

NEWSLETTER



TERM 2, Week 1, 5th May 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 beings'
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 work
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 off worlds.

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

Rudolf Steiner

Diary Dates

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Wed 6th May: Talk with Dr Lakshmi 4:30-6pm at school. "How is Steiner Education providing preventative health care for our children?". Plus Q & A session. Childcare will be provided so that more parents have the chance to come. Please make a donations when attending the session.

Mon 11th May: Parent Group meeting at school 9:30am. Board Meeting at 5pm.

Tues 12th May: Craft at Sylvia's place. Please bring lunch to share. Ph 6689-7524

May 12/13/14: NAPLAN Testing for class 3 and class 5.

Wed 20th May: School Board AGM.

Thu 21st May: Class 1/2 parent teacher meeting 6pm at school.

Fri 22nd May: Craft at Sylvia's place. Please bring lunch to share. Ph 6689-7524

Appointments with Dr Lakshmi and Michael can be made by phoning the school.

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.

At the end of last term the primary classes went on their annual autumn walk.

They had an amazing autumn experience on the Rosewood Loop at the Border Ranges. The first bridge was flowing over with icy cold mountain creek-water. Those with waterproof boots were the lucky ones. As we ventured on into denser rainforest with its towering canopy of ancient trees it began to steam up. Jackets and wet weather gear came off into backpacks or around waists. Some of the children doubled in size from carrying all their gear! The magnificence of this scenic environment really began to reveal itself. There were scatterings of different coloured and patterned fungi, hollowed out logs with shoots of new palms growing inside them and a swathe of palm frond casings, carpeting the forest floor-a basket weavers dream. Some of the children really experienced the journey of going through darkness into light, either by being unsure of whether they were lost or not or just finding every step of the way an absolute drudgery. When we emerged from the canopy into the drizzling rain we were met at the shelter by a sea of happy faces around the campfire and a feast of fine food. The rain steadily grew heavier and everyone bundled into cars and buses with pots and dishes, wet clothes and happy children. Of course there were two mums left to gather the leftovers and see that all personal belongings found their way back to school and into the lost property basket.

We now have a Chinese language programme which Lishia O'Reilly will run on Monday and Tuesdays. Lishia will also be responsible for Literacy and Numeracy support for classes 3 through to 6. We have also begun our music programme with Katrina Ross. Katrina will also be at school on Monday and Tuesday. During these lesson times the class teachers have the opportunity to attend to admin requirements.

Dr Lakshmi and Michael are once again visiting Rainbow Ridge. As an anthroposophical doctor specialising in paediatrics she can offer families long or short-term support for children as well as other family members. Lakshmi will be doing observations in all classrooms and the kindergarten during the week. The observations are at the request of the teacher and are to support the teacher in the ongoing task of supporting all children as individuals within the dynamic classroom.

As we enter the colder months hats are no longer compulsory but should remain at school. Children are hungrier and cool off quickly when sitting in the shady areas for morning tea and lunch so adequate food and clothing are important. Laurence and the team of contractors and builders did a sterling job over the holidays completing pathways, concrete water tanks (replacing the poly tanks and bringing additional storage), hot water systems, an upgraded solar system and the most remarkable addition an extended office space! The office fits into the design so well that it looks like it was always there! The office is just a touch away from being completed. The set up day was rather sad with only a scattering of parents turning up at a time when there were a lot of outdoor jobs and cleaning needing to be done to get ready for the term. We wish everyone a happy and healthy term two!

