

BALLARAT
**STEINER
SCHOOL**

Kindergarten & Playgroup

EDUCATING the WHOLE CHILD

GOLDEN MOSS NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 4

Wednesday 2nd November 2011



VERSE OF THE WEEK

Up into the cherry-tree
Who should climb but little me?
I held the trunk with both hands
And looked abroad on foreign lands.

I saw the next door garden lie,
Adorned with flowers, before my eye'
And many pleasant places more
That I have never seen before.

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday 9th November: *Class 3/4 Meeting 7pm*

Thursday 10th November: *John Allison is at the school*

Friday 11th November: *Ballarat Show Day, Public Holiday*

Sunday 13th November: *Ballarat Baby and Children's Expo Mining Exchange 10-4pm*

Monday 14th November: *Kinder Information Night 7pm*

Saturday 19th November: *Sound and Colour Workshop at school*

Wednesday 23rd November - Friday 25th November:
Class 6 Work Experience Camp

Wednesday 23rd November: *Prep Information Night 7pm*

Saturday 26th November: *Lou Harvey Zahra talk 'Creative Discipline for preschool Children 'Turning Tears into Laughter' 10am-12noon*

Tuesday 29th November: **All Levels - Orientation Day 9-11am**

Thursday 1st December: *Greek Olympics - Class 5 in Collingwood*

Thursday 1st December: *Christmas Twilight Market*

Saturday 3rd December: *Garden Busy Bee 10am*

Friday 9th December: *Class 6 Graduation Dinner 6:30pm*

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 14th December: *4yr Kinder Christmas Festival 6:30pm*

Thursday 15th December: *Ring a Rosie Christmas Festival 10:30am*

Thursday 15th December: *Prep Christmas Festival 9.00am*

Thursday 15th December: *School Christmas Festival 6:30pm*

Term Four Ends: *Thursday 15th December 12.30pm*

In a school environment where there is so much going on all the time, little things can sometimes get overlooked. This week there was a momentous event in the life of the school and that was that Parents and Friends donated \$18,000 to the school.

It is a huge amount of money and I am sure we are all very grateful and appreciative of the effort parents have gone to in raising that amount of money. The committee have been discussing using the funds in next year's budget for a ride on mower, to help fund the new climbing frame and sand pit and hopefully a shed for the land care working bees. So thank you again from the Committee of Management and the College of Teachers to all those involved in Parents and Friends. We look forward to your continued efforts and remember if you have anything to add to the wish list - NOW IS THE TIME!!



Hi Everyone, This is a picture of the climbing frame we are hoping to build for the school playground. We are hoping parents can start collecting pieces of wood that they think could be used in the climbing frame and drop them off at the school. The wood will need to be then sandpapered smooth to ensure no splinters. We also would like anyone interested in building the climbing frame to register their interest with the office and we will start a building group to coordinate building the frame. Thanks everyone - another great way to work up your community hours!!

GOOSEY GANDER NEWS

Last week Teddy Tanaka, Ben Camm and some very helpful Playgroup children, kindly planted a donated Pink Lady Apple Tree at the front of Playgroup as well as



spreading topsoil over our new garden beds and planting all our kindly donated seedlings. We now have growing in our garden; strawberries, tomatoes, sunflowers, watermelon and various other plants. Thankyou so very much for your kind donations and all your ongoing help. We have also been making some felt Christmas decorations which we



would like to sell at our Christmas Twilight Market that is coming up on Dec 1st. If you have an ideas for decorations that you would like to make please don't hesitate to speak to Anna or Sarah.

KINDERGARTEN & RING A ROSIE

This week all Kindergarten families with children transitioning to prep in 2012 will be given the families section of the official transition to school statement to fill out. Even though your child is staying within Ballarat Steiner School this form is a necessary legal requirement and is also useful for the prep teacher. Please fill it out and return it to Ambika at the kindergarten as soon as possible. Ambika will also be giving each family a transition statement about their child. If you have any questions about the content of the report please feel welcome to speak to Ambika about it. The statement is for parents and we strongly advise that the content is not shared with your child. It is important that we just allow the children to be as they are without bringing in self consciousness at this stage. It would be inappropriate for any child to feel judged either negatively or positively and is important that the children experience our unconditional love as much as possible. As adults we work outside of the children's conscious knowledge when we observe the children and plan strategies to support the children's development.

A date has been set for orientation day on **Tuesday 29th November 9-11am**. This is relevant for current Kindergarten families but not for Ring a Rosie families. Parents will be required to drop their children off at **9.00am** at prep on this day and the children will spend two hours experiencing prep with their prep teacher. Please ensure that you are punctual so that the children can settle in together. Ambika and Janine will then collect the children from prep (with your permission) and they will spend the remainder of the day in their normal kindergarten session to be collected at 2.45 as normal. Please also check the newsletter for the date of the prep information night. All families are expected to attend.

