



TERM 3, 25th August 2008

Spring

Today is the day when bold kites fly,
When cumulus clouds roar across the sky,
When robins return, when children cheer,
When light rain beckons spring to appear.

Today is the day when daffodils bloom,
Which children pick to fill the room,
Today is the day when grasses green,
When leaves burst forth for spring to be seen

Robert McCracken

Diary Dates

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- Mon 25th Aug: The AGM for the school board will be held today at 4pm here at school. All are welcome. The agenda for the AGM was included in the newsletter for July 29th.
- Wed 27th Aug: Hot soup with bread and cake with cream is on the menu. \$3.50 each. Yum!
- Thurs 28th Aug: Choir practise 4:00-5:30pm at school. All welcome!
- Mon 1st Sept: Spring cleaning! Anytime during school hours. All welcome to help! In preparation for all of the upcoming events.
- Tues 2nd Sept: Craft Group is meeting at Sylvia's place ph66897524. All welcome.
- Tues 2nd Sept: Class 2/3 parent talk 3:30-5:00pm. Please come!
- Wed 3rd Sept: Parent Group Meeting, 9am at school. All welcome.
- Tues 9th Sept: Official Opening of Kindy extension 2pm followed by afternoon tea.
- Wed 10th Sept: Board of Studies Inspection day.
- Fri 12th Sept: There will be a pupil free day to set up for the Open Day. Help needed!
- Sat 13th Sept: School Open Day. Come to socialise and enjoy the day. Lots of fun!
- Fri 26th Sept: Last day of school for term 3. First day for Term 4 is Monday 20th October.

Chilly mornings, hot days and quickly cooling afternoons are the order of the day here at the moment making it ideal weather to get colds. Last week we had many children away with colds and flues so it really pays to keep them wrapped up warmly in the afternoons as well as drinking plenty of water. If your child is away with illness, please remember to notify the office as soon as possible, particularly those in kindergarten where extra staff are needed.

Lawrence and Zaardi have been busy and the long jump pit is filled with sand and ready to be leapt into. The new fence around the garden plot is nearly complete and the first beds will be soon be in place, ready for the Spring planting.

A big thank you to Marlene for organizing our book week celebration last week where children brought in their favourite book and shared it with the class. Many great books were passed around and talked about.

The teachers would also like to thank parents for their support of the Happy Head Hat policy. Most children now have wide-brimmed hats that keep their ears and necks well covered. Some good quality hats are available at the office for \$10 in lovely lavender, blue and red colours. These hats even have a gap in the rear for a pony tail.

Another big thank you goes to Class 4,5,6 and Sylvia for their great work on the tuck shop. The feedback from children and teachers has been glowing, both for the delicious soups from Sylvia and for the polite service from the children. The minestrone is going down a treat but the children seem to love the leek and potato soup best of all. The proceeds from the café are going toward the upcoming Class 4,5,6 camp, which this year will be held at the Nymbodia Canoe Centre. The menu this week, while the cold weather holds, will be soup, bread and cake as before but this week, as well as the faithful minestrone, Sylvia will whip up delicious roman lentil soup. Any parents that would like to come and share the good fare are more than welcome to attend.

Best wishes for a happy week.

Warm regards Peter for the College of Teachers

Greetings,

Thankyou to the parents who attended the kindy talk last week. I really enjoy the opportunity to catch up with parents and discuss ways we can support the children to unfold and grow in a harmonious and healthy way. I gave a talk on the four 'lower' senses that we're working with specifically in the first seven years of a child's life. Rudolf Steiner identified 12 senses in the human being. These 12 senses can be placed into 3 groups: 'lower', 'middle' and 'upper' senses, which correlate with the 3 fold image of the human being - willing, feeling and thinking (respectively).

The lower senses are touch, life sense, balance and self-movement. These senses are purely concerned with the human beings bodily self-perception / experiences of self, and as such are internal senses. These lower senses need to be nurtured and protected for healthy development of the middle and upper senses.

As caregivers we can surround the child in an atmosphere and approach her care/education with patience and reverence. Reverence and wonder for life's goodness and beauty is life giving and 'warming' for the young child, supporting their trust and belief in innate goodness and beauty. We can ensure the child's bodily well being not simply in what we do but how we do it. Dressing a child with love and appreciation and being truly present in our actions is extremely comforting and life affirming for the child. Providing a healthy rhythm to the day, which is balanced by breathing in and out times. Setting aside 20 minutes at the end of each day to be fully present with your

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child and doing similar 'rituals' (warm foot bath, massage, songs etc...) each time can create a form of rhythm. Limiting overwhelming and powerful sense impressions that are hard to digest (televisions and D.V.D's). Providing a wholesome and carefully considered diet and comfortable, natural clothing. Providing toys made from natural materials enhances the experience of touch. Offering nearness and protection to your child to reinforce their sense of safety, warmth and security. Giving clear and consistent boundaries whilst maintaining an attitude of tolerance. Tolerance is not referring to letting things be, but rather genuinely bearing with a child in all their challenging behaviours. Gentle firmness in touch is positive and reassuring. Kindergarten children are learning through imitation. Our best form of education for them is that of self education. We are their models, and so must constantly strive to be worthy of this in our words and deeds. Young children are learning by 'doing'. What are we doing in their presence and how are we doing it?

