Robert Gillman is away on a conference in Qld. Below is an article from ‘Waldorf Today’ published 3/6/2014.

Gearing Up to Create Smiles By Mary Hirsch

About six years ago, I began my work at Kimberton Waldorf School, a place where I met so many dynamic alumni who were and are changing the world. One of those is Esther Bissinger ’97, who struggled for years with Crohn’s disease and was desperate for a cure.

Esther took a year off of college to travel to Buenos Aires, Argentina to work at odd jobs, learning Spanish along the way. Still in search of a cure, she then entered the Sivananda Yoga Teacher Training Course in upstate New York.

Upon completing the course, Esther and another instructor travelled to Mexico, planning to stop at Tashirat’s Yoga Center along the way. Esther was so drawn to the consciousness being taught in Tashirat that she felt compelled to stay and learn more. Within a few years, healed from Crohn’s, she came to the conclusion that the physical disease that she once thought had “ruined” her life, was the greatest gift she ever received. It forced her to change the direction of her life and stumble upon a healing that was much deeper than the physical level. “I found a life of extraordinary learning and growth, and a consciousness that rang true to me in every single way,” Esther said. Today, Esther is a teacher and takes care of one of the homes at Tashirat. She also knows with certainty that life itself is a school and there are many lessons for us to learn.

“I never feel good unless I am growing, changing and evolving all the time,” Esther said. “That is the natural process of life, and to feel really alive, I want to be actively involved in that process on a daily basis. It is what I most remember from my early years in a Waldorf school -- that delight and joy in learning and discovering life itself.”
What I learned from Esther about the children in her care made me feel both sad and glad. I learned that the mission of the Tashirat Orphanage is to take in disabled children, children who are too old to be adopted, or siblings who normally are separated or left in overcrowded government orphanages for the rest of their childhoods, then sent into the world alone when they turn 18 with no one to count on. One of these children—a twin—was an irritable infant who cried incessantly. When she came to the orphanage, she couldn’t speak or walk and her diagnosis was grim. Just years later—who still facing many challenges—this child is dancing through life sporting an ear-to-ear smile. Unlike the "Oliver Twist" type orphanages, Tashirat is comprised of small families. Most staff members are foster parents to 3–8 children and each family has their living quarters—much like the Camphill communities found around the world. The children are cared for and loved by the staff as if they were their own. Although they eventually attend universities and go out into the world to start their adult lives, they will always have a home and family to fall back on.

All of the children arrive in extremely poor health, heavily medicated for chronic illnesses; all were malnourished and physically and emotionally weak. Ten of the children are "special needs" with various disabilities, psychological and mental disorders. All the others have overcome deep emotional traumas.

"We have watched all the children flourish since their arrival here," Esther shared. "With every passing year, they realize more of their potential, become more confident and secure. They have become the most beautiful individuals."

The Tashirat children are given the highest quality vegetarian diet, grown right there. They use homeopathy when necessary and avoid using allopathic medications. They live ecologically. The children are being raised to be independent thinkers, globally and spiritually conscious individuals who care about themselves, others and the world as a whole. All the children understand English and most are fully bilingual now.
News from Peppermint Cottage

We’ve had a lovely time in playgroup recently. The weather’s been sunny and we have enjoyed painting and playing. Jade is happy to return to Thursday Playgroup and thankyou to everyone who helped while she was away overseas.

Both Tuesday and Thursday Playgroup and Wednesday Baby Group have been very quiet for a while now. Did you know that GHSS families with playgroup age children receive a substantial discount off the Playgroup fees? Please ask the office for details – and please spread the word about playgroup – it really is a wonderful two hours to spend with your toddler.

Playgroup – age 18months to 4 years, Parent and Baby group – pregnant to 18mtnhs old.

We hope to see you there!

Yours warmly,
Jade, Clare and Theda

News from Karri Kindergarten

Our thoughts have been with all those children and their families who’ve been suffering sickness over the past few weeks. Last week we had over half of the children away most days and missed them very much. Sickness is part of life, but we are very much hoping that we see a return to health for everyone in our kindergarten community very soon. On the topic of health, as a child in our kindergarten has a peanut allergy, no peanuts or products containing them are to be brought for lunch. Please let us know if your child has any food allergies or sensitivities so we can accommodate their needs within our morning tea menu. If your child has any health conditions which require a specific procedure to be carried out when required (i.e. severe allergies, asthma) please ensure we have an up to date form filled in, plus any medication that is needed. Medications can only be given with written instructions and permission from parents.

