Fire Day
We hope the closure of school on last Friday was more of a boon than a hassle for our families. The directive came down from Perth and if you think about it, in the event of a bushfire it is much better for children to be with their families. Bussing them home to empty houses midday is fearsome to think about, and there would be so many connections to make. We are blessed that the danger has dissipated.

Last Day of School
As in former years, we will be having an end of the year closing ceremony on December 14 (the last day of school for the primary school) which includes A Graduation for those going off to High School, some carol singing, some sharing from the classes including eurythmy from classes 3/4 and 5/6, the year in review, some thank-you’s and good-byes. It will begin at 10:30 in the hall followed by a shared lunch (bring a plate and somethings to eat with) and a slippy slide if the weather permits.

Moving Classrooms
Class 3/4 will be moving classroom on Monday December 12 and Class 1/2 on Tuesday December 13. If any parents from those classes could be around to take the bigger items and help shepherd the children with the smaller ones it will be greatly appreciated. The more the merrier.

The Spirit of Christmas
Advent began this past Sunday. The gift of the earth. Firm sure, anyone who has seen the beauty of the Pilbara and the Kimberley cannot but wonder at this red continent. Next week comes the gift of the plants. We are so blessed with our majestic karri’s, I feel a greater gratitude because of the threat that came last week and the devastation so many in the Margaret River area are still experiencing. The week school closes celebrates the gift of the animals. This morning at 5 on Light’s Beach a Wedgetail was perched motionless for several minutes, just riding the southerlies coming off the ocean. Suspended in time he hovered. And the fourth week at Christmas, the greatest gift of all. The gift of love, the teaching of forgiveness, of peace, of brotherhood. It has happened in many traditions that great men and women have attained high states of humanity. May this time around as we celebrate Christmas, or Hanukkah or Summer solstice or just summer breakup may we relax into the peace that is here already, into the love the surrounds us, into our true natures. Blessed be.

Thank you.
A huge thank you to our hardworking council who give many long hours of love and time and good will to the betterment of our school. Thanks to Kardi and Tom who do so much to keep this place running. You are amazing. Thanks also to all the parents who volunteer their time in busy bees, classrooms, and behind the scenes. Last but not least to my amazing colleagues. I treasure working with you and so appreciate all your support and endless work.

All my love  Rebecca

A sunflower in a garden grew,
Tall and straight,
Like me and you.
Its face was round and shining.

The angels of the rain came by,
And gave it much to drink.
The sun called softly from above:
“Grow little seed, grow!”
And soon the seed began to sprout,
At first so small and green,
But soon it grew to be
The tallest flower you’ve ever seen!

We have been planting and watering our sunflower seeds in playgroup, painting, baking and making Christmas decorations. We are looking forward to the last two weeks of the term, celebrating advent.

Theda, Clare and Silvia
Class One/Two

Why were the Saints Saints?

Because they were cheerful when it was difficult to be cheerful
Patient when it was difficult to be patient
Because they pushed on when they wanted to stop
And were agreeable when they wanted to be disagreeable

That is all. It always was and always will be.

When we wrote this verse in our Main Lesson Books we had a car wreck on the bottom of the page that read "And were agreeable when they wanted to be disagreeable. Food for thought. What justifies unkindness? Anything?

These beautiful young people are in their last week of rehearsals for our play about the life of Offero, a giant of a man who wanted to use his great physical strength to serve the highest king. Through his service he meets the spirit of Christ through a tiny child and feels the weight of the suffering of the world on his back. Through his willingness to carry that loaf he becomes Christophero, who you may have heard as Saint Christopher, patron Saint of travellers. The children show such great heart in taking up this play and a beauty in the way they work together. I am so proud of them. We have a long way to go in the next week to bring it to performance and I hope we shall manage it. :) Performance for their parents is 9:15 on Dec 6th (St. Nicholas Day) and for the students of the school at 9:15 on Dec 7th.

Before that, this week on Thursday and Friday we are all off to Cosy Corner with our parents for a camp out. The one last year at Parry's was a huge success and we hope to have the same fun, comaraderie and communion with nature that we did last year. Swimming and beach bumming, bush tucker hike, barbecue, torch tag, a couple of run throughs of the play, egg in a hole, are some of the anticipated events.

Class 5/6 News

Our Class play, the Ramayana, was a huge success and the children can feel extremely proud having produced such a wonderful, colourful spectacle for all to see. The spirit of the play shone through the spirit of the children in their enthusiasm and commitment to doing their best. The co-operation and uniqueness of each child was self-evident as they took hold of the stage boldly and fearlessly, stepping into their characters with depth and clear articulation. It was a joy to watch them seeing all the hard work pay off and hearing their beautiful singing voices filling the hall with majestic sounds of India was a treat indeed. All are to be heartily congratulated on such fine performances and overall presentation.

As we all know, it takes the skills and generosity of many to make such a show possible and I would like to thank once again Miss Janette for the fabulous costumes which were striking and authentic to the eye. Absolutely brilliant!! Thank you to Ava for exercising her artistic skills in painting the curtains and for Indianna in putting the program together. Thank you to Jade Lawson for make-up and I know the children particularly gained great pleasure from this aspect. Thank you to all the parents who organized the after show refreshments which included yummy Indian sweets, and finally, thank you to all who came to see the play. It was fantastic to see the performance supported by the community and the feeling within the hall was one of joy and gratitude.

Our final main lesson for the year is science (physics), which will involve exploring static electricity and magnetism. Our task as Waldorf educators is to search for a manner in which the inherently dead and abstract world of conventional scientific thinking is metamorphosed into a science which nourishes the soul and spiritual development of the student.

We spent last week conducting experiments exploring static electricity, whereby the children played the role of scientist- observing, recording, questioning, drawing their own conclusion and then writing up the results in a clear, simple scientific manner. Did you know that the Ancient Greeks discovered static electricity over 2000 years ago. They realized that amber, a fossilized tree sap, would pick up feathers after it was rubbed with silk. Our words electricity and electron come from the Greek word, 'elektra' which means amber.

I shall be away this week as I'm having an operation on my knee but we are fortunate indeed to have Rod filling in who has a science background which includes chemistry.

Wishing you all a wonderful week!!
Ben Mackenzie