It seems remarkable that Christmas is just over a week away. You can almost smell Christmas dinner. On behalf of the school I would like to thank the parents very much for the amazing Christmas present that you have just given us with your overwhelmingly positive results to the parent survey. 56% of the school families responded. We asked 30 questions and for 23 of them, 80% or more of you were positive or strongly positive towards the school. Of particular note is that amongst the highest ratings of all were for the school’s teachers providing a stimulating learning environment and that the teachers appeared to be well prepared for lessons. This is enormously positive feedback to our teachers. Similarly, there is overwhelming support for the school attempting to retain its Cl.7 students, with 69% of you strongly agreeing. This is a strong base to start from in 2015 – with registration in June. Thank you for your support.

Of course you mentioned areas to work on as well and better communication is clearly highlighted as the main area of need. All your comments will be forwarded to Council and to CoT and are now evidence that the school registration inspectors will use to gauge how well the school responds to its parent community. The large majority of respondents were also very positive about this format for surveying your thoughts and the next survey will probably ask very similar questions and close in early December, 2015. You can ask to see a copy of all the 2014 results at the office if you wish to see them and you are welcome to make an appointment with myself if you would like to follow up on any comments.

On other matters, we bid farewell to Sonja, Xchemaya and to Fiona at the office. We need to thank all three for their hard work in their roles and they will all be missed. We have already announced that Tom Rosignuolo will take Class 2 on the next stage of their journey and Tegan Brown will take over in the office in the new year. Not unexpectedly, Keiko Fukui has resigned too as her parent need her ongoing support. The school is advertising for a language (other than English) teacher and a remedial teacher. Finally, Mary Lou Small and Merveena Reynolds will be stepping into Denise’s very large boots for a year while she has a year on long service leave. She has a great year planned.

## Important dates

- **Thursday 18 Dec**
  - Last day of school
  - Christmas celebration
    - 10 -10.45am
  - Class 7 Graduation Ceremony
    - 11.15-12.00pm

- **Monday 2 Feb**
  - First day of school
  - Starts: 8.45am

## Term Dates 2015

1. 2 Feb - 2 April
2. 20 April - 26 June
3. 20 July - 24 Sept
4. 12 Oct - 17 Dec
You will note the term dates have been published in this newsletter with school starting again on the 2nd February. There is one important announcement to make in addition to this. College has decided to start school 5 minutes earlier each day at 8:45am. This is to avoid the necessity of having a compulsory school day on a Saturday (typically an Open Day) due to there being an ANZAC holiday during the week next year.

The next announcement is that College has decided that we will change the format for the newsletter next year. This will therefore be the last issue for the fortnightly Golden Quill. Instead the school will publish a one page “Friday Quill” every Friday which will advertise any events happening over the next week and make any important announcements. There will be limited public advertising section which we will charge for. Then, at the end of each term, there will be a much larger colour “magazine” showcasing the previous term’s events at school in a way that can be given to the wider community. Advertising will also be sold for this publication. We hope that students in the higher classes will have a role in its production.

The final announcement is to confirm that the school has received ten letters from parents requesting that their children have a consolidation year at Golden Hill Steiner School instead of moving to the high school. There is a three year legal loophole allowing our school to respond to their requests if we think it is in the “best interests” of each of the students. This process has been very time-intensive and, at times, quite stressful but has now been ratified by Council. Eliza has agreed to stay on for three terms next year and support these students. Hopefully the school will then be in a position to employ a high school homeroom teacher for the last term. The school has still got an application for an ongoing Cl.7 on the Minister’s desk but we have no timeframe for when this will be answered. The reasons for having this position are based on the observations that students are just developing ownership of their sense of judgement. There is a strong need for teachers and parents of students this age to engage them appropriately to avoid the two extremes of cynicism or bullying – both situations where appropriate judgements are clouded. This issue will not be settled anytime soon, so we are grateful for your support for our Cl.7 proposal in the Parent Survey and with the petitions outside each classroom.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Robert Gillman

**News from Silver Birch**

As we come to the end of term and to the completion of another year I would warmly like to thank all the families who shared our kindergarten. Sophia and I have enjoyed nurturing your children. We have laughed together, played alongside, eaten delicious snacks, shared many birthdays, held our breath at times when new adventures beckoned and thoroughly delighted in their discoveries. It is a privilege for us to be with your child in this way. Thank you.

