

TERM 3, 15th September 2008

Fruit in a blossom,
And petals in a seed,
Reeds in a river bed,
Music in a reed,
Stars in a firmament
Shining in the night,
Sun in a galaxy,
And planet in its light;
Bones in the rosy blood
Like land in the sea.
Marrow in a skeleton,
And I in me.

Owen Barfield

Board News

Marga will be taking compassionate leave as of tomorrow to be with her father who is suddenly and critically ill. She will fly to Germany tomorrow evening. We all hold and embrace her with our warmth and love. She is expecting to spend four weeks overseas and to be back with us for the beginning of term 4.

Kind regards Helen for the Board

Diary Dates

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Mon 15th Sept: Board Meeting at school 3:45pm-5:45pm. All welcome.

Tues 16th Sept: Choir practise at school 7:00-8:30pm (Hetty ph 8869 7336). All welcome.

Wed 17th Sept: 'Class FX' Café. Pasta with bread and also cake. \$3.50 each. Yum!

Sat 20th Sept: Bothmer gymnastics workshop at school. \$65 for one day, \$100 for two

Sun 21st Sept: days. All welcome to attend. Please bring lunch with you.

Mon 22nd Sept: Class 2/3 whale watching excursion by 44ft yacht! Please bring \$35.

Thur 25th Sept: Kindy Spring Festival 1:15pm - 2:45pm. Please bring a plate and any spring-time flowers and vines that you have in your garden.

Fri 26th Sept: Last day of school for term 3. Spring Festival beginning in the morning and moving on to a tuck shop lunch, games and more!

Mon 20th Oct: First day for Term 4.

Fri 7th Nov: Full Moon Community Dinner at school from 3pm onwards. All welcome!

The sun shone, the music flowed, and the school looked magnificent. Smiling faces, books, crafts, candles, silk, races, interested visitors, tables of nourishing dishes; we were indeed graced with a beautiful day for an Open Day/Spring Fair.

Many thank-yous are due and, in particular, a big thank you to Anja for her hard work as Open Day Coordinator. The work of setting up and packing down happened very smoothly and thanks to the crew who came early and stayed late to make this happen.

Many thanks also to all these who provided food and drink and served behind the tables during the fair.

More thank-yous too, go to the musicians who gave their time to spread their balm over our school, and a thank you also to the three Greek Olympians who gave us a worthy challenge in the Olympian Challenge. It was a very successful day all round, both from a school promotion point of view and a fundraising angle. There were many positive comments from visitors on the beauty and loveliness of our school so hopefully we may see more enrolments coming in. We will let you all know, in our next newsletter, how much was raised and how this money might be used. Ideas about this are welcomed.

After such a successful community event, "What comes next?", one might ask. The answer is the Spring Festival, only two weeks away. The festival this year will start at 11:30am and parents and children will decorate five long Spring Poles in the front garden area, bedecking them with flowers. Each class will then carry their poles carefully on their shoulders down to the lower field where they will be stood up to make the Festival Circle. The Festival will start with singing then each class will show their spring items. The Festival will close with singing, but then.....we will have a community picnic. Silvia and the Class FX café will be there with their beautiful tuck shop as well as one or two musicians to add to the festive air. Whole school games will be played and parents will then be free to take their children home for the holidays. For the festival children will be asked to dress in Spring colours; white, yellows, reds, pinks and oranges. Families will be asked to bring as many flowers as they can manage to make it a truly beautiful spectacle. This is certainly a busy time and in the thick of it the school underwent an inspection by the NSW Board of Studies. Two inspectors came and reviewed all aspects of the school functioning looking at teaching curriculum, planning, management, governance and policy and procedures. The inspection went well and the school was deemed to be highly compliant. The inspectors commented on how well our school had managed to integrate the curriculum requirements whilst maintaining a strong Waldorf Steiner special character. They set the date for our next inspection for five years time, the longest period given. Good news indeed!

One final event that has happened last week was the official opening of the kindergarten extension. Janelle Saffin the Federal Minister for Page, came and spoke to the children, teachers and parents and looked over the new kindy. She interacted very well with the children asking them questions to which there were some rather hilarious replies. Her visit finished with an afternoon tea where two brave class 4&5 students asked her about opening the Nimbin Skate Park. She suggested they write a letter to Council which the children duly did. Overall it was a very relaxed and nice official visit.

Have a great week!

Warm regards Peter for the College of Teachers

It was so lovely to share our beautiful kindy on Open day, and show the children's care filled work. A big thankyou to the parents, for all your help in the craft, candle and silk painting. Open Day is such a community effort and we greatly appreciate all your time and giving.

The children have been painting their Spring Festival invitations at kindy. They have been turning out beautifully in rainbow colours.

The teddy bears' picnic was a true feast! The bears ate well and we met some lovely bears (and whales) with some great stories.

Birthday blessings to Kiani and Sylvan.

Continued overleaf...

Remember that our Kindy Spring Festival will be Thursday the 25th of September (next week) from 1:15pm-2:45pm. We will be making spring garlands. Please bring any fresh vine or flowers you have with you. Jasmine makes a lovely strong base for the garlands even if it does not have very many flowers. Please also bring a small snack to share for our Spring Celebration.

