

TERM 3, 8th September 2008

Victorious spirit
Flame through the impotence
Of irresolute souls
Burn out egotism
Ignite compassion
So that selflessness
The life-stream of mankind
Wells up as the source
Of spirit rebirth.

Diary Dates

Diary Dates

Tues 9th Sept: Choir practise at school 7:00-8:30pm (Hetty ph 8869 7336). All welcome.

Tues 9th Sept: Teddy Bears' Picnic Day at the Kindy. Please read Kindy News for details!

Tues 9th Sept: Official Opening of Kindy extension 2pm followed by afternoon tea at 3pm.
All welcome and please bring a plate to share.

Tues 9th Sept: Craft Day at school. Final preparation for Open Day. Packing & pricing.

Wed 10th Sept: 'Class FX' Café. Hot soup with bread and also cake. \$3.50 each. Yum!
Sylvia needs a few pumpkins for the soup this week, so please send your spares!

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!

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

Mon 22nd Sept: Class 2/3 whale watching excursion by 44ft yacht!

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.

A spring rain this week and the blustery Equinox winds show us that the seasons are really rolling along. Spring cleaning has been happening all around the school and we have had many willing hands wielding cloths and dusters this past week. A big thank you goes to those parents who gave so generously of their time to help the school prepare for the Open Day and Spring Fair coming up this Saturday. Now that the lovely poster has gone out there is a sense of growing anticipation for this fun-filled day. Check the Open Day news for more details from Anja.

There were a couple of other notable events that took place at school last week. The new Board of Directors had their first meeting, which was very positive, and the College of Teachers had a visit from Brigitte and Helen who came as representatives of the Parent group to discuss the role of the parents and how the two groups could work together in the best way. There were several exciting ideas suggested and there is a real sense of positive change in the air.

On Tuesday this week, the school sees the official opening of the new Kindergarten building, which will include a visit from the Federal Member for Page, Janelle Saffin. All parents are welcome to attend this event which will have songs from the school children, and will be followed by an afternoon tea at 3pm. If you are coming would you please bring a plate to share so that there is enough to go around. Thanks very much.

Looking ahead to the end of term, there are several other events of interest coming up. Class 5 head off next week to the Ancient Greek Olympics which they will celebrate with 175 other Class 5 students from all over NSW. Children and adults will have a chance to compete against our young Olympians at the Open Day.

Wrapping up the term we celebrate the Spring Festival on Friday the 26th September. There will be a few changes this time and it is planned to have the festival in the morning and follow it with a Tuck Shop lunch followed by a relaxing afternoon of fun and games for parents and children. More details to come on this soon.

Wishing you all a wonderful week.

Warm regards Peter for the College of Teachers

Last week, Tina and Gypsy brought 3 'spring chickens' in for the children to look at and hold. Oliver also, told us of the newly hatched baby chicks at his place - black ones and yellow ones! It is so lovely to experience the fresh life which spring brings. Some of the children's bulbs are still coming into flower, no doubt the rain last week has given that extra help!

Alenya is coordinating the kindy craft activity for Open day. Kindy parents are asked to give some of their time to assist at the activity during the day.

Would the older children who finished horsey reigns at the start of the year, please return them to school (named) as soon as possible for our Open Day display and possibly as soon as Wednesday to go on display during the school inspection.

Our Kindy Spring Festival will be on Thursday the 25th of September from 1:15pm-2:45pm. We will be making spring garlands. Please bring any fresh vine or flowers you have with you. Please also bring a small snack to share for our spring celebration.

Hopefully the whisperings have gone around to all the kindy teddybears that they're invited to a picnic on Tuesday. We look forward to meeting them all and sharing their stories.

Love Simone

Big week ahead for all of us!

Thank you Marlene for looking after class 1 so that I could get over my very sore throat and flu. We missed our home visit to Aditi's home, so we will arrange another time - which will not be this Friday as it is a pupil free day in preparation for the Open Day/Spring Fair.

Wish us well for the school inspection on Wednesday!

We start our last main lesson block for the term. This will be a maths block, learning about "the equation". Our number movers will extend the sums we are doing.

From next week on, I would like the children to write up 10 sums using the 4 operations, for example:

$$12 \div \square = 4$$

$$9 = 5 + \square$$

$$8 - \square = 6$$

$$12 = 3 \times \square$$

As a homework task, which we'll pass over to the class or another student to solve. Captain Correct will then check on the correctness of the answers. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Love from Marga

Dear Class 2 and Class 3 parents,

Thank you to parents who were able to attend the parent/teacher evening. It was great to have parents' input into how they would like to structure the next teacher meeting.

Last week we enjoyed making our own pizzas and baking them in our outdoor pizza oven. Cristina explained how to "throw" the dough on the second kneading the way the German bakers do. This made truly delicious pizza dough. Thank you to Tim and Harumi who kept the fire burning in the pouring rain!! The children said they were the best pizzas they had ever eaten! We were able to feed the office and maintenance staff too.