Our kindergarten information night will be held on Monday 14th of November. All families who have a child coming to Kindergarten or Ring a Rosie in 2012 are expected to attend. Important information will be shared on this night so if you are unable to attend please let Ambika know.

Also please mark Lou Harvey Zahra's talk on Creative Discipline into your diary. Lou has a Steiner background and her talk promises to be very rich.

Thanks Ambika

PREP NEWS



The children are enjoying a new very humorous tale of 'Lazy Jack' this week. Lazy Jack is rewarded and stupidity, even the characters success! children beautiful with a beautiful wife fortune despite his and teaches us that most frustrating of may be destined for Purple day saw the completing their drawing that will be printed onto cards ready for Christmas. This was exciting for the children as it is the first time I have ever given them 'A reason' for their work. Some children felt a little

daunted at first but persevered to produce detailed bright works of art.

"Toys for Children should really have these three qualities: Simple, beautiful and well-made.



When a toy is simple, children can add to it. The more elaborate details there are - which we as adults often label as 'cute' - the less 'room' there is for children to use their imagination, to pretend and change. That simple cardboard box was just then a boat, all of a sudden it changed into a train and now it is a house to live in.....In my view there is no place for an ugly toy for a child, as that cannot fill them with pleasure. It only destroys the possibility to develop good taste and learn that good things are

there to be enjoyed." *Toys by Carla De Jong. For full essay please see- Star Weavings*

Magazine spring/summer 2011

Reminders:

- Ballarat Steiner School is a sun smart school and each child is required to wear their sun hat during terms one and four. It is recommended that a hat for your child be left at school during these terms for convenience. Broad brim hats with a drawstring offer the best protection and will stay on while your child is climbing, spinning, skipping and cart wheeling! Although I remind the children to pop their hats on they often complain that they keep falling off.
- **Christmas card orders now due.**

- Tuesday November 5th - Once more! - Whole School photo
- Saturday November 26th - Lou Harvey Zara talk 10am.
- Tuesday November 29th - Class 1 Orientation Day- please pack a morning tea and accompany your children to Class 1 (9-11am)
- Saint Nicholas Day December 6th - please send in a little shoe of your prep child's. The children will polish their shoes and place them under the Prep Christmas tree e.g. a favourite baby shoe. Parents can then secretly drop in a special fruit like a mango as the surprise gifts left by Saint Nicholas.
- Christmas Festival, Thursday December 22nd

CLASS 1&2

Hello Everyone,

Well the two classes have begun their new main lessons. The beginning of the fourth week of term brings the introduction of time and money for Class 2 and a consolidation of the four processes in maths for Class 1 which means a busy and interesting time ahead for the whole group including me. Of course our supporting lessons continue with a big thumbs-up for Earth Lesson and the big adventure to the edge of the dam last Thursday. It certainly was a focus of discussion the following day which included the merits of having gumboots at school.

In addition we have begun rehearsing our class Christmas play which we hope to perform for the class parents and friends around the end of term (no fixed date yet).

I enjoyed the class meeting that was held last Wednesday and would just like to re affirm that I am available at school each afternoon (not Thursday) if you wish to discuss any class issue.

Stuart

CLASS 5/6

The children are immersed in a range of art studies this term.

When Steiner formulated the educational task of art teaching he mentioned that if children are taught to comprehend things in a living way they become "able" people, where as children who engage in art learn to be "creative" people. In the first case they are merely applying their abilities; in the second case they grow through this very application.

The children are certainly applying their growth in their artistic skills through their drawing, form drawing, painting, clay modeling and sculpture experiences.

Whilst Class Six are working with Maggie on a range of works on paper to create a book on their reflections of their primary school years, Class Five are sculpting/forming a vase based on the ancient Greek amphora's in paper-mache with Anna.

The children are also extending their recorder tunes and singing with Sarah as they focus on Christmas carols in preparation for our Christmas Play.

Preparations are also well under way for the Class Five Greek Olympics as they practice their daily fitness with the javelin, discus, long jump, sprints and wrestling.

Class Six work experience camp is also currently being organised. We have found quite reasonable accommodation at the Creswick campus of Melbourne University - including a series of venues to visit to enhance the learning's of the main lessons we are addressing this term. The actual work experiences will involve a range of activities at Creswick Nursery and Captain's Creek and Spring Creek organic farms.

Wow! What a busy but EXCITING term we are having!

Thank you to all of our families who are also managing to follow up their children's diaries. It is truly appreciated!

Anna Schlooz and Sarah Hirst

EARTH LESSON - "By The Dam Day"



Congratulations to all of the children and their families who participated in our school's first "By The Dam Day."

