekend, and rather spontaneously offered to play for us at the market. It was a memorable moment hearing him play the didge whilst Benjamin Davey Lehmann and Alyce Chappell, totally in the zone, stood nearby, accompanying him by spinning vacuum cleaner hoses I think they were, above their heads, in the light drizzle of a winter afternoon - very atmospheric!

I was excited to find a root of horseradish (which looked like mandrake) at Lucia’s stall, which inspired me to buy some of Shipley’s bio-dynamic beef for a roast - horseradish cream and roast beef being perfect food partners. I hope Chrystal will forgive me for the mystery taste test!

So, although it was an intimate market day, there was, as always, the opportunity to have a unique Denmark Experience. I invite you all to join us for the last market of the term, this Friday July 4.

Support your local growers and processors and fill up on community spirit, to help sustain you through the dark and cold times.

See you at the markets! Simone Coleman
Advertisements
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SIMPLICITY PARENTING COACH TRAINING
COMING IN SEPTEMBER!

Cost:
The Training Fee is $980.
Register by August 7 to receive our special Early Bird rate of $880.

Requirements:
Read Simplicity Parenting by Kim John Payne, complete a Commitment Letter, study the Simplicity Parenting Coach Toolkit (which you will receive after registration for the training), and attend the Orientation Call on September 18.

Schedule:
Orientation Call: September 18
Class Conference Calls: September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, November 6, 13 and 20.
All Calls take place at 4 pm on the given dates and take 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Registration
Please register through the Registration page on our website by clicking on the link, or go to www.simplicityparenting.com
For questions about registration, please email katharine@simplicityproject.org

GHSS School Photo Day
Thursday 3rd of July
Don't forget to bring in your envelopes or order photos online.

Looking for a House
Looking for a long term rental - out of town property.
Family of six - excellent tenants, Ph: 9840 9845

WANTED
Storage Space—
0408 122 515
Looking for Home… Have you seen it?”

Come mid July, this family of roaming Lambs will be moving to Denmark where Papa Lamb is starting work.

My Mama job will be to settle our three into your beautiful schooling space before baby four arrives at the start of September. We hope to find a home close-ish to town, 3 plus bedrooms. We’ll take fine care of wherever we land.

Hoping this hope finds a home… You can catch us at brett.lamb@bigpond.com or 0488 003 176. It would be so nice to meet any kidlet play friends in the last week of the July holidays … my class 4, 2 and K6 kidlets would be so happy to say hello … the Mama would be quite pleased too.

So, so looking forward to saying hello. Cheerio till then.

Katja and Brett Lamb

Mon 8th Sept -7 pm at YSS -Cost $10

’Sleeping Habits - Five Golden Rules’

Wed 10th Sept at 1pm Carbunup Hall - Workshop -Cost $10

‘What does it mean to be a Modern Parent Today’

Wed 10th Sept 7 pm at YSS -Cost $10

‘How to Create a Day & How to Create Rituals’

Helle is the founding director of Nøkken, a pioneering kindergarten in Denmark emphasizing time spent in nature, natural rhythms, biodynamic foods and shaping life around the unique needs of the young child. Helle is the author of 3 books: ‘Nøkken’ ‘More News from Nøkken’ and ‘Childhoods Garden’ a narrative with accompanying DVD: and has travelled and taught throughout the Americas, Canada and Europe. Helle is a member of the Danish Steiner Waldorf Kindergarten Association and serves on the board of The International Early Childhood Association.

“For the last few years I have travelled the world visiting Kindergartens, childcare workers, nurseries and schools. Everywhere I have met a growing need to counsel parents about how to handle everyday life with small children. It takes guts for parents in this day and age to go against the stream and follow their intuition…knowing that children need to be given the space to develop naturally and in their own speed and way”…Helle Heckman

Please contact Yallingup Steiner School to register your interest- 08 9755 2230

On behalf of Dr Rebecca Coleman, Joanne Carter and I are pleased to offer the

Mindful Awareness Parenting Facilitator Training in East Fremantle on 28th July to 1st August 2014.

This five day training is an experiential immersion into Mindfulness, Self Compassion and Attachment Theory. Participants can ground their own practise and enhance their skills for teaching the MAP Course. You will receive all the materials you need to run a group immediately after training! Supervision is included in the course fee for up to 12 months.

We provide wholesome food and drink, time to reflect, walks by the river, and many opportunities to feel the benefits of the mindfulness practice.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss the training further please call Pam Rumble on 0428 482 015 or email pamelarumble@gmail.com.

Registrations are due in by 7th July 2014. There are limited places available for this much sought after training.

Best wishes, Pamela Rumble

Acc.MentalHealthSocialWorker MAASW.MAPInstructor

“Looking for Home... Have you seen it?”

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**July School Holidays 2014**

'Tears of the Gods' - the captivating realm of Crystals

Children’s Discovery Centre 10am – 4:30pm daily. Worn by pharaohs, emperors and royalty throughout the ages, they can be the rarest and valuable material on earth or the most common, and are found on everyone’s dinner table. The WA Museum Albany will celebrate the International Year of Crystallography these July School Holidays by exploring the multifaceted world of crystals. Free & low cost children’s activities: discover the science of growing crystals, unearth the largest crystal cave in the world and view the hidden beauty of these sparkling gems under our new HD Video microscope. See the amazing patterns found in raindrops that freeze, design and create your own sparkling snowflake! Watch chemistry and symmetry in action as crystals grow before your eyes! Hunt for hidden clues to solve the Crystal Quest….

All events take place at the Western Australian Museum, Residency Road, Albany, 6330

Booking/information: (08) 98414844 / albany@museum.wa.gov.au

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**DENTAL NEWS**

The Dental Van is busily working its way through all the students at Denmark Primary and surrounding schools. Please if you would like your child to have a check-up sooner feel free to contact us. We are asking this year that as a parent, can you please attend at least your child’s check-up appointment so any consent can be ascertained if necessary.

New to the Dental Van is that we are now participating in the Child Dental Benefits Schedule. If your child is due for a check-up please have your letter of eligibility handy so we will be able to process the necessary paper work.

The Dental Van is open MONDAY-THURSDAY 8:30am-3:30pm and can be contacted on 0437 486 143 or alternatively via email on MtBarkerMobile@dental.health.wa.gov.au

Kind Regards

The Tooth Fairies

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**Holistic Birth**

Hypnobirthing Australia™

Holistic Birth offers a 12 hr comprehensive childbirth education program led by a Registered Midwife, designed to embrace the power of positive birth.

Create a calm gentle environment for your baby’s arrival regardless of your birth method. Whether your baby’s birth is vaginal or caesarean Hypnobirth can be applied.

Hypnobirth releases the fear associated with childbirth and previous traumatic births. Maximise your body’s natural ability to prevent and block the release of pain causing stress hormones but encourage the release of good hormones called endorphins; which are proven to be 20-30 times more effective than morphine.

Elisha Spalding  Registered Nurse/Midwife, Certified Hypnobirth Practitioner, Childbirth Educator

040 228 0306  holisticbirth@hotmail.com

The natural approach to a calm and positive birth