

BALLARAT
STEINER
SCHOOL
Kindergarten & Playgroup

EDUCATING the WHOLE CHILD

GOLDEN MOSS NEWSLETTER

Term 1 week 6

Wednesday March 9th 2011



VERSE OF THE WEEK

May our eyes shine
With light like thine,
May our hearts know
Thy warming glow,
May our hands give
Such strength to live,
That we may be
A sun like Thee.

Important Dates

Saturday 12th March: *Garden Working Bee 10-12pm*

Monday 14th March:

Labour Day (public holiday)

Tuesday 22nd March:

Class meeting 3/4 & 5/6

Sunday 27th March:

Autumn Fair 10am-3pm

HARVEST FESTIVAL DATES

Wednesday 6th April:

4 year old Kinder Festival 10am

Thursday 7th April: *Prep Festival 9am*

Friday 8th April: *School Festival 1pm*

Dates for your Dairy

Term One ends: *Friday 8th April*

Term Two begins:

Wednesday 27th April

Term Two ends: *Friday 1st July*

NIT ALERT

please be aware that those nasty little things are BACK, so please check your child/ren hair. The school has purchased a robi nit comb for students to loan. Please contact the office to put your name down.

NEWS

Low-tech path to success

Justin Norrie and Anna Patty

March 6, 2011



Unorthodox methods ... two Rudolf Steiner schools made it into NSW's top ten.

TWO primary schools that have shunned the digital age and embraced unorthodox teaching methods are among the top achievers in national literacy tests.

Mumbulla School for Rudolf Steiner Education and Lorien Novalis School for Rudolf Steiner Education are both ranked among top schools in NSW, according to their overall performance in year 5 NAPLAN tests.

The results are based on an analysis by The Sun-Herald of figures published on the federal government's My School website on Friday.

The Mumbulla School says on its website that it places a focus on teaching crafts and warns that "electronic media are believed ... to hamper seriously the development of the child's imagination - a faculty which is central to the healthy development of the individual."

Lorien Novalis School - its name in part comes from a character in

J.R.R. Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings - agrees that "young children need to communicate and learn without the mediation of complex technology".

Mumbulla School, at Bega, has 178 students from kindergarten to year 6. Lorien Novalis School, at Glenhaven, has 332 students from kindergarten to year 12. Sophie Mundi and Castlemaine also rated in the top ten for specific subjects.

GOOSEY GANDER NEWS

We hope you are all enjoying the lovely new toilets and the trek to school toilets is a thing of the past. We will be handing out posters for the Autumn Fair to families and wondering or hoping if possible you could find a good spot to help advertise our Fair.

Young children are best in a home like environment which means a

building that the adults care for like their own home. Honest simple and homely activities such as sweeping, cleaning, dusting and gardening certainly help foster good feelings and set healthy examples for the children.

Play nourishes every aspect of the child's development and learning. It forms the foundation of intellect, social, physical and emotional skills necessary for success in school and life.

When it is self directed, play leads to feelings of competence and self confidence.

Strength and patience is required to allow the children to go through periods of frustration before they achieve depth and satisfaction in their play rather than intervening too early (with organised activities or TV etc.) because the child appears bored.

Short term peace is a poor comprise for long term free play skills.

ALDI are selling this Thursday 100% and 80%merino machine washable tops and pants for babies size 000-2yrs for \$9.99 up to \$24 for two piece.
Not bad bargain

Kindergarten and Ring a Rosie News

Please note the date of the Kindergarten Festival in "important Dates" and mark this into your diary. It will be a joyous celebration for all families of 4 year old Kinder children to attend.

This week in Kindergarten we are dying wool with beetroot. Dying yarn is a process that has been practiced by humans for ages. It is important that children observe and participate in these simple tasks. The transformation that occurs as the wool turns pink, taking on the colours of the plant reflects other transformations in our lives as we learn and grow.

Ring a Rosie families will note a change in routine as of this week. We will begin drawing to allow both Ambika and Janine to be able to provide more support for the children in the separation process.

Thanks ,Ambika.

PREP NEWS



The Prep room has settled over the past fortnight into some wonderful harmonious play. The children are playing openly and freely with one another and are mindful of how their own choices impact on the group and others. It has been such a delight to see the children choosing to mix and find joy in new playmates. We are now beginning our work towards the Harvest festival and the children will experience a more extended morning circle experience.