Even "Wilhelmina" our pet goose put on a show with Stuart McCallum from Greening Australia. She clearly indicated to Stuart that she wasn't impressed about having to share her space with us.

Eventually she chose not to take on the challenge and moved to another part of the dam.

All children from Class One - Six - including family members, used nets to take samples of aquatic life from the dam and view them "up - close".



Children experienced using their EYES, Petri dishes, water trays, ice block trays, droppers and finally, a rarity for the earth lesson classroom ...MICROSCOPES!

A very worthwhile incursion and great sales in our Opportunity Shop... along with wonderful efforts at wrapper - free lunches and layering up to avoid using our heaters.

Thank you to all for supporting our earth lessons and our Resource Smart AUSSI Vic school journey.



"Oh by the way...I truly would not be offended if someone felt like having a go at making more long lasting nets for us to use at our next "By The dam Day"...I know the children would appreciate it as well."

Anna Schlooz

LATENESS AND ABSENCE

Please remember that if your child arrives later than 9.30am you must come to the office and sign the child in before he/she can attend class. The school is currently closely monitoring those students who have habitual lateness and/or a lot of absences. We also ask if you collect your child prior to school end at 3.30pm, that you also leave via the office and sign your child out. This is a legal requirement of the school.

*Snake Season is upon us
so please make sure that
your children have
appropriate protective
footwear*

**Just a reminder that
Xmas Card Orders and Raffle tickets need to be handed in ASAP
Thankyou**

GARDEN BUSY BEE

Thanks for those who participated in the last garden work bee. Although we had the treat of rain, luckily were worked in the window of dryness. We were able to dig and lay the foundations to pizza oven. Imagine when it is finished we and the children can all enjoy a delicious home cooked pizzas. Although we did well in Saturday there is a long way before it will be finished. More helpers are needed. Talk to Gareth if you can help at any time or have experience yourself. We finished the bee off with some conversation and a sausage sizzle. Many thanks to Gambles for the donation of delicious organic sausages they were much appreciated. Remember if you didn't get to this working bee the next one is on **Saturday 3rd December**.

Or you can always do some weeding at a time that suits you, I'm sure you can find some weeds somewhere this time of the year.
Many thanks Christine.

Twilight Market

Ballarat Steiner School

244 Moss Avenue, Mt Helen

Thursday 1st December 7-9pm

*Start your Christmas celebrations
and shopping with beautiful
stalls, star making and
a Christmas supper along with
some mulled wine.*

*We are very excited to have
some new*

*stalls at our annual
Christmas Market.*

Our new ones along with our regular stalls include:

*“The Castlemaine Steiner Stall”, beautiful bees wax candles,
Steiner crayons and pencils, Steiner books, felted craft, bags,
music c.d.s jewellery.*

Hope you can join us to start your celebration of Christmas.



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Bowen Plus Practitioner - Flower Remedies for animals and people
- hoof trimming - hair testing service - animal portraits.

Essence of Equus facilitator (equine
assisted therapy).

Mobile service. Postal address 115b Broadway,
Dunolly, Vic 3472. Tel 0428 853 520. Email
sar.jay69@gmail.com. Web
www.thehealingarts.com.au .

Bowen Plus \$120

Hair Testing \$75

Hoof Trimming \$35

Equine Assisted Therapy p.o.a.

Animal Portraits p.o.a.

FOR SALE

Could anyone use a
Spinning Wheel or two
windows suitable for
constructing a Propagation
Box

Phone Jenny

5331 5420

COMMUNITY REVITALIZER CAMP

*(Christmas Holidays, inexpensive, and possibly Otway area, more details
to come)*

*Fancy a bit of revitalizing and nourishment for you and your family where
you can relax, swim, play, share meals, stories, songs and play music etc
with other families, where children have playmates anytime of the day.*

*Well Chris R and Sarah C do! So please let us know your expression of
interest.*



UnitingCare Book Fair

Saturday 5th November

St. Andrew's Hall
Cnr Sturt & Dawson Streets
from 10.00 am

*Wide selection of second-hand books -
nothing over \$5.00*

Variety of craft stalls & sausage sizzle



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Innovative professional development for counsellors, psychologists and health workers. Opening the heart to compassion. Awakening the mind to insight



A free open day for the courses is being held by Sophia College in Melbourne on November 3rd

Date: Thursday 3rd November 2011
Time: 5.00pm - 6.30pm
Venue: Augustine Centre, 2 Minona St, Hawthorn
Contact: Sophia College (08) 9726 1505



Email:
info@sophiacollege.com
Website:
www.sophiacollege.com

For information on 2012 Courses. Bring an open mind along with any queries. Friends and family members are also encouraged to attend.

