

NEWSLETTER



TERM 1, Week 6, 10th March 2009

Sun, thou bearer of rays,
Thy light's power over matter
Magics life out of the earth's
Limitless rich depths.

Heart, thou bearer of soul,
Thy light's power over spirit
Magics life out of the human being's
Limitless deep inwardness.

If I gaze upon the Sun
Her light speaks to me in radiance
Of the Spirit, filled with grace,
Wielding through the beings of worlds.

If I feel within my heart
The Spirit speaks its own true word
About the human being, loved by him
Through all time and eternity.

Looking upwards, I can see
In the Sun's bright disc
The mighty heart of worlds.

Looking inwards, I can feel
In the heart's warm beat
The human Sun ensouled.

Rudolf Steiner

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.

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

Fri 13th Mar: Craft Group at Sylvia's house 10am. Please bring lunch to share.
Sylvia Ph 6689-7524

Fri 20th Mar: Parent Group meeting 9:30-11:00am at school. All welcome.

Wed 8th Apr: Biodynamic Workshop with Brian Keats here at school from 5pm. Please bring a plate to share.

Term Dates 2009

Term 1: Tuesday 3rd February to Thursday 9th April.
Term 2: Monday 4th May to Friday 3rd July.
Term 3: Monday 27th July to Friday 25th September
Term 4: Monday 19th October to Thursday 17th December.

Greetings,

Last week we had our kindy parent meeting. This was very well attended. It was great to see our kindy tables full! Kindergarten aged children learn through doing. For this reason I decided to give the parents an experience of what we do in kindy rather than just talk about it. The parents and grandparents graciously joined in a morning circle and then observed a very simple puppet show that is done for the children for at least a whole week.

Rudolph Steiner gives a picture of the three fold human being: Thinking , Feeling and Willing. Each of these aspects are directly relevant to developmental phases in our growth. In the first seven years we are working with the 'will' forces, which are primarily to do with growth, movement, and the young child's ability to take hold of their physical body. Major organs are still growing and taking form and this is the major task of the first 7 years. The child first learns mastery of their gross motor abilities (climbing, jumping, hopping, balancing etc..) and then gains mastery of their fine motor skills (tying, stitching, drawing ...) All of these skills (and their mastery) lay a solid and necessary foundation for later skills in writing, literacy and mathematical thinking, whilst the physical growth and healthy formation of the organs, lays a foundation for health over the course of a lifetime.

The kindy curriculum is designed to support the children in the harnessing of these will forces through movement, rhythm and repetition. We do the same morning circle each morning for three weeks. This allows the children to really live into the words and gestures. It also gives them the experience of taking part in the group activity where we come together as 'we' or 'us'. We form a circle as individuals and we learn to be a part of a group. The children engage their will through many healthy activities. We knead and bake, we paint and draw and do bees wax sculpture. We make beautiful craft. We help set the table, wash up and clean up and pack up. We are learning about life through our activities in life. The children are given wonderful opportunities in their 'free' play to run, skip, climb, balance, imagine, create, attempt, negotiate, problem solve, dream and wonder. All of these health-giving activities take place in a balanced daily/weekly/yearly rhythm. This supports healthy growth and creates a safe and nurturing structure for the children to blossom and thrive.

Our simple puppet show using 3 shells and a banksia pod shows the virtue of uncomplicated, natural objects in allowing room for the imagination to imbue and thrive. Imagination is a beautiful and vital part of early childhood. We need to protect the open senses of the child from the many harsh and hard to assimilate images, which assail them in our modern technological times. It is important to remember that what has become 'normal' isn't necessarily healthy. Television and computer use do affect child behaviour, and we've received some really positive and honest feedback from a number of parents on the positive changes seen when these things are removed from daily activities. If any questions or thoughts have arisen since the meeting, or upon reading this, please feel free to contact me through the office.

Remember to send in a rest time sheet/blanket in a natural light coloured fabric (yellow, blue, pink, purple). Also socks would be good for the chilly days, and a change of clothes in a plastic bag.

The children are welcome to bring in natural treasures they find in Mother Nature for our seasonal nature table.

We welcome a new girl Indigo to our kindy family.

Have a lovely week. I hope you're enjoying these lovely, crisp autumn mornings.

Love Simone

Today we are celebrating Anjelica's birthday.

The total cost for all the swimming classes is \$58.50. Individual classes are \$6.50. Can money please be paid in full by week 10.

Love Simone

Biodynamic Workshop with Brian Keats

Starting at 5pm, Wednesday 8th April here at school, we will have a special group stirring of the preparation 500 and application onto the gardens. There will be a question and answer session afterwards and sharing of food. We will also set a date for the next session to be early in term 2 when we will begin the preparation 500 process with the burying of the cow horns. More details to come next week.

Fee Payments

Bank account details for fee payments are:

BSB 802 222

Acct: 22206296

Name: Rainbow Ridge School

Bank: Summerland Credit Union

Note that all fees should be fully paid by now or arrangements made with the office regarding payment plans. Thanks very much!

Library Hours for Parents

The school library is open each Wednesday and first thing on Wednesday morning is a good time for parents/carers to browse the shelves and talk to Lisa about reading material to take home. All welcome.

Regards Cristina, Tony and Helen