The children have been hearing the Grimm's tale 'The Elves' a sweet story of how a poor but kind and dedicated man and his wife receive help from elves in the night. Once successful and prosperous again the man and his wife show their gratitude by making tiny clothes for the wee little anonymous helpers. This

particular tale shows how the man as well as the elves selflessly give and receive gifts yet never directly meet. The true joy is in giving, and enjoying our friend's happiness.

There has been some confusion around what days fruit is required for Prep, after a few weeks of testing the children's appetites I can confirm that Fruit (preferably apples) would be most appreciated on Mondays and Tuesdays and fruit suitable for shared plates on Wednesdays.

Photos: Akaisha's wonderful drawing of "Capt'n Squid Bones" the keeper of the treasure! And Nathan, Otis and Rudy - The Master Builders at work.



Thanks Lisa.

Riley and Akaisha have especially asked for me to pass on the following recipe!

Monday- Moon day: Grain: Rice, Colour: Purple.

Ingredients:

1 cup raw sunflower seeds

2tablespoons tamari

1 tablespoon oil

Directions: Toss all the ingredients together thoroughly in a mixing bowl.

*Fry for about 5 minutes, stirring constantly until sunflower seeds are medium brown on all sides and all the tamari has evaporated. *WATCH* toasting process carefully. Serve on steamed rice.*

CLASS 1 & 2 NEWS

Hello Everyone,

Well time marches on and here we are nearing the conclusion of the first main lessons for Class 1 and Class 2. Our journey now progresses with the Class 1 children beginning the process of learning some of the letters of the alphabet (upper case). Rudolf Steiner suggested that the letters be introduced in as pictorial and imaginative way as possible so the child may appreciate the letter through the feelings rather than through the intellect.

Therefore, once again the fairy tales are employed to engender a strong visual image from which the letter in question will emerge.

Meanwhile Class2 will begin a maths main lesson. Mathematics will lead the children through a visual experience of maths. We will use a combination of story, spacial drawing, magic squares, times tables and the four processes (Adding, subtracting, dividing and multiplying.). The focus of this lesson is to intrigue and delight the children and so create an interest in this subject again working through their feelings.

It is good to note that the classes are settling into and enjoying the routine of the school week. Stuart

CLASS 5/6 NEWS

At all levels of our primary curriculum the mental, emotional and physical faculties are stimulated and developed. There is also much need to overlap to arise as new learning discoveries eventuate. This can happen throughout the interweaving of all of the subject areas over time.

The studies of ancient Rome have continued to provide opportunities for our Class Six children to explore the shapes of Roman buildings, measuring the area of rectangles, right angled triangles and various irregular shapes.

Measuring the circumference of circles has led children to their understandings of "pi", diameter and radius.

Other mathematical concepts addressed have been scale, square numbers and Roman numerals.

Studies of India in Class Five have introduced the children to smells, tastes, sights and sounds of Indian culture.

The children have experienced listening to Ambika stories of her time in India, meeting my friend Binu Thomas at the Art Gallery of Ballarat, dressed in her traditional costume, creating strip books - including miniature paintings, making prayer flags, writing sanskrit and celebrating Pongal and Devali festivals.

Both Class Five and Six have also been working on Roman design embroidery and felt Indian elephants with Johanna

Hopefully these will be completed by the end of term for all to see.

Our Learning Community Site - Workshop

Thank you to those families and teachers who attended Saturday's workshop. after a process of acknowledging the work that community members have done in the past .e.g., planting vegetation that is indigenous to the area, we followed on to reflecting upon the nature of our contributions now.

We shared our visions for the children of interacting and learning outside and discussed the possibilities and prioritised actions to pursue them.

Now we have a list of projects we will focus on.

I am in no doubt that a great amount of energy will be put in to these projects from the key people who have assigned themselves to them.

However as we are putting names to the projects it means that others are invited to contact these people to offer their input as well.

Many thanks for everyone's continued support and stay tuned to further developments.

Anna Schlooz

PROJECTS	KEY CONTACTS	NEXT GATHERING
Clay outdoor oven	Gareth Jones, Jim Black and Stuart Kirsopp	TUESDAY 22ND MARCH
Chook Houses	Ambika Bone, Mujinzo Golombiewski, Kate Tanaka and Lisa Hylan	3:45 ONWARDS
Learnsacapes - Indigenous Food garden Welcome Area - including entrances and car park.	Anna Schlooz, Lisa Hylan and Sarah Cottingham Denise Williams, Louise Cheslett and Chris Reukin	AGENDA: PRESENTATIONS OF WHAT PROJECTS COULD LOOK LIKE. LIST OF POSSIBLE MATERIALS NEEDED & ANTICIPATED COSTS.