Book Your Place Today

Castlemaine School Fair November 5th 10.00 am to 4.00pm

Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School Fair and Open Day, Saturday November 12th 10am- 4pm.
Maypole Dance, Music Performances, Open Classrooms and displays, Storytelling, Craft Market,
Delicious Food.

If you have any questions, please reply to this email or to the school office at: office@mrss.com.au

Greetings members and friends

Just a reminder that the tickets for the Foundation Stone Mediation eurythmy performance and
lecture on 30th October 2.30 pm are now selling. Contact Karralyka Theatre Mines Road
Ringwood East \$25/\$20 (Members and students and pensioners)

Bookings at the Box Office: Karralyka Centre, Mines Road, Ringwood East

Operating Hours: 9.30am - 4.30pm, Monday - Friday

Phone: (03) 9879 2933 Fax: (03) 9870 2283 www.karralyka.com.au

Payment by: cash, cheque and credit card. E-mail: karralyka@maroondah.vic.gov.au

SPRING WORKSHOP

MOVEMENT MEDITATION AND

ART THERAPY

WHEN : Saturday, 5th of November, 2011, 2-5.30pm.

WHERE: Absolute Yoga Studio. 11a Grenville ST.

COST \$50 (includes all materials and refreshments)

FACILITATORS: Lorraine Collishaw (experienced counsellor and course/ workshop
facilitator)

Candace Rowe (Masters of Art Therapy/ group facilitator)

**THIS WORKSHOP IS DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO RECONNECT
WITH YOUR INNER WISDOM AND CREATIVITY**

*"Lorraine and Candace have been running these inspiring workshops for the past
two years. Come and join in our last workshop for 2011"*

For registration and Payment or more info ring:

Candace 53387130 or email candyrowe7@hotmail.com

Turning Tears into Laughter: Creative Discipline for the Toddler and Preschool Years by Lou Harvey-Zahra

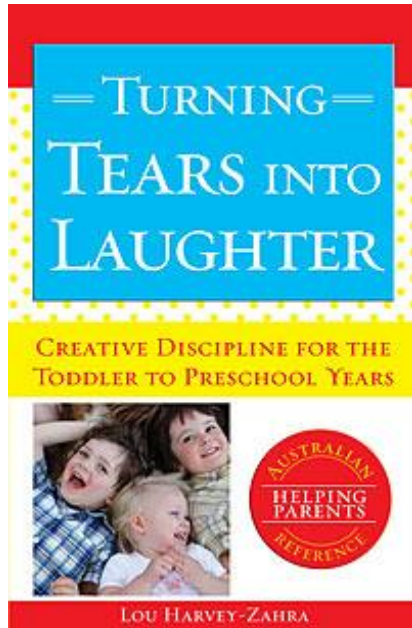
Date: Saturday 26th November

Time: 10.30am to 12pm

Place: Ballarat Steiner School, 244 Moss Ave Mt. Helen 3352 (cnr of Moss Ave and Midland Hwy)

Cost: \$10

Contact and information: Ambika (kindergarten) on 0407 687 188 or the school office on 5341 8188



This inspiring talk will cover:

- Laying the foundation for a happy child: positive family rhythms, imaginative play ideas, the connection between food and behaviour, and asking the question 'Why?' will be discussed
- The eight 'Creative Discipline' strategies of redirection, changing the environment, games and giggles, positive role models, the word 'no' and the power of praise will be covered (and more...)
- Real life tips will end the talk (with parent discussion), from bed time to bath time, leaving a park to sharing toys; Lou will share many practical and inspiring ideas to transform 'tears into laughter' with young children.

"Turning Tears into Laughter will lighten the load and enlighten the mind..."

John Allison (Rudolf Steiner teacher, consultant, author), May 2010

"Lou's Steiner background is evident in the sensitivity with which she writes and her understanding of the developing child and their needs."

Betty Palmer (Director of the Gabriel Centre), April 2010

"Inspiring, practical, could not be better!"

ST Kilda Library parent feedback, August 2011

Lou Harvey-Zahra is a mother of two, primary, special needs and Rudolf Steiner trained teacher and playgroup leader. Her book, *Turning Tears into Laughter: Creative Discipline for the Toddler and Preschool Years* is published by Five Mile Press. Lou's parenting website includes book details, many inspiring tips, and a free monthly newsletter www.skiptomylouparenting.com

If you have a business you wish to advertise or items for sale, you may place an advertisement in this section of the newsletter. This is a free service for our community members and for others, a requirement is a fee of \$5 or 10% of monies made may be donated to the school

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*The Ballarat Steiner School adheres to the following principles:
- Equal rights, freedom of speech, openness and tolerance to the value of others, the Australian Government and its laws.*