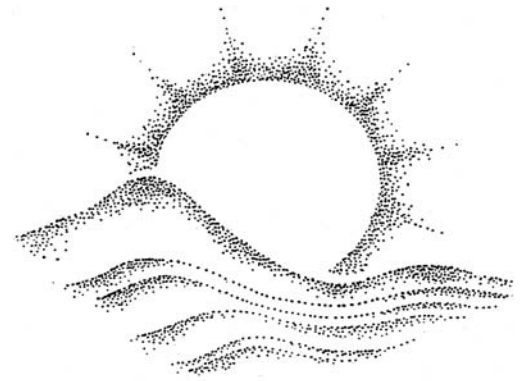




The Golden Quill

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



17 March 2008

Issue 206

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Special events

- March 20 — Autumn Easter Festival
- March 21-25 — Easter break
- March 27 — Annual General Meeting
- April 2 — Extra lesson talk 3pm at school

*Easter is a time of love,
A time of death and pain
undone,
So we may know the power
of
The love that lives in
everyone.
Each love we feel,
unstained and free,
Redeems us--as with you
and me.*

Nicholas Gordon

Easter Festival Thursday 20th March

Parents, families and friends are invited to join with us in a celebration of Easter. Please come to the Kindergarten at 11.30am on Thursday to enjoy an Easter story told by Rebecca, performances from the children and a puppet play, after which the children will be invited to hunt for eggs magically hidden around the school. Once all of the eggs have been found, we will gather to enjoy a barbecue or picnic lunch, and ask that you bring something to cook, plus a salad to share, along with blankets, folding chairs etc. Tea and coffee will be provided. Parents are welcome to take their children home after lunch for an early start to the Easter break. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Teachers

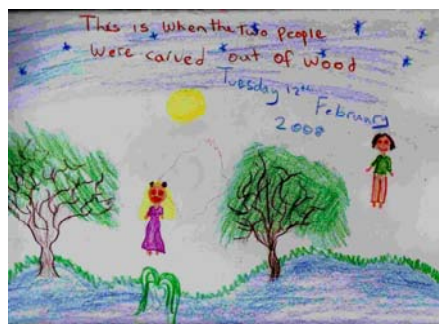
Class 3/4 recently completed a unit on creation stories. As part of this we read how the Norse (well known as Vikings) believed the world began. It was believed that it all began with three different places. Niflheim, a place of ice and wind to the North, Muspell, a place of fire and lava in the South and Ginnungagap in the middle, a mixture of the other two places. One day a giant called Ymir grew out of Ginnungagap and from this giant other giants and Gods were born. The gods did not like Ymir so they killed him and created the Earth from Ymir's body, and human's from out of an Elm Tree.

Here are some cinquain poems that Class 3/4 created about the character's in the Norse creation myth. While we were writing our cinquain poems we focussed on using verbs, adjectives and nouns.



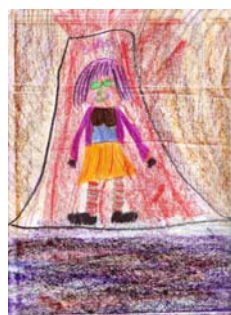
Alexandra Wilson Cow

Audumla
Fat, splotchy
Milking, mooing,
licking
Drowned in Ymir's
blood



Ebony Bailey

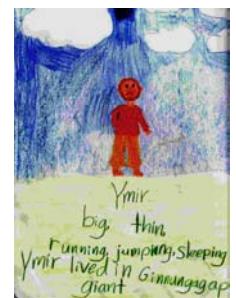
Bestla
Pretty, evil
Flying, melting,
spiky
The Daughter of
Bor
Giant
Amelia Powell



The Creation

From Ymir's flesh
The earth was
created
From his blood
the seas
Of his bones the
hills
trees from his
hair
and from his skull
the sky

From his eyebrows
The blessed gods
Created Midgard for the sons of men
And from his brains
Were created all storm-threatening
clouds



Amarante Hesse-Swain



Vili
Invisible, white
Flying, making,
sculpturing
He is very scary
God
Emma Wyne

Watching the Southern Sky

Although Easter is a global festival, it is a moveable one. Its date is determined by the moon. Easter Sunday is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the autumn equinox (when day and night are of equal length). Those who are new to the Southern Hemisphere or who return after being away in the north for a long time are often astonished by the brightness of the blue sky and the sun in the south. Similarly at night the stars can seem incredibly vivid. This gives us 'southerners' a great opportunity to include the night sky as part of our festival build up.