On Friday we finished our maths block and class 3 will now embark on a new lesson block, which is farming and gardening and for class 2, animal fables and stories. Class 3 will continue with spelling, writing their journals and weekly reading.

We will also be heading out on a whale-watching trip on the 22nd of September. 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. The whales have now begun their journey back to Antarctica. The skipper of the yacht does a fortnightly column in the Echo.

This weekend we will have our open day, a time when the children can showcase their own work. I would really like the beautiful instruments, knitted hats, silk angel mobiles and other craft items that the children have made for display. They can be brought in on or before Friday. Friday itself is the set up day and a pupil free day.

As we will be doing lots of outdoor work in the garden (We will start by digging the trench for the fencing wire to be set in below ground level in order to keep hungry bandicoots out), I have asked the children to bring over shirts and pants to put on while in the garden. These will stay at school until the end of this term. I will be phoning for help when we are moving the piles of organic mulch inside the fenced garden.

Warm regards Simone

CLASS Fx News

The class rounded off their fractions and decimals main lesson last Friday and this week launch into the new main lesson of Botany. A beautiful display has been done by Kach, a friend of the school, and the class is now sprouting a lush rainforest near the door. An excursion is being planned in the last week with Peter Hardwick who has a great store of knowledge about the native bush tucker. And finally, to let you all know, the class has a great opportunity to spend two days in the last week of school with an experienced sports teacher from the Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School who will run a two-day workshop with the class on circus arts and Bothmer Gymnastics.

Many thanks to you all for continuing to provide the breads and cakes for the café fundraising, and a special thanks to Nicole for ringing around and organising it all. This week the baton has passed to Julianne who will be making contact soon. Thanks Julianne.

At the Open Day the class will be running the Cold Drinks Stall which will sell lovely fruit punches and freshly squeezed orange juice. This year the children will be squeezing the oranges and serving the drinks and taking the money with the backup of a parent, and after their wealth of experience with the Class FX Café I think that they should do a great job. At the Open Day, Class 5 will be running a raffle to raise funds for their fast-approaching Greek Olympics trip and Anna had the great idea of running competitions where children and adults pay 50c to race against a Greek Olympian (Sasha, Ben, and Thomas) and win prizes if they succeed. Lots of fun indeed.

Looking forward to seeing you all there (might pay to start your training now!)

Warm regards Peter Calkin

Board News

The last school Board meeting took place on September 1st, 2008 and was attended by Paul, Anja, Amanda, Murray, Peter, Jon, Marga and Helen. Members of the school community are welcome to call by the school office to have a look at the written minutes of the meeting. Here are the highlights...

Introduction to the board for new members: Those present were able to view the following documents...

- Duty Statements for Board of Directors
- Information about Steiner education
- Structure and organisation of the school
- Roles and responsibilities of various "bodies" in the school
- Articles of Association and Memorandum
- RSSA (Rudolf Steiner Schools Association) publication regarding committees

Election of chairperson, secretary and treasurer:

Paul was elected Chairperson for the Board of 2008/2009

Anja was elected Secretary for the Board of 2008/2009

Helen was elected treasurer for the Board of 2008/2009

School Organisation: The Board recognises the need for reviewing and defining the roles and responsibilities of various subcommittees and also the need to review roles and responsibilities for all employees. Due to budget restraints at this time, there will be no support teaching staff engaged for music and craft lessons. This will be reviewed for next year's curriculum.

Next meeting: Monday 15th September at 3:45pm, 2008. All welcome.

Kind regards Helen for the Board

We are very fortunate to have Dr Lakshmi Prasanna visiting our area of the world early next term. She is an inspiring speaker on anthroposophical subjects. She will be giving short talks and open question sessions for the whole school community. We are thinking that the topic of "Parenting and the Ages and Stages of Childhood" would be a popular choice. Please let us know if there are other areas of interest as Dr Lakshmi is willing to talk on many other topics as well.

The Parent Group will be setting up an information stall at the Open Day. Anyone is welcome to come by and collect information about the school and about Steiner education from the stall.

Murray (Luke's Dad) is organizing a full moon dinner for the whole school community! This will be on November 7th which is a Friday and will begin after school at 3pm. There will more news on this as the plans develop. Ideas are welcomed...

Warm regards Helen for the Parent Group

Thanks to all the coordinators, cooks, cleaners and all the other willing helpers making everything come together for the big day. Every family is involved in some way or other!

We are in need of more trestle tables and marquees, so if you can help, please bring them along to school in time for the setup day on Friday.

A big reminder to all families - your contributions of yummy food for the Open Day are really important so that we can all enjoy delicious snacks and lunches on the day. Please bring a main dish suitable for serving for lunch and a cake or slice for the morning and afternoon teas. Alli will be here making coffee and there will be fruit punch available as well.

Warm regards Helen/Anja

CLASS 'FX' CAFE

Wednesday Lunch

\$3.50

This Week's menu:

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