College of Teachers

Greetings,

What a joy to welcome the children back for our second term! It has been so lovely to watch their light filled faces come down our new school paths, and into the warm and enfolding arms of the kindy. We have commenced the term with the story of Mother Nature sitting in her red autumn room beneath the roots of the great fig tree. With her nimble fingers, she is sewing an autumn blanket to warm the earth during the coming colder months. Into the blanket she is weaving pink and brown grasses, golden corn sheaths, white woolly clouds and red tipped leaves. As she sleeps, the twinkling stars decide to give their gift of starlight to guide the earth's children through the dark, cold nights. They place stars in nuts and seedpods, apples and pears and finally in crystals and rocks they place their twinkling light to guide the earth's children through the coming cold nights. On our story table the children have found some star filled

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crystals nestled amongst our autumn leaves, nuts and seeds. This term, I would like to invite the kindy parents to spend an afternoon after school making a simple soft doll for the children. It will be a nourishing experience of creating something simple yet beautiful out of natural fibres. This is a lovely way to nurture your child's sense of touch by making something natural, imbued with your love. The dolls can be snuggled by the children in our afternoon rest time as a suitable comforting companion. The cost for materials will be ten dollars each. The children are welcome to be a part of the process or play quietly inside while we sew. We are aiming for this to take place on a Thursday afternoon around week three or four. Also this term will be individual parent teacher meetings. Times available will be placed in future newsletters.

The cooler days are well and truly here. All children need to have a named blanket at school for rest time (please choose cotton or wool in a plain pastel shade). Covered shoes and socks are also needed to keep little feet dry and warm, allowing the children to relax into themselves and fulfil their task of growing healthy bodies and organs. Please also ensure your child has a jumper and spare warm clothing.

If any families are looking to make up their school service hours for the term, there are some kindy tasks available. Please let me know if you are able to help with some simple fabric cutting. We will also need kindy pillows machine sewn, as they are finished off.

Wishing all our lovely mamas a happy Mother's Day for Sunday, and thanking you for all that you constantly give, give, give to your children. Mothering is a truly momentous task, and you need to replenish yourself in all that giving. We hope you receive lots of nurturing and love.

Due to our new entrance point at school, the most convenient approach to kindy is along the grass pathway running parallel to the kindy. The entrance for this is down near the shed with the school bus inside.

Birthday blessings to Michaela for last week. Looking forward to catching up with you all during the term.

Much love, Simone

Dear parents

I welcome you back to term 2. Your children will experience a rich and balanced curriculum. We will put down the roots for learning, nurture the green foliage of feeling and blossom into the will to fulfil our tasks.

In our first three weeks of morning lesson we will explore language in the form of messages in our natural environment to extend the understanding of LETTERS for class 1. Class 2 is in their WORD year and they will discover word families as *Syllables-Singular and Plural-Gender-Synonyms and Antonyms-Etymology-compound words-Prefixes and Suffixes-Rhyming words-Onomatopoeia-Anagrams-Homonyms and Homophones*. The children will learn about these through imaginative examples in relation to our storyline. In our story, an English family comes to central Australia, the father working in an isolated area as a geologist. Their main contacts are Aboriginal people and they embark on a learning journey. Moondee the wise Aboriginal elder becomes the guide to read the messages of nature and the English mother, who is a teacher, connects the Aboriginal and nature stories to the wisdom of words in our language. When Moondee tells the story about Salamander and Gecko, Vera chooses some words from our writing about the story and asks the children to find some similar words reminding them of the similarity of salamander and gecko as an animal species. In our short writing of verse (class 1) and prose (class 2) I will start to use colours for the parts of speech. We will write the Nouns in yellow. For the children I name them *YELLOW SPARKLE NAMER*. The Verbs will be written in red- *RED ROVER MOVER* and the Adjectives and Adverbs in blue-*BLUE PICTURE PAINTER*. Later in class 3 all parts of Speech will be introduced to the students through characters.

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At our last parent-teacher meeting you experienced parts of our Morning Circle activities which contain elements of different movements, singing, speech activities and mental maths. In our middle lessons we will play our bamboo pipes and experience more music through song and rhythm. Katrina is coming for a weekly music lesson every Tuesday afternoon. We will form story themes with beeswax, we will paint with water colours and I will be teaching German songs and stories to the class. The afternoons will be mostly craft lessons.

We will continue weekly excursions which I have planned mostly for Thursdays so that Blossom can be included, and some Fridays. On Friday 15th May, we are invited to Mayla's home for a birthday visit. As part of our *Roots and shoots* program I am planning a visit to Macadamia Castle. Our excursions are a combination of home visits and an exploration of special places in our school, home environment and our regional area.

