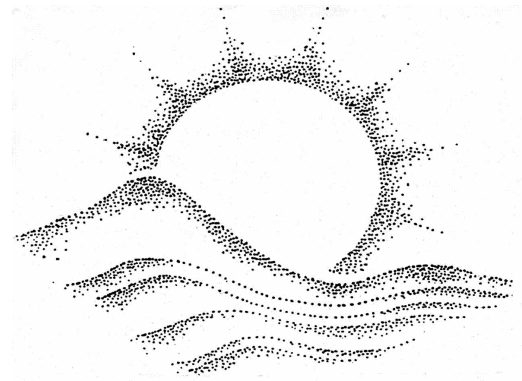




The Golden Quill

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



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Special events

June 17 — Spiral walk

June 20 — Winter Solstice Festival (see article below)

A rabbit in his meadow lair
Imagines none to see him
there.
But aided by a looking lens
A man with eager diligence
Inspects the tiny long-eared
gnome from a convenient near-
by dome.
Yet him surveys, or so we learn
A god from far off, mild and
stern.

*Christian Morgenstern, German
Poet. His philosophical and mythi-
cal works were largely influenced
by Nietzsche and Rudolf Steiner.*



Friday soup and toasties

Thanks to Donna Carman and a team of helpers who started the Friday soup and toasties again. Today there was a variety of toasted sandwiches available, but as of next week there will be soup as well. Class 3 and 4 did a survey to find out the soups the children and teachers like most. Now success is guaranteed.

Soup and bread will be \$2.50 and soup and toasted cheese sandwich \$3.50

Winter solstice

Winter solstice is approaching, the days grow short, the mist lies in the valleys, the air is often sharply cold. It is a time of reflection and introspection; the fire on the hearth mirrors the Christ light in our hearts. When we remember and are guided by that light of lights it warms us at the darkest times.

We wish to separate the spiral and lantern walks by a few days this year to allow them to work their magic more deeply.

Steiner festivals are designed to nourish our soul life and our earth. When celebrated with deep intention they can be truly transformative agents for healing and growth.

This year on Tuesday June 17 we walk the spiral garden where a darkened room, beautiful scents, and the unearthly tones of the lyre beckon us one by one to kindle our light from the candle in the centre of the spiral. As we return we choose our place (in

the world) where we place our light. As we witness each one's journey hopefully we experience their radiance and we feel a kinship with them and all who allow their light, their beauty, their grace to shine. Then on Friday evening (the 20th) we take that light like St Martin did and bring it further out into the world. We also wish to reorganise the lantern walk so that the wonder and reverence of the walk works in us throughout the evening, so we ask that you keep your children with you at all times, please let this be a family event, and when we finish with the lanterns go quietly to your cars and into the night.

We will start the evening at 5.30 with soup and bread and fellowship. At 6.00 we light the bonfire and sing. At 6.45(ish) we have St. Martin's story followed by the lantern walk. Bring your family and friends, and ask your teacher how you can help and come relax, rejuvenate and shine. Much love, the teachers.

Winter Festival helpers please!

Calling all parents to help set up for our two key Winter Solstice events:

1) Spiral Walk, Tuesday 17th June. We need parents to help set up the room. Prune your shrubs and provide greenery to make our spiral lush and gorgeous. If you have gnomes and crystals you can lend us, we would also be grateful.

2) Winter Festival, Friday 20 June

We need help with preparing the bonfire, fire spiral, lantern walk trail and all manner of other tasks.

Please contact Class 3/4 teacher Donna Sowman on 9840 9852 or Sabine in the office on 9848 1811 to volunteer your services.

St Martin's Day

From France comes the legend of St. Martin, who as a young man passed under an archway in the city of Amiens and discovered a poor beggar huddled there. The man was nearly naked, shivering with cold, and had received no alms to assist him. On seeing him, the young Martin took his own cape from his shoulders, tore the garment in half and covered the poor man to warm him. The following night Martin had a dream in which he saw Christ wearing this same piece of his cape. The experience confirmed in him his devotion to all mankind regardless of their station in life, as expressed so beautifully in the Gaelic Rune of Hospitality.

*I saw a stranger yesterday.
I put food in the eating place -
Drink in the drinking place -
And in the blessed name of the
Triune,
He blessed myself and my house,
My cattle and my dear ones,
And the lark said in her song:
'Often, often, often goes the
Christ in the stranger's guise.*

Martin went on to become patron saint of beggars, drunkards and outcasts. He was known for his gentleness, his unassuming nature and his ability to bring warmth and light to those who were previously in darkness.

On the evening of Martinmas he is remembered in many French and other households with a festival of lanterns, carrying light throughout the darkened home, singing songs and sharing food.

Special notice to anyone who would like to help or donate in some way towards making the lantern walk a wonderful experience this year.

- Home made lanterns to donate will be appreciated
- Help with setup on the day
- Lighting candles on the night
- Bamboo flares to lend for the night (please name and drop off at the office)

Any queries please call:

Rieka 9848 1898

Thank you

Class 3/4

Go on I dare you, ask class 3/4 any question about metric measurement or volume and hopefully they can answer in full confidence. We have been focusing on centimetres, millimetres, kilometres, millilitres, litres, estimating, larger than, smaller than, ordering...measurement, measurement, measurement! Our new way to do our times tables pockets are working a treat with the children flying through them. Most of them are working on their 6 times table while some are looking at their 12's.

The class is now doing letter writing every Wednesday morning writing to Christine's class, Eugene in Japan, Jenny in Mt Barker and our own class mates and school friends. This is really helping them to focus on spelling and their grammar as they not only have to edit their own work but also their friends'. We have just finished making up an editing chart to help us while correcting our own and others work. Handwriting is also important when writing letters so as our friends can read them, so we have been practising our handwriting on Thursday, learning how to form our letters well to achieve good neat writing.

Wow time flies when you're having fun - only 3 weeks to go until the holidays. Gee! With so much to pack in. On the 17th June we are doing our spiral walk and the 20th June is our lantern walk...If there is anyone interested in setting up either of these please contact the CR committee or myself. Thanks. We are also looking at doing parent/teacher meetings the last 2 weeks of this term so please start to think about when is the best time for you. Thanks, Donna (:



Chartres Labyrinth at Golden Hill

Class 5/6/7 in conjunction with Medieval Studies in Class 6/7, and for the community of Denmark, and for an alternative to the spiral walk we are beginning a huge project. We will start construction on a labyrinth this year based on the model at Chartres Cathedral in France.



Labyrinths are sacred forms which enable one who walks them with clear intention to become centred and to have access to that sublime state of being where we feel/know/remember our connection to the whole, to God, to the earth and to each other.

We ask each member of the Golden Hill community to donate three (or more) rocks (about 20-25cm diameter) to begin the outer circle. We've done the math and if every kid in our school brings three rocks, we will finish the outer circle - it will take thousands to do the entire labyrinth. If you would like to be part of this exciting project please contact us.

(: Rebecca

Golden Hill Steiner School goes green

At the last Council meeting it was decided that the school should switch to 100% Natural Power which happened recently.

The deadline for the next newsletter is 20 June '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