Children love anticipation and this is an important part of creating the mood for any festival. Because Easter is determined by the moon, watching the night sky for a while before bed can be an important step in the build up towards Easter for children and adults. Observing the slight changes in the moon during the couple of weeks before the Easter will give a deeper build up to the festival. Children often find it hard to grasp time frames. The number of days before an event doesn't mean much to a young child but this year one could observe them watching the moon grow from a tiny sliver knowing that it would be Easter when it grew to be a bright golden round ball. This is a much more tangible picture than an abstract number.

Talk on "The Extra Lesson"

I will give a short talk on the work I do in "The Extra Lesson" with some of the children in our school. We will look at the approach to learning and behavioural difficulties in Steiner Schools and how we address the underlying developmental causes. I hope to explain how we support children in their total being of body, soul and spirit. Everyone is welcome to come along and childcare will be provided. Wednesday April 2 at 3 pm in the staff room.

Hope to see you there, Theda

Class 5/6/7

Class 6 and 7 have been studying Astronomy. Our ceiling is adorned with child made constellations, we had a biography on Copernicus and found out about our star signs. Class 5 learned the Greek mythology which named many of the constellations. Class 7 has now moved on to Human Anatomy and Physiology. Class 6 is doing a short, 2-3 week Algebra block and will then join with Class 5 when they arrive at Alexander the Great.

All three classes have just finished Maths (percentage and decimals worked out through profit and interest calculations), and are moving on to measurement using tape measures and metre sticks. We're also making frill necked lizards, learning to juggle and working at playing beautifully with each other.



Council News/Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will be held on 27 March at 3pm here at the school. The AGM note and Agenda plus nomination slip has been sent out to all families. We invite as many parents as possible to attend the meeting. Please note that the time commitment for meetings is monthly for 2 hours and additional time where necessary for sub committee meetings. Participation on Council covers the family participation scheme requirement for the whole year.

Family Participation Scheme

Thanks to all the families who have put in their Family participation scheme (FPS) forms. There are still a number of outstanding forms not yet returned. These need to be returned to Sabina as soon as possible please.

We have extended the cut off date to 31st March after which it will be assumed families wish to pay. Thanks for your co-operation.

Hot Cross Buns

Ingredients

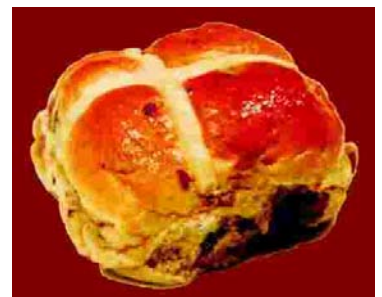
1 teaspoon dry yeast
1 cup slightly warm milk
1 beaten egg
1/2 teaspoon salt
4 cups fine wholemeal flour
1 teaspoon mixed spice
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
50 grams (2oz) butter
50 grams (2oz) brown sugar

"Education is a journey, not a race."

Method

Stir the yeast into the milk and add the egg and about 2 tablespoons of flour. Mix together and cover with a damp teatowel. Leave in a warm place for about 20 minutes. Meanwhile, rub the butter into the flour and mix in the sugar, spices and sultanas. Combine this with the yeast mixture and knead well, adding a little more flour if necessary to form a soft dough. Leave it in a warm place again covered with a damp teatowel for about an hour.