This term’s parent/teacher meeting is scheduled for next Monday, 25th August, 3-4.30pm. Once again it will be a practical meeting with a chance to model with beeswax, and to immerse yourselves in the creative world of storytelling. I will be sharing some ideas for storytelling with your little ones. Childcare will be available. A reminder note will come home later in the week.

Warm wishes for good health!
Denise

From Council

The School has a Grievance Policy which outlines what you should do if you, as a parent, are concerned about any aspect of your child’s schooling. The first thing to do is to take up the issue with your child’s teacher. If for any reason you find this a little daunting you can ask for help and support from the Parent Advocate who has been appointed by the school especially for this purpose. The parent advocate is Ilan Trom (Asher from Cl.6 dad) and you can call him on 0421 784 187. All conversations will be treated as confidential. A copy of the Grievance Policy and flow chart showing what to do are available in the office.

Parents’ Singing Group

THIS 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.

The first P&F meeting for the term will be held on Monday 25th August at 12.30pm, in the Peppermint Cottage Playgroup building. Please come along, new members welcome, we will start planning the Spring Festival.
News from Class 1

Hello everyone,

The class has thoroughly enjoyed the Nature Stories main lesson and we had a fantastic time seeing Neal’s garden. A big thank you to Neal and Simone for putting together some great activities, the children loved their bush flowers and propagated plants. And of course there would have been no excursion if some of the parents hadn’t taken the time to drive us.

Our next big event will be the class performance and parent meeting at 1:30 Friday the 29th in our classroom. The Kindy children will be watching our performance as well and then all of the children will go to the kindergarten so we can have our parent meeting. I have a few things I would like to discuss but am keen to hear what questions or concerns you would like covered. Please send me an email with any suggestions you have.

For the next few weeks we will be immersed in a mathematics main lesson. I believe it is very important for the children to discover the joy of numbers and to find math in the world around them. They can be supported in this at home by simple things such as discussing the days of the week for example ‘Today is Tuesday and we had music, tomorrow will be Wednesday and we do gardening. Or months of the year, for example, ‘My birthday is in May and Finn’s birthday is in April, and even ‘There were 12 eggs in the carton and we used 4 for the cake, how many are left? Or ‘There are 12 eggs in the carton and we need four to make a cake. How many cakes can we make if we use all the eggs?’ These do not need to be like homework, rather capture the moment when it presents itself. The more ‘real life’ maths the child experiences the more they enjoy it.

I am also looking for a bookshelf for the classroom and some crafty people to start making fable animals for next year. These can be felted, sewn, knitted, crocheted or any other talent you have. We would like a hare, wolf, fox, donkey, and a small flock of sheep. I have some patterns if you require them. Cheers, Karen

News from Class 2

Cl.1 and Cl.2 ventured to Neal and Simone’s garden last Wednesday! We really enjoyed exploring and learning about the plants. We loved eating the snow peas and the bush tucker! Thank you Flynn for showing it to us. Thank you to everyone who helped make this excursion possible. Cl.2 is busy practicing their class play “Saint Francis and the Wolf of Gubbio”. Presentation dates are: 4th (parents) and 5th (assembly) of September. We look forward to seeing you there. The parent/teacher class meeting is on the 1st of September at 3.15pm, please contact me or the office if you need childcare. We also had some fun with Cl. 3 playing with the parachute.

Warm regards, Sonja
News from Class 3

Hello everyone. I am so very impressed at how the class are going with play rehearsals! Especially when half of them are or have been unwell. Cl. 3 have really stepped up with learning their lines. We are now honing in on things like entering and exiting the stage, expression, volume of voice, and using gesture. We have finished the story of Moses’ life, so the children have it living in them, which gives more meaning to what they are doing/saying on stage.

We hope to see you on Thursday at 1:30pm, and if you can’t make it to that one the school performance at 9:30am (there will be lots of children in the audience so you may prefer the 1:30 performance).

Arohanui, Chrystal

News from Class 4/5

Class 4/5 is coming to the end of our Ancient Indian Main Lesson. It has been four weeks of epic battles, reincarnation and a whole host of divinities. It has been lovely to see the students so engaged in all we have studied and also inspiring to see the parents generously donating their time to contribute what they can.

In thanks and in celebration, this Thursday night at 5pm the parents of class 4/5 have been invited to a night of Indian food and festivities! The students will be cooks, waiters and performers. As we don our saris, we aim to give a taste of Ancient Indian culture through stories, songs and poems. It promises to be a fun evening and the perfect culmination of all our hard work.

