

NEWSLETTER



TERM 1, Week 1, 3rd February 2009

**Within The Light for which the Soul
Mightily would flow from Universal Heights
Shine forth world thinking's certainty,
Solving riddles of the soul,
Gathering the power of its rays,
Waking love within the human heart.**

Rudolf Steiner

College News

To our school community,
Welcome to all new and returning families to Rainbow Ridge. Everything is alive and strong after our wet and warm summer break. The school looks and feels clean and tidy after the setup week. The floors have been polished and smell of the warm oils which make the timber glow and strengthen them. All the rooms and kindergarten have been emptied and cleaned and are ready for the new start. A big thank you goes to the families who came to setup days and to Laurence who worked throughout the holidays refurbishing the classrooms and gardens. Yesterday was our staff planning day and teachers attended a resuscitation and emergency response course.
We welcome Blossom who will be assisting Marga in class 1 and 3 for 3 days each week. Each class and the kindergarten will be having their parent teacher meetings this term.
We will have detailed newsletter once every 3 weeks this year and one teacher will contribute their class news to each one. Diary dates and other important information will continue to come out weekly as needed each Tuesday.

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Diary Dates

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Every Monday: Class 3/4 swimming lessons.

Every Tuesday: Class 1/2 swimming lessons.

Every Thursday: Class 5/6 swimming lessons.

Mon 9th Feb: Board meeting at 5pm at school. All welcome.

Thu 12th Feb: Choir practice with Hetty from 4:00-5:30pm at school.

Thu 12th Feb: Class 5/6 parent teacher meeting at 7pm.

Thu 19th Feb: Class 1/2 parent teacher meeting at 7pm.

Thu 26th Feb: Class 3/4 parent teacher meeting at 7pm.

THERE WILL BE NO TUCKSHOP THIS TERM!

Just a reminder to keep the bus turning bay clear of cars at pick up and drop off times. It makes the bus drivers' work a lot smoother if they do not have to negotiate cars parked in their turning circle and safer if they do not have to reverse when families are walking across the car park area. Please take note of the signs at parking area edges.

We all look forward to a wonderful summer to autumn term with the children.

Regards the College

Welcome families, to a fresh new year of kindergarten! Our beautiful kindergarten continues to grow and blossom as yet another group of precious children join us. It was great to have so many families turn up for set up days and help us warm and prepare the space for another year. My thanks for all that scrubbing, sweeping and cleaning!

Sincere thanks also to Sonja for her painting and cleaning efforts over the holidays, and to Laurence who is continually maintaining and creating things for our kindy space.

A reminder of essential items for kindy each day:

- A wide brimmed hat to stay at school (available to buy at office).
- A named water bottle.
- 2 pieces of fruit to share for morning tea.
- Plain as possible lunch box and school bag. We would appreciate objects devoid of cartoon characters, t.v. shows, dolls etc.
- Children clothed in light coloured natural fibres as much as possible.
- A light weight sheet in natural fibres and a plain light colour for rest time.
- Change/s of clothes in a plastic bag.

The first term is always a big transition for the children, and it may take time to adjust to the kindy rhythm and social life. Plenty of sleep and care taken to limit over - stimulation of the senses will support the children in their transition. Trust your intuition if you feel your child needs a home rest day.

Please ring the office if your child is missing a day of school. If you have any questions or concerns, please ring the office and leave a message; I will happily return your call.

Our school has a great library with many books on Steiner education, and the Steiner approach to child development and early childhood. These books are a wonderful source of information and support for our families. During the next couple of weeks, I will attach a list of library books that give insight into child development and why we do what we do. Please feel free to borrow books and avail yourself of the other great resources. We shall let you know which day the library will be open.

Around week five or six I will be holding a kindy parent meeting to give you an experience and a talk on aspects of our curriculum. This will go into the newsletter and the diary dates as soon as it is finalised.

In the kindergarten we have 3 lovely assistants, Sonja, Alenya and Robyn. Alenya will be assisting me on Mondays and Tuesdays, Sonja on Wednesdays, and Robyn on Thursdays and Fridays.

We are filled with joyful anticipation to spend time with the children and getting to know all our families. I am sure it will be a magical year!

Love Simone

Hello everybody and welcome back to our new school year. It was great to meet so many parents and children at our setup days. I really felt supported and shared the feelings of the children, a mixture of excitement, enthusiasm with a drop of anxiety. It is a big step to come back after a long break and cross the line towards a new part of our journey. We will have 24 children together in class 1 and 2 with myself and Blossom (most of you were introduced to her on Thursday or Friday).

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Hetty will still continue to finish our bamboo pipes and bring new ones in for class 1 as well as teaching how to play them once a week. Hetty will need help making the pipes and drilling new holes every 2 or 3 weeks until they are finished. I spent 3 hours with Hetty and Simone to learn how to make a bamboo pipe. In that time we finished a mouthpiece each. I enjoyed the process thoroughly, the doing as much as the satisfaction of producing the first sound. Let me know if you are interested. I don't know yet if we will have a music teacher every week this term. Parents are welcome to help in afternoon craft lessons by arrangement.