Grease an oven tray and divide the dough into buns to place on the tray. Leave room between each as they should nearly double in size when baked. Leave for another 10 minutes in a warm place. Make crosses on the buns using a white flour and cold water mixture of thick glue consistency which can be applied with an icing forcener. Bake at 190°C for 15-20 minutes. While still hot brush with a glaze made from 2 tablespoons of white sugar dissolved in 2 tablespoons of boiling water. These buns are best eaten hot.



From Karri Kindergarten

I want an egg for Easter, a brown-y egg for Easter

I want an egg for Easter so I'll tell my brown-y hen

I'll take her corn and water ,and show her what I've brought her

And she'll lay my egg for Easter, inside her little pen.

Easter is creeping up so quickly this year, it seems the school year has barely begun and yet we are already celebrating this special time. Our indoor Easter garden is planted and soon we will see the spelt grains sprouting, carpeting it in fresh green, representing this time of renewal and new life. Decorated, blown eggs hang on the Easter tree and this week we shall also decorate hard-boiled eggs for the egg hunt. What a busy week it will be as we also plan to bake Hot Cross Buns to share for all the children in the school This is a tradition in our school as each Thursday before Good Friday the lovely smell of baking buns wafts across the school and at morning tea the Kindergarten children deliver a basket full to each classroom. The welcome rains have brought some budding new life to our dry dusty playground and we eagerly await the first shoots of the newly-planted potatoes and sunflowers.

Warm wishes - enjoy the Easter break.

Denise

Parent networking list

The latest Parent networking address and phone list is available to be picked in the office.

Music Alive

- Recorder lessons (Tuesdays during school hours);
- Marimba group lessons (Mondays 3.30pm - 4.10pm Uniting Church); and
- Kids drumming circle (Thursdays 3.30pm - 4.10pm, Music Room Denmark Primary School)

Also ukulele lessons available

For info and enrolments call Regi on 9840 9084

Position Vacant

We are seeking a warm, gentle person to work as an assistant in our Kindergarten two mornings per week starting in Term 2. Please apply in writing to the teachers, enclosing a resume, by Monday 31st March 2008.

Messages from Parents

Dear Parents

Please never feel guilty or shy to give me messages to pass on to your child/ren regarding school bus/transport changes or any other messages. I am happy to play Hermes.

Sabine



Great Family Bike Ride

On Wednesday 16 April there is a 2.5km community family bike ride along tracks and concealed roads commencing and ending at the Denmark Recreation Centre. All ages are invited (under 12 accompanied by an adult), with a free sausage sizzle and ice-cream upon completion. Participants need to register for the day and registration forms will be available from Sabine at the office. There are limited places available so the forms need to be dropped off at the Rec Centre ASAP. Any enquiries please contact Stuart Olton on 9848 2044.

Earth Hour - turning off the lights

On 31 March 2007, more than 2 million Sydney businesses and households turned off their lights for one hour - Earth Hour - sending a powerful national and global message that it's possible to take action on global warming.

At 8pm on 29 March 2008, Earth Hour goes global, with cities and towns around the world taking stand on the greatest threat our planet has ever faced, and millions of people uniting to turn the tide on global warming.

Class 1/2

We are now in week 6 and working hard on all levels, intensifying our work in morning circle, we move a lot more and arithmetic is practised with rhythmic clapping. The correct movements enhances spatial orientation, establishes dominance, improves memory and promotes balance and harmony in the children. Such gains have positive implications for reading and writing and competence with numbers.

In our mathematics lessons we are well versed in relating to the four processes of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division through the four gnome personalities. Using interesting natural materials such as chestnuts, gumnuts and pieces of wood, we create the context for the weaving of stories around these processes. From the gnome who befriends the animals of the forest, overcomes the hazards of his journey and delivers his treasures to the King Gnome we draw our living images.



We are continuing with Aesop's fables and we have created a 'Game' which has been developed out of these stories. Each carefully creating their own colourful world. We enjoy writing the sentences and reading the verses.