Open Day is approaching and I would love any kindy craft to come back to be displayed. Please remember to put a name on anything you send in. If anyone has some wool they would like to give, Jacqui would be happy to knit some yummy little creations to sell at the craft stall on open day. There are many children away at the moment due to illness. Please remember to ring the office if your child is away. It is a legal requirement for the roll book. I also like to know how the children are, as I hold each of them deeply in my thoughts and my heart.

Love Simone

We now have several moving toys parked under a special table. The children enjoy showing and using the toys - they are beautiful.

On Friday we had a great home visit and were able to use lots of lovely play equipment. Swings, see-saw, and a small group of trees with thick vines provided lots of opportunities for movement, balancing and learning about levers.

The children met two soft and soulful animals, Doogey the dog and Cindy the horse. Some children had to overcome their fear of getting up on a horse and they did. Erin led the children around on the horse. Thanks Erin and Lily Ann for having us. This week it will be Jerara's home at his Dad's place where he was born.

Love from Marga

Dear Class 2 and Class 3 parents,

We have been busy learning the challenge of carrying over in maths after revising place value. We are enjoying the warm days to walk in the bush. The class created a whole village out of clay and willow sticks. They even began a council which will meet in the "town hall". I am organising a few outings which will need parent support - so would like you to come to the parent/teacher meeting next Tuesday.

Harumi has had her last Friday afternoon with our class, and will now be coming in on Thursdays for Japanese lessons.

We are now doing movement with Cristina on Tuesday afternoons.

Our vegetable garden has begun with the first corner post placed last Thursday.

Warm regards Simone

CLASS Fx News

Good news! We had a response from two local schools about our sports challenge. The Class 4,5,6 teachers from Nimbin Central School and Tunttable Falls School both expressed their interest in forming teams for an interschool challenge. They are both excited by the social development and community building that could come from these events. The first meeting will be with Tunttable Falls school and we are thinking to invite them to our café next Wednesday, followed by a skills session for touch rugby, volleyball and a fun game too. We are in the process of designing a team t-shirt so if anyone has knowledge of good sources for the t-shirts please make contact.

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Last week the children began a new main lesson on Fractions and Decimals. An unfolding story gave the lesson a nice impetus and outdoor games, apples and chocolate bars certainly added excitement to our learning. Class 4 will follow the fraction path through to adding, subtracting, multiplying and eventually dividing fractions. Class 5 and 6 are having a refresher course in fractions before they head off to study decimals and percentages.

Many thanks again to you hard-working parents who manage to bake bread and cakes for the café. Thank you so much. The proceeds are slowly accumulating towards our class camp and the children are loving the work of serving their younger school mates. This week we have a visit from Sharon, the manager of Sphinx Rock Café. She will come in and talk to the children about what it's like to run a café and things that a staff member needs to know! We are all looking forward to her visit.

The children are well underway with their first woodwork project of the term; their wooden sword, and are very excited to start using them and to bring them back home. The jointing and finishing has worked very successfully and their enthusiasm for the project has been a delight to see. We have established very clear rules of conduct for their use in school and are beginning to practice more formal swordplay, much to the children's enjoyment. Wooden spoons are next on the list but you won't be seeing them until much later in the term.

A big thanks to Nicole for her work in organizing the baking roster for the café. Is anyone available to give a hand in the clearing up afterwards?...free soup and cake....

Warm regards Peter Calkin

You like singing? Do join our choir! We sing the "Misa Criolla" by Ariel Ramirez a South-American folk mass. Everybody is welcome each Thursday from 4pm-5:30pm at Rainbow Ridge School. Any questions? Please call me ph 8869 7336.

Warm regards Hetty Schaafsma

Can anyone lend/give us a large, heavy based soup pot to be used on tuck shop day? Please let me know.

Can you please come to help me clear up after tuck shop for about 1hr from 2:00-3:00pm? I would be very grateful for this.

Warm regards Silvia

"The Spirit of Springtime" is our Open Day Theme.

Preparations are starting for this year's open day. At this point any help would be appreciated for cleaning the school and making craft items for the craft stall (see dates in the diary section). Next week's newsletter will include more details about the program. This year's coordinator is Anja (Nelene's mum). If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact her on 6689 1350.

Warm regards Anja

CLASS 'FX' CAFE

Wednesday Lunch

\$3.50

This Week's menu:

Sylvia's homemade soup - Roman Lentil and Superb
Minestrone served with fresh bread and butter followed
by fresh home-baked cake with whipped cream.