

BALLARAT
STEINER
SCHOOL
Kindergarten & Playgroup

EDUCATING the WHOLE CHILD

GOLDEN MOSS NEWSLETTER

Term 1 week 3

Wednesday February 23rd 2011



VERSE OF THE WEEK

When music sounds, gone is the earth I know,
And all her lovely things even lovelier grow;
Her flowers in vision flame, her forest trees
Lift burdened branches, stilled with ecstasies.

When music sounds, out of the water rise
Naiads whose beauty dims my waking eyes,
Rapt in strange dreams burns each enchanted face,
With solemn echoing stirs their dwelling-place.

When music sounds, all that I was I am
Ere to this haunt of brooding dust I came;
And from Time's woods break into distant song
The swift-winged hours, as I hasten along.

Important Dates

Thursday 24th February: *Community Picnic*

6pm at school

Saturday 26th February: *Landscaping Brainstorming Session 11.00 - 2,30pm*

Monday 7th March: *P&F Autumn Fair Meeting - 9.30am in playgroup room.*

ALL WELCOME!

Tuesday 8th March: *Committee of Management Meeting*

Wednesday 9th & 10th March: *Class 3/4 Camping Mt Cole*

Monday 14th March: *Labour Day (public holiday)*

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*

An amount was deposited into our school bank account by direct deposit in January by an unknown person. If this was you could you please talk to Louise.

News

Week three and still so much is happening. Please don't forget our picnic this Thursday night. It is a lovely relaxing evening that the children thoroughly enjoy. Hope fully the weather will be warm for us. The school swimming program has been extended to the class two children, as of this week. Now that it is running on a Friday it seemed silly to leave them behind. As per our email communication, if you are intending to collect your child from the pool, please ensure their teacher has written authorisation and that you are at the pool by 2.45pm. A gentle reminder for the class 2 to return their permission slips for the pool program as soon as possible. The EMA forms need to be filled out for all those parents with a health care card with school children to ensure you receive the EMA payment and the school discount. The forms need to be filled out at the beginning of every year. They can be collected from the office and need to be in by the end of this month. This weekend is the landscaping brainstorming session on Saturday. Please bring a plate to share and also any measuring equipment you have and some basic tools. We will mark out the areas and allocate responsibility to those that are interested. It is so exciting to be able to get really stuck into the landscaping and beautify the school to the level it deserves.

Busy times. Hope to see you all there.

Early Childhood News

On the weekend Ambika and Lisa travelled to Menzies Creek to visit the Dandenong Ranges Steiner Kindergarten and School and to attend the Victorian Branch Steiner Early Childhood meeting. It is always inspiring to look at how others arrange their space to promote a nurturing and imaginative space for young children and to share our kindergarten experiences and resources. Together Early Childhood teachers from all over Victoria studied and discussed a chapter from Steiner's 'The Study of Man' and how it applies to our work within the kindergarten. We also continued to plan and discuss our upcoming National Vital Years Conference to be held in Victoria this year. If any parents are interested in attending the five day conference or some of the lectures please feel welcome to speak with Ambika who can provide more information. After a healthy shared lunch we enjoyed a workshop which explored curative eurythmy for the young child with Birgith Lugosi, director of Aurora Australis Melbourne School of Eurythmy.

NIT ALERT

please be aware that those nasty little things are BACK , so please check your child/ren hair.

Our school and Steiner Education emphasises the importance of self development and ongoing learning for all of its staff and the inspiration from this filters down into the children in our care.

Thanks Ambika and Lisa



GOOSEY GANDER NEWS

Grandma Barley the sheep has come to live at our school, she is very old and very loveable. Her good friend Hercules the pony is here to visit and keeping her company until her other sheep friends arrive.

As you may have noticed our amenities block is in progress thank you to Chris and his team and all going to plan will be ready for use next week, yeah, and there is already healthy competition developing amongst some staff members as to who will use it first, some are easily entertained.

