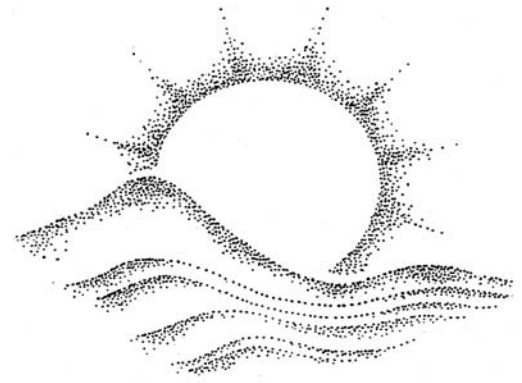




The Golden Quill

The bi-weekly newsletter of the Golden Hill Steiner School
community, Denmark, Western Australia



222 Scotsdale Road
DENMARK WA 6333
Phone/Fax: 9848 1811
Email: steiner@denmarkwa.net.au
www.goldenhill.wa.edu.au

18 February 2008

Issue 204

From the hot dry state of South Australia!

South Australia is hot and dry and droughted and there is dust everywhere! I keep remembering the beaches in Denmark with the clear cool water and the vegetation right up to the sand. We are both missing Denmark very much, the people and the landscape. The drive across the Nullabor was interesting and very beautiful in parts. Leaving Eucla first thing in the morning, we drove through thick fog and it was obviously the norm because everywhere were growing lush bushes that obviously had moisture on a regular basis. Then it ran out and we were back to salt bush and..dirt! We got on a ferry after Ceduna and the last part of the trip was over the Spencer gulf with the dolphins. We arrived in Mount Barker to 40 degree heat!

The holiday has been spent looking for a house to live in, so far without success. I have put an offer on two houses now, both falling through with building inspections. About to try the third!! maybe third time lucky.

I had the class 1 working Bee at the school last Saturday and almost everyone came (I have 28 children which means 56 parents, fortunately not all camel!). Needless to say the classroom looks great and clean and everything in good order.

We are trying to stay positive but we miss you all very very much and it has been a very hard journey to come to here.

Love always

Jenny and Meg

Special events

- February 28** — Council Meeting
- March 15** — Busy Bee
- March 20** — Equinox and Easter Festival
- March 25** — Holiday

Educating for Cultural Renewal

The impulse behind Waldorf education is cultural renewal—an impulse for the future that Rudolf Steiner felt could be fostered through a new understanding of the individual and community. When a German factory director, Emil Molt, approached Steiner in 1919 to ask how children might be educated to prevent another catastrophe like World War I, Steiner responded by, six months later, opening a school for the 256 children of the workers in Molt's Waldorf-Astoria cigarette factory — hence the names "Waldorf" or "Steiner" education.

Steiner felt that children need a balanced development of their capacities in order to be prepared as adults to contribute to cultural renewal, instead of to the ongoing dehumanization of society. His aim was not to inculcate in children any particular viewpoint or ideology, but to make them so healthy, strong, and inwardly free that they would become a kind of tonic for society as a whole. The purpose of education, he thought, should not be merely to instill knowledge, which can be coldly abstract and destructive when separated from human values and a feeling for the humanity of other



people. Rather, Steiner's goal was to educate the whole human being so that thinking, feeling, and doing are integrated, and capable of functioning in a healthy way. Such people are more likely to discover and implement solutions that further human development, rather than fall prey to narrow and dogmatic doctrines such as National Socialism. In fact, when they came to power, the Nazis closed all Waldorf schools in Germany and, later, in the countries they occupied.

Another factor in this rapid growth is that Waldorf schools try to counteract the isolation inherent in modern life in community. For example, parents have by helping parents connect with one another opportunities to come together in parent-tot groups, toy-making classes, study groups, assemblies, and festival celebrations. Some schools have biodynamic gardens, or participate in Community Supported Agriculture programs. Steiner also explored new social forms for teachers, feeling strongly that schools should not be run by political appointees or principals who dictate from on high. Rather, decision-making in Waldorf schools is a collaborative process involving faculty, staff, and parent volunteers.

Edited section of an article by
Rahima Baldwin Dancy
March/April 2004.

Office talk

It is great to be back after such a long break and I enjoy seeing all the children's faces and all the "old" and "new" parents.

The year started with lots of work, of course and there is a sense of well-being and appreciation amongst the staff.

WALNA testing will change this year for classes 3,5,7. It is now called NAPLAN and will take place in May. The respective class teachers will give you more information soon. The budget for this year is almost finalised as the fine tuning depends on the Census.

Last year we applied for the "Investing in our Schools program" and received a Government grant of \$47,200. A new ride on lawnmower has been purchased and the sanding of class floors will most probably happen during school holidays. The installation of reverse cycle heating/AC will happen in a couple of weeks. This will lower the enormous electricity bill during the winter months and be environmentally more friendly of course. Some upgrading of the plumbing/electrical system is scheduled as well.

We have 72 children enrolled in the Kindergarten and Primary School plus about 10 children in Playgroup. The Census counts Friday 15.2.08 are: 7.75 FTE 4 year olds; 10.95 FTE 5 and 6 year olds and 46 children in the Primary School.

Forms to return

Please make sure that you return your Family Participation Scheme form and the Fee Payment contract for 2008 to the office if you have not already done so.

If you have any queries about fee payments please to talk to Sabine.

Centrepay, the easy option

If you receive any kind of Centrelink payments Centrepay is the easy option of paying off the school fees on a direct debit basis. The school is registered for this service and Sabine can help you filling out the form and send it off. Easy as...

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to several new children and families who joined the school community this year.