In our class structured play time we are learning to abide by the rules and boundaries through playing games like rolling, throwing and passing bean bags and balls.

Warmest regards,
Helena

Footpath, cycle way, wider road . . . ANYTHING!!!

It's hard to believe that 21 years after the Golden Hill Steiner School first opened there is still no really safe way to get to get there on foot or by bike. When Elva started Kindergarten this year we were determined she would walk to school from our house in town and so we have been doing this three mornings a week.

Rob Whooley, Manager of Engineering Services, Shire of Denmark, informs me that the Shire's parks and trails committee has a cycle way come footpath for Scotsdale Road on its "priority list" and that work was envisaged to start as early as later this year. There are a few obstacles. The "priority list" is a bit behind schedule; i.e. some things on the list for 2007 haven't been done yet and no money has been earmarked for this work as yet. Whether the council will do these outstanding "priorities" before Scotsdale Road remains to be seen.

The added complication is that there are several real estate developments mooted for Scotsdale Road

properties and the council is keen to get some financial contribution from them for any road widening or footpaths put in. One suggestion is that stage one could see the road widened (which is a longer term plan) and this extra width allow for a marked cycle lane. This will then also bring up the issue of how many trees will have to go. We can only hope they'll get the balance right.

Crunch time will come in June when the council's draft budget becomes public. If there is no allocation in this budget then obviously nothing will happen for at least another 18 months.

So our job is to lobby the councillors to make sure that improvements to Scotsdale Road stay a priority for 2008 and that the necessary funding is allocated in next financial year's budget.

I would urge all members of the Golden Hill community to write to their ward councillors and outline their concerns before the draft budget is written. (Address: South Coast Highway, Denmark 6333. Councillor to write to: Town: Kim

Barrow, Jeanette Grant, Ross Thornton, Adrian Hinds;

Scotsdale: Ken Richardson-Newton, Alex Syme, John Wakka, Ken Burke and John Sampson).

The school will be sending its own letter and continuing to keep the issue on the boil via people like us. Personal letters detailing your concerns are much more effective than petitions. The councillors know as well as we do that we could get hundreds of signatures to demand action on this issue. Our job is to add the human face of this need so that Scotsdale Road improvements are done sooner rather than later.

My immediate concern is to get work done at the culvert just before Riverbend Lane so that we don't take our lives in our hands just to walk past that particularly narrow stretch right on a bend in a 70 kilometre zone! (I'll also look into the possibility of the 70 zone not starting until after the school!)

Heather Williams

Self appointed President of the Fix Scotsdale Road Action Group

Seeking Accommodation for overseas Volunteer

Our school gets a lot of inquiries from German students, recommended by the German Waldorf Schools' Association who want to do a year of social volunteer work in a Steiner School. If we can find accommodation for these volunteers we can have them working at the school for free. The school will cover food and living costs. They need accommodation for a year, but could also be a few months in one place and then move to the next. Do you have a spare bedroom in your house or have any ideas about accommodation for a volunteer?

Please talk to Sabine at the office.

Rental required

Seeking a house to rent, minimum 3 bedrooms, child friendly, garden/lawn space preferable Any leads or tips from anyone?

Ring Kristy on 9841 5070

EduCareDo

International Research and Learning Centre based on the work of Rudolf Steiner offers Distance Education Courses in Anthroposophy.

Contact Sabine in the Office for brochures.

Council minutes

Anyone who wants to know more about Council and the decisions being made is welcome to look up the minutes in the folder in the office.

Dental Van Screening at our school

On 2 April the dental officer will be here at 2.45pm to screen all enrolled students who have not been to the Dental Van yet. This will not be an invasive procedure they just want to check the bite of the children.

Speeding in school zones

It has been pointed out that many people speeding in these zones are parents picking up and dropping children off at school. Not only is it against the law, it's dangerous. Speeding fines have recently dramatically increased. Please remember to slow down near schools.

The deadline for the next newsletter is 4 April '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