Love Simone

Dear Class 2 and Class 3 parents,

We will be heading out on our whale-watching trip on the 22nd of September which is next Monday. We will be sailing on the V.S. Ironbark, a yacht from Ballina. It will travel along the river and then sail out onto the ocean where we will see Humpback whales. Each child will need to bring \$35 as a contribution for this trip. Sea sickness remedies are a very good idea and your choice of remedy should be packed ready to be taken just before getting onto the yacht. The trip is about 3 hours long which will be a long time to be feeling unwell! Also, please pack plenty of water, a sun hat, sun block and of course morning tea and lunch.

Warm regards Helen for Simone

CLASS Fx News

Our botany lesson got off to a nice start with a story and a riddle. When the King's gardener died, the King wished to appoint a new Royal Gardener. He asked prospective gardeners two questions: What is a plant? And who are its parents? The one who answers this will be the Royal Gardener.....We looked at seeds and traced the germination of a sunflower seed. The children made seed pictures which we may try to grow!

This week we have a visit from Elizabeth (Zhan's Mum) to guide us in designing the class garden and to plant seeds in seedling trays in readiness for term 3 planting.

Also, this week class 5 and I travel to Tyalgum for the Ancient Greek Olympics. Class 4 will stay behind and are very excited to have Jodi as their relieving teacher. They have a very interesting programme planned which should see a small performance emerge.....more to come on this.

Please return \$8 for the Circus Arts days next week. Thanks for your help with all the fundraising events. I know that there is a lot going on, so a sincere thanks to you all.

Finally we are all sad to farewell Japhy who had his last day on Thursday. We wish him well in his new class at Shearwater.

Warm regards Peter Calkin

The school is hosting a workshop on Bothmer gymnastics this weekend. Neighbouring schools have been invited to attend and also some of our teachers will be there. Any parents and friends are welcome to come and learn about this. A more detailed article about Bothmer gymnastics is available in the office for anyone who is curious. Please 'phone to have this sent home or call by the office to collect a copy.

Warm regards Helen for the Parent Group

The Open Day/Spring Fair seemed to get off to a busy start at 10am with lots of people coming early and even more arriving all through the day. The weather was sunny and perfect for chatting, snacking, and listening to the music which was continuous through the day. Thanks to all the wonderful performers, you made the day come together! Thanks to Peter for his introductions to performances and announcements made throughout the day. Many, many thanks to all the parents who came to the Open Day and brought food and willing hands for all the setting up, serving, dish washing, tidying away etc etc etc. Every family has been involved in some way or other! Our Open Day could not happen without the willing hands!

Next week's newsletter will mention how much money was raised and suggestions of how this money might be used are welcomed.

Warm regards Helen/Anja

BOTHMER GYMNASTICS

Dear Families and Friends,

We are very fortunate to be able to offer an introduction workshop for Bothmer Gymnastics presented by Tom Hungerford.

Beginning in July 2007 at Mount Barker School in Adelaide, three 10-day training courses have so far been run in Australia, and a fourth one planned for January 2009 at Gleneason in Sydney.

On Saturday and Sunday, 20th and 21st of September 2008 Tom will give a two-day workshop as an introduction as well as a practice weekend.

The venue is Rainbow Ridge School for Steiner Education at 279 Lillian Rock Road, LILLIAN ROCK, NIMBIN. Each day will begin at 9.00am and finish at 5.00pm. The cost will be \$65.00 for one day or \$100.00 for both days.

Morning and afternoon tea will be provided. Please bring some lunch with you as Rainbow Ridge School is located out of town. (Local facilities such as Tea Gardens and Art Gallery can provide lunch.)

For bookings and inquiries please ring the office at Rainbow Ridge School on (02) 6689 033 or send an e-mail to admin@rainbowridge.nsw.edu.au and/or hungerfordgerth@netspace.net.au

Accommodation is possible at the local tea gardens and the Grey Gum Lodge Guesthouse in Nimbin.

Tom's profile follows and an article about Bothmer Gym is available from the school office.

Tom Hungerford-Gerth

As a youth I studied Classical Ballet, Jazz, Character Dance and Martha Graham. Principally at the Australian Academy of Ballet and the Australian Ballet School. I then worked for a number of years with various companies. The Queensland Ballet Company, Dance Concert, Busy Bodies and Kolobok Folkloric Dance Company.

Later I became interested in circus skills and became a juggler, stilt walker, tumbler, rope dancer and whip-cracker. Always asking why do we enjoy watching a juggler, a tumbler or a dancer?

I studied Tai Chi and Ta Quon Do and was fascinated by movements not having their initial impulse in the muscle. In 1993-4 I went to Heidenheim, Germany, with my family, to study Bothmer gymnastics. This was a great act of faith (my faith was well and truly awarded) as I was not absolutely sure I understood what Bothmer gymnastics was. I have immersed myself in Bothmer gymnastics these past years and have seen how it can be used pedagogically, remedially, in sports and drama. I have found it works towards gaining valuable insights into movement and space which answer many of the questions I have asked.