Namaste, Alex

News From The Community Singing Group

Our small group of dedicated parents continue to meet regularly first thing after the bell on Tuesday mornings. We are making wonderful progress on our special piece “Blessed Be”, and everyone is taken with the beautiful harmonies we are managing to produce, even with our small numbers. Each time we sing it feels like a healing meditation, and this is reflected in the comments various members continue to make.

However, we all agree that we would love to have at least four or five people in each section to give us a really full sound, and the safety in numbers would help to build our confidence as a singing group.

So, we continue to seek more members of the parent community to join us each week at this time. All levels of singing ability are welcome, and current members have commented on how their confidence has grown in a short time of participating in the group. Parents with younger children are welcome to bring them along.

So please consider joining us. It’s a great way to start your day and connect with other families across the school community. Regards, Bruce
Hi everyone,

Thankyou to those parents who managed to come to last Monday's class meeting- our shortest ever at only 20 mins!

We are halfway through reading “The Alchemist” and the children have been doing a great job of discussing the text and deconstructing the storyline.

I have recently made the very difficult decision to postpone our play performance to Term 4. This will allow us to really live into the novel and examine the characters in more depth. Also, writing the script seemed like a good idea at the time but in all honesty it has turned out to be bigger than Ben Hur! I would like to use this extra time to give it the depth of thought it deserves, refine and rework the script, and focus more on the class learning our musical pieces in the meantime.

We are creating a 'sock display' in the classroom this week from last term's knitted socks and most children have now commenced sewing their dolls. If you have any nice fabric scraps lying around which might be good for dolls clothes, we would love you to donate them. Also, if anyone would like to knock off some PIP hours, we need some crocheted dolls caps to put on the heads so the children can make hair. If you can crochet in the round, these are fairly easy to do and I can easily show you quickly before/after school. Have a great week!

Regards, Eliza

**News from Gardening**

What beautiful weather we have been having in the last 2 weeks. The peach tree in the orchard has exploded in blossoms and the weeds are having a great time too.

Class 6/7 have been learning about the pH scale and the connection between the soil and the human body in terms of acidity and alkalinity. They also had a tug of war to experience the battle of the microbes in the soil. Obviously the Steiner microbes are very strong as the rope snapped and they all came tumbling down.

Class 4/5 have begun work on a new orchard (next to the existing one) We have been given 5 new bare-rooted fruit trees through the Stephanie Alexander School Garden Program that will form the beginning of this new project.

Speaking of the orchard, Richard has done a fantastic job in netting all our fabulous trees. please stroll down and take a look at a very economical way to net an orchard

Class 3 have been hard at work, down in the trenches, preparing a potato patch. We hope to have potatoes to sell at the school markets later in the year.

Class 1 and 2 had an excursion to Neal and Simone’s garden, and learnt how to take a hard-wood cutting and to propagate plants by root division. They all took home 2 succulent cuttings and a posy of flowers.

Many thanks to my gardening helpers; Maddie and Lorelle for your continued support.

If there are any class 4/5 parents looking to knock off some PP hours by helping in the gardening classes, please contact me on 98481942. Class 4/5 gardening times are Mondays from 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm and Tuesdays 11.15am till noon. Cheers, Neal
House Concert
Sunday September 7th
Jude's place

I am hosting a fundraising concert for Sonia and Donald Anderson which will be held at my place on Sun 7th Sept from 2.30 pm (see poster in Advertisements on last page).

Violinists are welcome to perform as part of the concert.

Thanks very much

Kwoorabup Market News

The next Kwoorabup Markets are on Friday 29th of August. Come and grab your winter produce and warm up with a cup of chai tea. See you at the markets.

Simone Coleman

Spring Festival Is Coming
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.

Dip. Conservation & Land Management
Cert. III Horticulture
Cert. IV Training & Assessment
Phone Carl: 0422 512 717 or
E-mail: dousy@hotmail.com

Advertisements

Holistic Birth

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

Extra Lesson Training Course

New course starting due to popular demand!

PERTH 29 Sep.—3 Oct. 2014

The training is at a post graduate level.

For more information please visit:
www.extralesson.com
or email training.enquires@extralesson.com

Looking for Housesit Possibilities or Room / Granny Flat / House share

Please Call Fiona: 0431 984 470

Many Thanks

Extra Lesson Training Course

Looking for House / Animal Sitter For School Holidays

Contact Emma Jerrett 0405 475 437

Dusenberg
Land, Garden & Environment Services

Dip. Conservation & Land Management
Cert. III Horticulture
Cert. IV Training & Assessment
Phone Carl: 0422 512 717 or
E-mail: dousy@hotmail.com

Advertisements