Christine and Sophia

**News from Karri Kindergarten**

Wednesday our K6 children graduated from kindergarten. Our very best wishes go with these ten children; Alba, Aila, Freya, Lila-Rose, Hamish, Joe, Evie, Poppyanna, Siri and Teo as they begin their journey through the primary school. After ten years in Karri Kindergarten I am taking year off, heading off overseas in February and intending to return to teach in 2016. I’d like to wish everyone in our school community a wonderful, relaxing Christmas and summer holidays, and a fantastic 2015.

Warm wishes

Denise and everyone at Karri Kindergarten
News from Class 1

Hello everyone,
Butterfly, butterfly lands on a blossom, greeting his colourful friend
Now he embraces the wind and flutters, dancing he has flowers to tend

The technique of painting long strokes of a single colour addresses the rhythm of the breathing system. There is no nervous brushing to and fro across the paper. The eyes watch the movements of the hand and brush; the hand and arm move quietly from left to right, and the rib cage expands and contracts in time with that motion. Then we add the shape of the spiral to the background colour. Blue spiralling in towards the centre in a clockwise direction and red spiralling counter clockwise towards the periphery.

It has been a privilege to watch the children as they have undertaking their daily painting activities with joy and concentration. There has been a feeling of calm and reverence in our classroom throughout the last two weeks despite the frantic Christmas and end of year preparations that have been going on around us. What a wonderful way to end the year!

Thank you to all the people who have helped out at the Denmark Arts Markets. We can offer for sale anything that has been handmade so if you would like to make something please let me know. It can be anything, wooden toys, knitted animals, library bags, fairy dresses or whatever your skills and talents can create. And if you have any suggestions for a simple craft activity that you would like to see offered at the markets please pass them on.
Cheers,
Karen

News from Class 2

Greetings. Class 2 has been busy again, making a class wall hanging out of felt. Katja and Kristi came to help make our creek scene. It looks amazing! On Monday we had our adventure day at Shanti’s house! We decorated candles with dripping wax, went for a swim in the dam, played with the dogs, chased the roosters (one now has a happy new home), learnt some local bush craft, how to carry bundles of wood and best of all we made delicious wood fired sourdough pizzas!! Thank you to Kristi & her family for a wonderful day.
Best wishes for the new year!
Thank you so much for all you love and support.
Sonja
News from Class 2...
News from Class 3

Fun on the Farm

On Friday Class Three went to the Shipley’s farm in Torbay, where Mike showed us around. First we saw the 470 chickens that were a beautiful shade of golden brown. We collected three eggs each from the egg mobile, and then we went to see the sheep. Their fluffy wool was everywhere like puffs of clouds. They put elastic bands on their tails to stop the sheep from getting fly blown. Their sheep naturally drop their wool so you don’t need to shear them. Last but not least we saw the spectacular cows from the back of the trailer. Two calves and a cow refused to go through to the next paddock, but in the end they got through to the other side. Lastly we met Barbara at their house to eat a delicious lunch. My favourite part of the day was hearing that they moved their cattle every day or two. And that’s my perspective of the Shipley’s farm.

Written by Tabitha Kenyon, Class Three

Wanted

Rental property for our new Class One teacher, Elise and her husband Robert from mid-January
3 + bedrooms, 2 toilets/bathrooms, fenced in area of yard, not on a main road or high density Quiet, non-smokers who love gardening and have great references.
Prefer to pay no more than $360/week.
Please speak to Denise or Katja Lamb and I will pass any info on to Elise, Thanks in advance

Additional Note....Our new Class One teacher and her husband Robert will be arriving in Denmark on the 2nd January 2015. If anyone is able to accommodate them for a couple of weeks whilst they are looking for a rental property, that would be very helpful. Please let me know so I can put you in touch with them, Many thanks!
Denise
Dear Golden Hill Families
I am leaving Golden Hill for new adventures. Thank you for your kindness, support and so much joy over these last 4 months, I will miss you all, it has been so special and very precious getting to know you and all your beautiful children.
Have a wonderful Christmas and lovely holidays.
Warmest Wishes
Fiona

From Regi

MY GRATITUDE AND THANKS...

go out to all the “Recorder/Ukulele parents”, teachers and other staff members, and of course, to all my students for an other amazing year of learning, creating, listening and sharing music together.