PARENTS AND FRIENDS

Garden working bee come one and all to our first working bee for the year this Sat 12th of March at 10am till 12 followed with a sausage sizzle and chat. We will be sprucing up the garden to show the world at the Autumn fair how we care for our gardens. Many hands make lift work.

See you there Chris.

Autumn Fair

Autumn Fair 2nd Hand Stall: It's not too late to bring in CLEAN, QUALITY clothing, books & home wares for the Autumn Fair coming up very soon on the 27th March. Items can be left at

the office or contact Alison on 5334 1077 or bahills@bigpond.com to arrange collection. Thank you.

A reminder that the Autumn Fair is a whole community event and the main fundraiser for the year. As such, all community members are expected to:-

1. Make a donation of either cake or curry,

2. Donate to the raffle,
3. Contribute at least 2 hours of time on the day &
4. Participate in either the set-up on the Saturday prior, or in the clean-up from 3pm on the Fair day.

There are a lots of different activities you can be involved in such as the curry house, coffee & cake stall, 2nd Hand stall, children's activities, pony rides etc. We will be doing a ring-around to fill rosters, or you can contact a committee member (Sylvia, Naomi, Johanna or Alison) or leave a message in the office with your area of interest.

Could everyone that intends to make either a cake or curry for the Autumn Fair read through the food safety document attached to the newsletter. It is also important that all ingredients used, are listed on the attached form. If you have any questions about this you can call Sylvia on 5333 1573. Please label your plates.

Autumn Fair Raffle

Donations are needed for the raffle. Please donate anything you would like to win in a hamper. Such as a basket, bottle of wine, homemade relish, or sauces and anything relating to autumn,(harvest) etc. Please bring to the office. Any inquires please phone Christine. 53424028.

We will be sending out posters to advertise for our Autumn Fair to each family. If you could kindly display were appropriate. If you find you have too many posters please return them to the office, thankyou for your help.

Thanks to all, and we are looking forward to a vibrant and exciting Fair this year especially as we have a new kitchen, new classrooms and easier access to more areas of the grounds.

Some other ideas that you might like to consider to be involved in the fair are
BUSKING

LUCKY DIPS AND /OR FAIR BAGS that contain steiner related gifts and healthy treats
APPLE BOBBING(Great Autumn game)
CHAI TENT

Rotary Raffle Tickets - we sold \$1000 worth of tickets, which means that we made \$800. Thank you for all your support with this fundraiser.

Honey - the honey has now been moved to the kitchen, please keep IOU to a minimum.

Bulb Drive - the catalogues will be at playgroup, kinder, Prep, outside the office and in the kitchen. Please share them around. If you want one sent home let me know on 0458 223048, thanks Johanna

PLAYGROUP COOKBOOK

The Playgroup CookBook was created late last year by Carla Linquist and Melanie Buckingham. They are available to purchase from the office for \$15.

Buninyong Foodworks Supermarket reward programme - for the last quarter of 2010 we got \$52.50, all you have to do is nominate us as beneficiary before they start scanning by giving them our number 1024 or our name, it's that easy.

Mercurius School Products are also always available and make some great present, too. Call me on 0458 223048 to order, thankyou Johanna

Honey- there is available honey in office foyer.

TriNature: - TriNature is an Australian owned and based company which produces environmentally friendly cleaning and personal products which have been sold through Ballarat Steiner for the past 5 years with 100% of the profit going to Parents & Friends fundraising. Purchasing these products is an easy way to contribute to fundraising. Most of the products are very concentrated so they last a long time and can be purchased in various sizes including samples, which is a great way to give something a go. Some of them are also used for the School cleaning. For more information check out their website www.trinature.com, talk to Alison on 5334 1077 or email Alison bahills@bigpond.com We are also keeping a stock of the most popular products in the display cabinet next to the office for purchase from the office staff.

