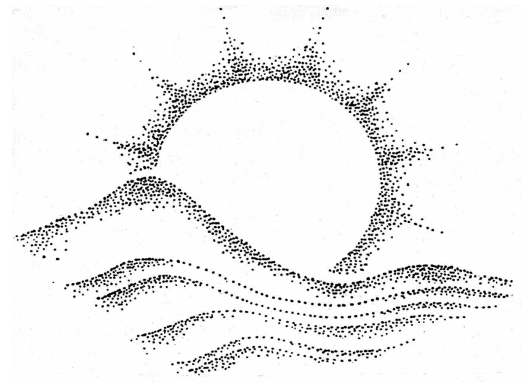




The Golden Quill

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



7 April 2008

Issue 207

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Special events

- April 11 — Friday last day of term 1
- April 28 — Monday Pupil free day. PD day for teachers
- April 29 — Tuesday 1st day of Term 2
- May 1 — Council Meeting at 3pm

Alcheringa Poem

By Mick Leigh

It was then I heard the silence,
a great stillness,
as if time had not began,
the earth not turning.
As if the creator,
the Rainbow Serpent,
the Deity,
were pondering the risk.

The unborn wind and all the water
were still,
mountains silent and unmoving,
and all the while the sun, moon,
stars and others watched and
waited
for day and night to begin and until
then,
there was no sound.
For without the first sound,
there was no beginning,
no energy,
no struggle,
no love, no hate.
All the sounds of eternity waited.

The sounds of the wind, sea,
thunder,
the cry of the newborn,
the roar of triumph,
a cry of pain, despair,
the groan and shiver of the earth.



Chairmans overview

After spending 2 years on the school council prior to 2007 as a general council member and secretary, I offered to stand as Chairman in 2007. This role has been very personally demanding but I have enjoyed great support from my fellow councillors. I have also been assisting the finance committee as treasurer but I am hopeful that this year we will see someone from the new council volunteer for this role.

Schools are increasingly faced with mounting administrative demands and compliance issues requiring more than one full time administration staff and a Council where most members are already committed to work and family. Our options to handle this ongoing work load have seen the implementation of the Family Participation scheme, well on its way to being a successful model to involve the Steiner community in a more meaningful way whilst sharing tasks around the school which would alternatively require greater funding to complete.

We have also been fortunate to have the Cultura Trust (originally set up to fund the School) now offering to

fund a new position for someone to formulate a business plan which will enable the school to participate in some long term planning and grant management.

The Council in 2007 has been successful in being granted two Government capital grants and a low interest loan which will see some long overdue upgrades completed around the school including new heating for winter in the classrooms.

The other grant is being made available to the school for additional classrooms including a wet area and arts space. These activities require skilled project management and we are hopeful that the newly funded business role can manage this process.

I want to also thank Sabine who has taken on the minutes secretary role for the council which has alleviated additional work from the council. For the coming year I would like to see Council's time spent more on planning for the long term financial stability of the School and to this end educational matters to remain the responsibility of the College of Teachers.

Melissa Taylor

Thankyou

We gratefully acknowledge another donation received recently from our benefactor, Mr Hugh Seeds who has supported our school since its inception.

Help Needed

Would a parent with a ute or trailer kindly pick up some items which Theresa has donated to the school? Please contact Theresa 9848 2629 to arrange a time.

Thank you everyone (and goodbye!)

Denmark may be one of the most picturesque regions in south-western Australia, but it is the community of people that live here that has made our brief stay such an unforgettable pleasure. From our very first day, when we accidentally found ourselves in the family orientation morning at the kindy, we have been overwhelmed with local warmth and generosity. On so many occasions we have felt the kindness of others, from a simple sharing of experiences to assistance with transport or accommodation.

Our children, Remi and Sasha, love it here and have asked to stay in Denmark and at the school for two years. We have been constantly surprised and delighted with how well they have adjusted to a new school and kindy in such a short space of time. They have flourished in this new environment and loved making new friends to play with both in and out of school hours. For this we owe particular thanks to Helena, Denise and Rieka, who have made their and our transition to Golden Hill so easy. We have had many conversations over three months about moving to Denmark in the longer term and this may yet come to pass. It is therefore with some sadness that we are intent on continuing our travels for the next six months, into the northern reaches of Western Australia.

We are thankful to everyone in the school community we have met since arriving in January, and we hope to keep in touch with as many Denmark friends as we can. And it should go without saying that we would be most disappointed if no one from Golden Hill visited us at our home in Melbourne (should we ever return!).

Michael Hudson and Sarah Miller

Rainbows and craft

Rainbows shop meeting Friday 11th April 3.00 - 3.45 at school. Interested new members contact Jacqui on 0447 561121 or Traci 9848 2535.

Also anyone interested in joining a craft group to make craft items to sell in Rainbows shop please come along as well and see Ruth, our craft group leader.

Practicum experience

Hi everyone, my name is Karen and I am learning with your children in Donna's 3/4 class.

The children have been working very hard from farming to reading to drumming, to sewing, to singing, to maths, to writing letters and much more, phew! (Don't forget to ask them about the Malleefowl!!).

Your children are amazing and have made me feel very welcome. I look forward to returning again for 2 weeks in term 3. Many thanks to you beautiful hardworking teachers and staff.

Much love

Karen Trom-Wright

(Studying to become a Teacher's Assistant at TAFE, Albany)

Lyre making workshop

No previous experience needed. Make your own lyre - a special gift for your child. Lyres are easy to make especially under the guidance of Chris Robins who made all our beautiful furniture at the Golden Hill Steiner School.

A minimum of 5 people is needed for a viable workshop. The workshop will be on Saturdays. May 3rd, 10th, 17th and 31st from 8.45am - 12.30pm.

Cost: \$170 Lyre made by you
\$270 Lyre made by Chris Robins

Please express your interest through the office or contact Theresa Short on 9848 2629 by Friday 11 April 2008.

Everyone welcome!

The deadline for the next newsletter is 9 May '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

Thank you everyone for allocating the funds for us teachers to do professional development. Helena and I attended the national conference of the Anthroposophical Society over the long Easter weekend. It was magnificent. It centred around a profound mystery play called the "Bee Master" which reminded me of the importance of living from my heart; and that the poet and the scientist in me need to make friends, work together, and understand each others gifts for this next stage in human development. I sang, felt deeply, cried and rejoiced in the beauty of humanity and this wonderful weave of life.

I love you, Rebecca

Please return

The complete Book of Fruit Growing in Australia by Lois Glowinski to Theresa 9848 2629

National walk to School Safely Day

It may be slightly ironic that the national walk to school safely day is coming up on Friday 2 May just as the school has again raised to issues of lack of safety in Scottdale Rd for the last kilometre of the walk. I have emailed both the national co-ordinators of the walk asking for advice on any funding that could be made available to construct a walk/ride path; and the Denmark Shire CEO asking for a commitment for path funding as a Shire priority. It would be great if more parents could contact the Shire and Councillors to ensure the path is on the agenda.

Cleaner position vacant

We are looking for a reliable, experienced person to clean our school. It is 3 times per week wet area/toilet cleaning and once a week cleaning of all school buildings starting 14.4.2008.

Send your resume to Golden Hill Steiner School or call 9848 1811 for more information.