It has been an honour and privilege to work with you all.
A special “thank you” to all the staff. I’ve appreciated your flexibility, expertise, support and the dedicated nurturing and loving care towards your students.
I’ve had a rich year and I’ve loved watching the children’s musical journeys, having fun and learning from each other, giving support to their friends and blossoming in their own special ways.

I’ll be back for more in 2015
Recorder/Ukulele/Marimba lessons will be starting off again on a Wednesday in week one of term 1 2015.
For more information or enrolments please call me on 98 409 084 or send an email at:
Regi.p@westnet.com.au
School Council Seeking Volunteers

If you would like to become more involved and learn how your school operates, Council is looking for help. This can be as a Council Member or if your desire is for a smaller commitment there are other Council tasks that we need help with. Please contact the Office to register your interest. All help greatly appreciated.

Thank you
Your School Council

Confidence is one of the golden words that must govern social life in the future. The other golden word is love, love of that which we have to do. And in the future, good deeds will be done out of love for humanity.

Rudolf Steiner
WANTED
TWO MANAGERS FOR GOLDEN HILL KWOORABUP MARKET AFTERNOON TEA STALL.
We are seeking two people to set up and run the afternoon tea stall every fortnight.
This position fulfils an entire year’s PI hours.
It is a fun, social position and Emma and Belinda will stay on board for the rest of the year to help the new managers settle in.
Please call either
SIMONE 98481942
EMMA 0458690105
BELINDA 0420485656.

Our Kwoorabup Market is the only place to find

- Wellness Kitchen Ferments, coconut water kefir, kombucha, sugar free-tomato ketchup, kimchi, sauerkraut
- The Green Pantry gluten free activated granola, nuts and snacks plus bulk wholefoods
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- Local Food Stall, tastiest spray free strawberries in biodegradable packaging and seasonal veg picked on the day at grower direct prices
- Local Seeds and seedlings
- True free range eggs
- Prepared foods for easy dinners from local organic ingredients
- Authentic middle-eastern homemade falafel wraps and fruit yoghurts
- Summerhouse Supplies ex Albany Growers Market, local preserves and relishes
- Original Handcraft perfect for Christmas
- Naturopathic dispensed herbal teas

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Phone 9848 1565.

Denmark Festival of Voice Performer Applications now open!

Online applications are now open for the 2015 Denmark Festival Of Voice

We were really delighted to receive a huge number of applications in 2014 and while we would love to invite everyone, we have the hard task of picking and choosing.

Applications will be closing JANUARY 31 2015, so if you want to be selected, get on board early!

Online applications can be made here: 
denmarkfestivalofvoice.com/performers

Counselling Services
Jessica Heller-Bhatt
BA(Psych.& Cnslg)
Phone for appointments 9848 1265

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Cert. IV Training & Assessment
Cert. IV Training & Assessment:
Phone Carl: 0422 512 717 or E-mail: dousy@hotmail.com

Calling all Musicians

Riding for the Disabled Fundraiser

Violinists and other musicians are invited to join us outside Supa IGA to help raise funds for Riding for the Disabled to start up in Denmark. We will be holding a sausage sizzle on Saturday 20th December from 9am onwards and would like musicians to busk alongside us to attract attention and fundraising. If you or your friends are interested in helping this worthy cause please contact:

Mary Lou 9848 2989

Speech & Drama

Speech and Drama lessons for children are fun, exciting and dynamic. Children gain confidence, learn performance techniques and become skillful communicators, team players and leaders.

Lessons are based on drama games, improvisation, performance of poetry and prose, group work, role play, script work and acting.

I am a fully qualified Speech and Drama teacher with over 35 years experience. I have spent the last 15 years teaching at Furneaux College Junior School.

I am devoted to nurturing young people and their potential for happiness and success. I believe that one of the most important aspects of early education is to inspire children to be confident, creative communicators.

Teacher Emilia Vesilagard
0435623548

Arts & Consciousness Intensives

With sufficient enrolments, 45 minute lessons for small groups will be held weekly in Walpole and Denmark. Classes cost $20 per lesson, charged for a term in advance.

For further information and enrolment, please type: everson@wix.com/showpiecespeech directly into your browser to see any webpage or email me at: everson@bigpond.net.au

rudolfsteinercollege.edu

Registration opens December 1st
rudolfsteinercollege.edu/registration
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