

TERM 2, 16th June 2008

Into my body let there pour strength
Into my feeling let there pour warmth
Into my thinking let there pour light
That I may nurture this child with enlightened purpose
Caring with hearts love
And bringing wisdom into all things

Rudolf Steiner

College News

Last week the school began the preparations for the mid-winter lantern festival with a beautiful story told by Marlene during assembly. In the story, the world had fallen into darkness. A wise king, who lived on a high unassailable mountain, sent his three sons to bestow light from his palace. The first two sons failed to fulfil their father's wishes and caused greater trouble on earth, but the third son who drank the divine light in painful sacrifice, succeeded in bringing light to all people on earth.

The children made beautiful fleecy angels which now hang above the hall and most classes have begun making their lanterns. Many thanks go to Marlene for her volunteer work with the festival preparations. During the course of the term in our college meetings, each teacher invites the other teachers into their room to share their class' work, and present an overview of the children and curriculum. Last week we all visited the kindergarten and participated in "The Gnomes" morning circle. We looked at the hand felted pillows the children had made and their beautiful winter lanterns. Sharing insights into our classrooms is inspiring for all of us, and supports our intention of each holding the bigger picture of the school in our consciousness. It is also important to understand the whole learning journey of the child. As a college of teachers we 'hold' all the children in our care and thoughts, not only those in our classrooms.

In order to reduce the amount of lost property and misplacement, we ask that the children's clothing please be named.

College of Teachers

Diary Dates

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Craft Group Tuesday 17th June 9am-2pm at Sylvia's house. Tel. 6689 7524.

Kindy Winter Solstice Festival Friday 20th June 5-6:30pm.
(This takes the place of the previously mentioned festival on Monday 30th June.)

Parent Group Meeting, 9am Wednesday 2nd July at school. All welcome.

Winter Festival for Primary School Thursday 3rd July.
Last school day for term 2 will be Friday 4th July.
Setup day prior to term 3 will be 9am -1pm, Friday 25th July.
Term 3 begins Monday 28th July.

Parent/Teacher interviews for class 1 Sat/Sun 9/10th August.

Greetings, We are approaching the longest night of the year. This heralds a time of patience, hope and deep reflection as we journey inwards to discover the light within ourselves. From this place of contraction and darkness we begin to spiral outwards, each carrying our light and hope into the world. It is also a time of welcoming back the sun! The children will have the 'living' experience of this as they walk the spiral, lighting their candle from the centre, and also taking the light of their lanterns into the world. As adults it is important to understand the symbolism of the activity we are doing with the children in order to approach the experience in the right mood and spirit. The children don't need to understand, they need to experience. Understanding will come later in life. The wonder, magic and awe for the children will come from the experience that we as adults provide for them by setting the mood to celebrate the beauty of light overcoming the darkness. The children are singing of this in their morning songs, and it is so lovely to hear them spontaneously singing as they go about their business. We thank King Winter daily in song for all the gifts he brings, and bask in the sweet smell of our jonquils and winter flowers. Our stories have involved the disappearance of the brighter sun fairies as they visit the winter palace, and keeping watch for the sun-sparks on the wattle trees which tell us that soon Father sun will begin his long journey back from his winter palace. Last week the children were very active in their play. There was lots of outside running, digging and building. Brother wind was quite strong and certainly created some wild and wonderful times! This week we begin a new morning circle called "Sweet Porridge", about a magic cooking pot, which spreads its porridge all through the town. The townsfolk and visitors must eat their way back to their homes. Next week I will also do a puppet show of the story.

I am really looking forward to seeing you all at our kindy winter festival on Friday evening. The children are so excited to be coming to kindy at night (when magic happens!!). Stay warm. Love Simone

We enjoyed the home visit to Indigo's home. The children went for a walk with Indigo to the Great Figtree Lookout on top of their hill and had to brave their way through a paddock of very inquisitive alpacas We visited the chooks in their dome and Indigo showed us how to retrieve the eggs with an ingenious long handled spoon. That was impressive. We gathered around a tree, growing through the veranda roof, for our welcome, saying our blessing, receiving a treat and finally for good-bye. Nobody wanted to leave. The children enjoyed the many opportunities for play at Indigo's place. Luke and Jerara found a bulldozer and truck and were busy building roads. Thank you for your warm welcome Lisa! We enjoyed meeting Indigo's grandparents Kay and John and her sisters Amber and Ruby. This Friday we are invited to Luke's house. I am planning our performance of "Animals of the Bush" musical play for the Monday of the last week of school. I'll let you know the exact dates and times next week. We are hoping to have some help with our costumes.

I forgot to mention that if you haven't yet done your term's work contribution it would be appreciated if you can get in touch with me or the office to arrange a suitable activity for you to do to complete your hours for this term. Thanks Rachel for coming in and cutting heaps of paper and drawing golden pathways for the children. Have a wonder filled week! Love from Marga

We have had a very rich and interesting two weeks and the children have weathered the change of teacher with surprising ease. Our Geology main lesson yielded interesting information about how the "bones" of the earth, the rocks, are formed. The children became familiar with the movement of the crustal "tectonic" plates and how this leads to volcanic activity and earthquakes. We studied the different types of rock, igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic, and culminated our study with a field trip that took us up into the Border Ranges. Lee Scarlett, an environmental education officer, took us to Blackbutt lookout and explained the volcanic process that has formed the Caldera. Unfortunately, the lookout was closed for repair work so our view of the dramatic landscape was somewhat limited.

Here is an excerpt from the children's report of the trip:

"When Lee, the instructor, had left, we went to Tuntable community to look at Max's cave which he had carved out of Tuff, a rock formed from layers of ash laid down in an eruption.

The door was about half a metre high and inside it was dark and musty and quite a vast space. Then we went back to the bus eating delicious oranges." Saki, Class 6

We begin new main lessons for each class and welcome Jodi Payne as an extra main lesson teacher. Jodi has recently completed her teacher training and will be taking class 4 for the Norse Mythology main lesson. Her rich artistic and musical skills will be warmly appreciated I am sure. Class 5 begins an Ancient Greece main lesson and class 6 studies Ancient Rome.

The children have been particularly interested in the simple woodwork lessons we began last week and seem delighted with the little whittling knives we made. We will hopefully complete one or two other projects, such as a walking stick and a javelin before the term is out. Peter Charlie Calkin