Product Feature

Alpha Plus Laundry Powder: A 100% active herbal laundry powder that has created new dimensions in quality and performance. A concentrated phosphate-free formula provides you with exceptional performance and value for money. Contains no fillers or extenders commonly used in ordinary laundry powders. A light natural fragrance of herbal extracts leaves your laundry clean and fresh whilst being gentle on delicate skins and noses.

Suitable for use in Front & Top loading machines and for grey water and septic systems.

Made from 100% plant based materials. Packaged in recyclable plastic. Contains NO caustic alkalis, petroleum by-products, SLS, artificial colours & fragrances, EDTA, parabens or formaldehyde.

Cost- \$36.95 for 2kg tub with scoop & \$31.95 for 2kg refill.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

BREAZE Local Food Store Manager

1 year fixed term contract, part time {0.4}

Want to use your food retail experience to help create a more sustainable future? **Join one of the most successful community environment groups in Australia**, Ballarat's local community group BREAZE. is one of Australia's leading community climate action groups and social enterprises.

BREAZE is working with the Ballarat South Uniting Church to create a community-based food store at the BSUC Mission Centre in Sebastopol to promote local and sustainable eating in the Ballarat community. It will open for 2 mornings per week.

We are seeking to appoint a Manager to oversee the establishment and day to day management of the Store. You will have demonstrated skills in food retail management and a flair for working with people.

Reporting to the Executive Officer, you will be responsible for all aspects of store management, including stock control and reporting. You will also assist in the recruitment, training and support of a pool of volunteers to staff the store and organise activities.

We are looking for a motivated and enthusiastic person with strong organizational and communication skills. Previous experience in a similar role is required as well as an experience in community engagement and examples of innovative and creative promotions and/or store presentations.

An understanding of issues relating to local food and environmental sustainability will be considered favourably.

This is a unique opportunity to join an outstanding organisation and help improve the sustainability of Ballarat's food supply.

For more information or a copy of the Position Description, please email Geoff Adams, Executive Officer, recruit@breaze.org.au or 03 5329 1730. Applications due 5pm, Friday 11th March 2011.

More on BREAZE at www.breaze.org.au

Calling all musicians, performers

if you would like to showcase your talents at our Autumn Fair please see Sarah or phone her on 0400321159

I am also looking for someone who has calm rideable ponies that could help out with pony



FOR SALE
*Voilin ½ size vgc
with case*

Dear Parents and Friends

I would like to offer the opportunity for students to take guitar and piano lessons with me after school, during term times and would welcome enquiries from interested parents. The lessons would be conducted in a studio at my home in central Ballarat from Monday to Thursday. As well as having 12 years experience teaching music, I have also undertaken the Steiner Teacher Training course at Warranwood.

Anyone interested should contact Michael Young on 5332 6726 / 0403 066817 for details and available time slots.

WHATS ON

Annual Art Exhibition & Sale

March 26-27, 10am-4pm

Opening Night - March 25, 7:30-9:30pm

Artworks this year include sculptural and ceramic pieces, paintings in oil, acrylic & watercolor, inks, mixed media, photography, textiles, wearable art and more by popular local artists and talented newcomers from local and surrounding areas.

Must-Do's this year include a vote for your favourite artwork in the "*People's Choice Award*" (exhibit prizewinner announced expo close), browsing the Crafts Market, a stopoff at the Art Cafe' for some great organic coffee & refreshments plus a home-baked treat. Children might like to go a few rounds of the mini-golf available outside (Sat/Sun only, weather permitting).

Artshow on at MRSS school gym, 213 Wonga Rd, Warranwood (Melway:36B10), March 26-27, 10am-4pm.

Entry forms www.mrss.com.au (click 'art exhibition') close March 11. Enquiries (exhibits 0408 576 305), general 9876 2633.

Creative Art Therapy with Candace.
Enjoyment and Insight through Art Making.
*Private Art Therapy sessions available at Absolute Yoga Studio (11a
Grenville St Nth)*

Art- Therapy is a safe way to express feelings. It can clarify issues and concerns. It is suitable for both adults and children. No previous art-making experience is necessary. Phone Candace 03 53387130 or email candyrowe7@hotmail.com for more info.

Please Note: *The Community Noticeboard section of this newsletter is not restricted only to our school community, and therefore some items may not necessarily be directly related to Steiner philosophies or reflect the opinions of the school.*

If you have a business you wish to advertise or items for sale, you may place an advertisement in this section of the newsletter. A requirement for this 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.*