We will start our morning lessons with the unlocking of the secrets in letterland starting with the basic magic potion of the straight and the curved line. The first two weeks we will practise dynamic focus - moving with hands, feet, bodies and drawing them on outstretched butcher paper then onto paper to be captured for their main lesson book. The creative middle lessons have an activity allocated to the days of the week. The first three Mondays we will have stories with bees wax modeling. On Tuesdays we will leave for the swimming pool. On Wednesdays we will paint. Thursdays will be playing the bamboo pipes and music and Fridays I will teach German and sometimes cooking/baking. Afternoon lessons will mostly be craft or physical activities. I plan to go swimming again, having organised swimming lessons. I will give homework tasks again throughout the year. Most of these will be related to "show and tell" and to our nature table. I will keep you informed about the tasks so that you can remind and support you child. The first things to collect are related to a story I've told the children, "The Sylph Children and the Seed Children". In the story the Fairy Queen lives in a bower of 7 different shades of green. I have asked the children to find these around their house and bring leaves to school. As well I would like them to find and collect different seeds to look at and to tell their story or have a guessing game about what kind of seed it is. This will be our ongoing journey to see and wonder at the magic and beauty of nature through stories and observation. Show and tell and the nature experiences on many levels were some of our highlights last year. I'll invite everybody to our first parent teacher meeting on Thursday 19th February at 7pm. I am looking forward to seeing you.

Love Marga

Dear Parents and Grandparents,

I would like to welcome everyone back after a beautiful warm summer break. It seems to have gone very quickly! Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for the special turn out for our set up days. It seems like we have a good team of parents helping with all those jobs that need doing. I also need to thank Sonja who came in during the holidays and worked with Laurence to paint the classroom. Thank you Sonja and Laurence. Well we have some great news we have a new student in class 4. We would like to welcome Kaleb who joins us from a Steiner school in Melbourne.

Kaleb's family came to look at the school in the winter time last year and managed the move over the holiday break. Welcome Kim, Sal, Kaleb and Sylvia.

The class will begin weekly swimming classes in Lismore. We will be going every Monday from week 2. The children will need to bring their own water bottle, swimmers, which cover the shoulders and chest, towel and sunscreen. I have a parent to come with me for the first four weeks. I will require a parent for weeks five to ten. If you are able to come please let me know. There is a lot to organize in the room during the first week as we settle in, so next week I will let you know about our adventures in Egypt and Persia!

The cost of swimming lessons is \$6.50 per lesson. It can be paid weekly or as a block of 9 lessons. Please forward all monies to the office. Thanks.

Love Simone

Dear Parents,

Warm wishes and greetings to you all for 2009. We welcome two new faces to the class this year with the return of Poppy to Class 6 and the arrival of Tahlia from Nambucca Heads. This takes the class number to 11 and there are also two more students interested in joining the class. More to come on this.

I am now happily married and honeymooned and Jodi and I wish to thank all those who gave their time, efforts and joy to celebrate our wedding earlier this year.

The year looks to be very rich indeed with a strong class 5 entering their 'Greek' year with the excitement of the Ancient Greek Olympics to look forward to in spring. The children will be making their own javelins and discus with which to practise for the event. Class 6 enter their 'Roman' year and will hear many fine stories as the year unfolds.

Our first combined main lesson is on Australian Weather Studies, a very appropriate lesson for this area! This will be followed by more academic lessons on Fractions, Decimals and Percentages, and Dictation and Essay writing to close the term.

The children have the opportunity this term to have lessons on Natural Horsemanship from Marga's husband Alex who has studied the Paparelli method of 'metal-free' riding and is willing to teach us. It is hoped that we will be able to put our knowledge into practise later this term with a horse trek adventure combined with an over-night camp. More to come on this.

Swimming is being organised to begin this week and the children will have lessons with an instructor at the Kyogle pool. Also being organised is the opportunity for the children to work towards their Junior Life-guard Certificate during our regular swimming lessons. This is a very worthwhile endeavor and will equip them with skills in rescue and water safety.

A rigorous literacy programme will begin this year with reading and comprehension being a strong focus. As parents we will talk about methods and strategies that can support children's reading at home in our upcoming parent evening. This will be next week on Thursday evening at 7pm.

Lots of news indeed! Please feel free to stay in contact with me over the term with any questions, suggestions or concerns. My new landline number is 66897139.

Best wishes for the term,

Peter Calkin

Government Subsidy for Parents

If any parents drive their children more than 1.6km to the nearest school bus stop there is a subsidy that can be applied via the school office. Please call in for more information.

Fee Payments

The school much prefers to receive fee payments directly into its bank account with Summerland Credit Union. They have a branch in Nimbin. The details are:

BSB: 222-802 Account: 22206296

We received a payment into the bank account for fees at the end of last year, but there is no reference included so we do not know which family this payment has come from! Would you please contact us to let us know if this might be your payment - either by phone 6689 7033 or email admin@rainbowridge.nsw.edu.au any time over the holidays. Thanks.

There are still many fees outstanding. We would ask that families make regular payments and have their fees fully paid up very soon. If you would like to know the amount of outstanding fees or are having difficulty paying, please call us or email us and we will help.

Thanks and kind regards Helen/Tony for Admin