The children have been listening to the dreamtime story of Tiddalik the frog which seems to be somewhat relevant in this time of erratic forces from Mother Nature.

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 compromise for long term free play skills.

Kindergarten and Ring a Rosie News

Community picnic Thursday 24th February - 6pm in the school yard We'd love to see all kinder families there. Please bring a picnic dinner for your family.

It is wonderful to see the children's confidence growing they as become familiar with our daily rhythm and routine. A strong predictable rhythm of the day provides a safe and secure environment from which the child can venture forth to play and to build friendships with others. Already the Kindergarten children are deeply immersed in creative self-directed play. It is such a pleasure to hold this space as Janine and I go about our daily tasks and craft projects - role modelling our work. Last week the kindergarten children made Harvest Jam with plums, blueberries, apples and sugar. Together we washed the plums and put them in the pot. The children eagerly watched as our fruit was transformed into delicious jam. Soon we will be eating our jam with our morning tea and also sharing it with the Ring a Rosie children who will enjoy it on their bread.

Ballarat Steiner School and Kindergarten has recently become part of the Sustainable Schools Program which is run by Ceres. We are already well on the way with trying to reduce plastic in our lunchboxes and through our use of natural materials for play. If you would like to become more involved or share an idea or two please feel invited. A community meeting will be held at the school on Saturday 26th February (see newsletter calendar) to share our ideas.

We'd like to extend a big thankyou to Grant Gamble and Goldfields Organics in Wendouree for donating wholesome biodynamic and organic food to our kindergarten. We also grateful to Jane Evans (most recently from East Bentleigh Steiner Kindergarten) who donated her collection of enamel bowls for outside play. The children have been busily preparing a wonderful assortment of pies, casseroles, soups and puddings from ingredients gathered in the playground.

Thank you Jane.

Regards Ambika

PREP NEWS

We have had a great start to the year at Prep. The children are adapting to the new programme well and surprisingly are not as tired as I expected they would be in week four. However if you feel your child could benefit from a day off to recover from their new busy timetable it may serve them well.

The class and I are now getting to know each other well and the individuality of each child is emerging! I feel blessed and delighted to meet each one on each new day.



I am currently working hard to encourage some focused indoor play by the children, examples are:

Block building, imaginative play and puppet plays, something as simple as reminding the children to dress their dolls and tuck them into bed at the end of play nourishes the inner needs of the child. This last example also models, care, respect and nurturing for the child and the toy.

Esther feeds little kitty'

Please remind your child never to leave the Prep yard without Lisa or their parents.

Please send a change of clothes every day, including underwear and socks. You are welcome to leave a sunhat and waterproof jacket for your child at Prep. Our yearly rhythm pays particular attention to the seasons so outside play happens every school day. Please be aware of the weather and prepare your child for outside play, rain, hail or shine.

I'd also like to introduce and welcome Magda as our 2011 Prep class carer. Thanks so much Magda.

Thanks, Lisa.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS

Autumn Fair Thanks to all for the great turn out to this week's Autumn Fair Meeting-it is very encouraging. From now until the Fair, all P&F Meetings will be primarily Autumn Fair related. The next meeting will be Monday 7th of March at 9.30am in the Playgroup room.

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.

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.

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 Linqvist and Melanie Buckingham. They are available to purse and purchase from the office for \$15.

Weleda - they have 2 great promotions until end of February, Birch Body Scrub is 30% reduced and a pack of Citrus Deodorant and Citrus Body Wash is also 30% reduced. Don't hesitate to call me on 0458 223048, if you want to benefit from any of these offers or you need any of the other Weleda products. Johanna

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 a 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



Happy Birthday Rudolf!!!

Friday the 25th of February is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Rudolf Steiner.

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



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

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.

FOR SALE

*Voilin ½ size vgc
with case*

WANTED

*Voilin ¾ size
For further details
Call Sarah 0400321159*

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.*