In our school assemblies every Monday morning we will create the mood for the season and prepare for the Winter festival in June. On Thursday the 21st May (in week three), I would like to meet you all for a parent-teacher meeting at 6pm at school. From my conversations and feedback about the TV and electronic devices, I gather that everybody is willing to trial and experience a period of no TV and electronic devices this term. I suggest that we start in the second week of term. Then we can review the process at our meeting. Also, I'll prepare an overview of the kind of stories we tell in primary school in relation to child development and curriculum. I hope to be able to prepare a reading list as an indication of suitable books to read to class 1&2 children.

Towards the end of the term, I will have prepared the half-year reports in the form of assessments linked to learning outcomes and developmental progress. This year I will not conduct interviews in the way I did last year because I will be leaving for Germany one week before the term finishes and returning for week 3 of term 3. I am taking leave to spend time with my father in Germany who is turning 88 in July. This will give my sister some time off from caring for our father. Blossom will be teaching the class while I am away and Sonja will assist her full time in this task. I will organise interviews with class 1 parents over the period of term 2 and 3 and also for parents who have joined the school later.

We are happy to welcome Asrai back into our class and her family to the school!!!

We will celebrate Gypsy's, Mayla's, Akasha's, Nelene's and Arky's birthdays in May.

I am still available on Mondays at school between 3:30 and 5pm if you would like to talk to me. As well you can arrange a time by calling the office.

I am looking forward to a wonder filled term.

Love Marga

Dr Lakshmi session tomorrow - Wednesday!!

We have scheduled a session with Dr Lakshmi tomorrow, Wednesday 6th May from 4:30-6:00pm here at school. Her talk is around the topic of "How is Steiner Education providing preventative health care for our children?". Dr Lakshmi is a fully qualified paediatrician who now works within our communities and outside of the traditional medical clinics and surgeries.

She works in the area where she believes the roots of healing and health exist. Dr Lakshmi will address questions and topics such as:

Why is the class 1,2,3... curriculum the way it is?

How is the curriculum nurturing the health of our children?

Help me understand the physiological, scientific basis for the Steiner curriculum.

There will be time for questions.

All those who have attended Dr Lakshmi's sessions have loved them. We have arranged childcare here at school so that more parents have the opportunity to come and join in.

Love Helen for the Parent Group

Naplan Test

The National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) takes place on May 12, 13 and 14 for Classes 3 and 5.

Students will sit the tests during Main Lesson time, as each test requires approximately 2 hours to complete. Students have a break at the half way point.

Students not doing the tests will have a normal school day.

Stay tuned for more information regarding these tests.

The Missing Alarm Hooter

The school's fire alarm hooter was taken on the autumn walk and has not returned to school.

If you have found this item at your place please let us know. Many thanks.

Community Notices

Submissions for the “Range to Range” Publication

The “Range to Range” publication comes out four times each year from the same people who organised the “Welcome to Country” event recently at Hanging Rock Hall. Submissions are invited from the community each time as follows:

- Community Stories
- Fiction/non-fiction stories
- Poems
- Advertisements

Submissions should be limited to about 200 words and be in WORD format, please. They can be emailed to steve.clough@det.nsw.edu.au no later than this Friday 8th May.

Organisations take turns to publish each issue and this issue is being put together by Larnook School.

Acoustic Guitar for Sale \$160

This acoustic guitar comes with a hard case and is in good condition.
Please phone 6632-2603.

Yoga Classes

Hari Om,

Yoga classes have begun at Rainbow Ridge on Monday afternoons 3:30-5pm in the Music Room.

Classes include

Yoga Nidra – conscious relaxation

Pranayama – breathing techniques

Asana – P.M.A Series designed for beginners to advanced (aimed at releasing energy blocks throughout the physical and energetic body)

Shatkarmas – purification processes (including meditation practices)

Please call Tanya on 6689-7566 if you wish to attend

Cost \$8 (\$5 class & \$3 school contribution) Classes held in gentle nurturing non-competitive environment.