Kindergarten: Yamika and Sunni Jackson with parents Lindsay and Mat; Ellen Callister and parents Kristy and Andrew; Sasha Hudson with parents Sarah and Michael and brother Remi Hudson who is in class 2; Davis Milne and parents Raigan and Andrew; Chloe Patterson joins sister Tia; Elva Verity and parents Grace Verity and Heather Williams.

Class 3: Analise Dimasi and her parents Michelle and Joe.

Class 7: Sophia Zilli and parents Jeanette and Remo.

Kindergarten children on the bus

Leonie Matthews has kindly offered to make some "purple laminated tags" for the children taking the bus to the school. This to help the staff at the Primary School to identify children from GHSS and help put them on the right bus. Please ask Denise or Rieka and attach the tag to your child's school bag.

Thank you Leonie

Where is my child??

To avoid confusion and worries please make sure that all your address/telephone/mobile details are up to date at the office and keep your mobile switched on especially around the end of the school day. We also would like to say to those parents whose children are taking the bus that unless you as the parent informs us otherwise, the child will go on the school bus, even if they are unsure whether they should be on the bus or not.

Do we want a School Shop?

An outlet for craft and Steiner related toys books etc?

Anyone with ideas, energy, products and produce. This counts towards family participation hours.

Meeting Monday 25th February in the staff room at the school after school.

Please phone Traci : 9848 2535

Music Alive

The 2007 school year that came to an end, so also did the "Music Alive" sessions. I am taking a break from the music exploration sessions to focus on and explore other areas in my life. I would like to thank everyone (especially you kids and teachers) for all the love, support, trust, friendship and respect during the last few years. I'm not saying goodbye to the Golden Hill Steiner School, it's just a change of involvement.

I still will offer recorder lessons at the school during school hours - group or private sessions are available. Drumming/Marimba or ukulele lessons or a combination of different instruments are offered after school hours.

Please call Regi for information and bookings. I wish everyone a good new start in the new school year.

Happy greetings from Regi



Golden Hill Steiner School Seeking...

Teacher's Aide 10:30 - 1:30 Monday to Friday; and Specialty teachers (three 45 minute sessions) for Handwork, Clay/Woodwork (Gouges and Rasps), Sport, Eurythmy, Bothmer Gym

Please ph 9848 1811 or email steiner@denmarkwa.net.au

The deadline for the next newsletter is 29 February '08

Please submit contributions to the file tray marked 'Newsletter' in the office or preferably email to the editor. Include your name, phone number and date. We reserve the right to edit contributions as required. Articles may include personal opinions that do not necessarily reflect the views of Golden Hill Steiner School. This newsletter was edited and produced by Sue Mills. E-mail contributions to: s.mills@westnet.com.au

The Bee Master

Point Walter Conference Centre

Easter Weekend

Thursday 20 March to Sunday 23 March.

You are warmly invited to attend the Michael Easter Festival
of the Anthroposophical Society.

Talks by interstate and international speakers, Workshops, Eurythmy and more! All Festival activities interweave to create the performance of the "The Bee Master" a true mystery drama for our times. It has been created especially for the Festival by Jennifer Kornberger with music by Paul Lawrence and includes the work of local artists, musicians, sculptors, poets, singers, eurythmists, members of the Youth Section, students from Rudolf Steiner College and more.

Prices start from \$12.00 per performance -

Please note that the drama will evolve over 4 consecutive evenings.

Casual day rates for talks and workshops also available - or come for the whole festival or live - in and get to know people with an interest in Anthroposophy from all over Australia and from overseas.

COME AND JOIN US!

Don't miss this extraordinary and exciting first for WA - a Michael Easter Festival! Call Peter Fern for all enquiries and to get full program, workshop details and a registration form.

Phone 0409 520 332 or 9355 5138 a/h

Information also available from the website: www.thebeemaster.com

REGISTRATIONS/ BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

PLEASE REGISTER BY 29 FEBRUARY 2008



School of Integral Art The Writer's Passage

3 Acts, 33 Lessons, 180 Exercises, 6000 years
a Steiner based journey to the sources of
creativity that offers you a travel guide through
6000 years with exercises linked to the web
forum for those who wish to share their
writing. Join others on their online journey
commencing 1st March.

*The Writers Passage (formerly Working the
Word)* is now available in one book for \$50,
\$20 e-book. (Online tutoring available)

"I see this course as being of greater value than
any creative writing or literature courses I have
taken as part of my five years of university
study...John Stubbley, BA. English(Hons)

Visit www.thewriterspassage.com

Little fishes swim school

Limited places exist for 6mnth -
3yo water

familiarisation and 4-6yo learn to
swim program.

Commencing Feb 12 for an 8 week
program.

Experienced, qualified Austswim
instructors only.

Local indoor, heated pool

Small class numbers

For more information and enrol-
ment applications contact Rosalie

0427 094 984 or 9840 8180

Changes to the immunisation program offered to year 7 students at school in 2008

During year 7 students are
offered vaccines.

Information and a consent form
will be sent home with your child
in early 2008.

If you have any questions or
concerns please contact Beverly
Bradshaw, community nurse on
9842 7563.

Please note that the decision to
vaccinate is made by choice.

On The Bridge

Kate Greenaway

If I could see a little fish ---
That is what I just now wish!
I want to see his great round eyes
Always open in surprise.

I wish a water-rat would glide
Slowly to the other side;
Or a dancing spider sit
On the yellow flags a bit.

I think I'll get some
stones to throw,
And watch the
pretty circles show.
Or shall we sail a
flower boat,
And watch it slowly -
-- slowly float?



That's nice ---
because you never
know
How far away it
means to go;
And when tomorrow
comes, you see,
It may be in the great
wide sea.

