

24 March 2009

The Golden Quill

The newsletter of the Golden Hill Steiner School
Community, Denmark, Western Australia

“What you can do, or dream
you can do, begin it!
Boldness has genius, magic
and power in it.
Begin it now!

Goethe

Issue 219

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ATTENDED OUR AGM ON SUNDAY. BUT MOST OF ALL, THANK YOU TO ALL OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THE COLLEGE OF TEACHERS FOR ONCE AGAIN VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME AND SKILLS.

DATES TO REMEMBER

MICHAELMAS - FRIDAY 27th MARCH

**COUNCIL MEETING - SUNDAY 5th APRIL
9AM-12NOON**

SCHOOL PLAY - April 9th 6pm sharp

Michaelmas Festival Friday 27th March 2009

We warmly invite parents, family and friends to join with the teachers and children to celebrate the festival of St Michael. Through songs, verses and stories we will endeavour to evoke the powerful image of the archangel Michael, conqueror of the darkness, harvester of the deeds of the human soul. Please gather on the circular paved area ready for an 11.30am start. Contributions of simple Autumn faire, and garden produce are very welcome for our harvest table from which we will feast together. The festivities will conclude at about 1pm after which parents may take their children home.



MICHAELMAS

Dear Families,

For the last few years we Teachers have noticed that our harvest festival, though beautiful, does not fall into the natural seasonal rhythms here in the Southwest, granted, it is the equinox but it has still felt too summery. It also has lacked the impulse of St. Michael (Michaelmas) which underscores this time of the spiritual year (see more below) and which falls a week or two after the equinox.

That coupled with the fact that we teachers were invited, on the 20th which is the equinox, to a collaboration with the other Steiner teachers in Western Australia to share support, resources and begin to build stronger relationships made us decide to move our autumn festival to Michaelmas and shift the intent more from a celebration of harvest to a spiritual festival.

The meeting with the other Steiner teachers in Perth has since been postponed but another opportunity, to meet with Joe Williams (local Noongar Elder), Woodbury Boston and Spirit of Play to celebrate Harmony Day and to honour the ancestors of this land evolved. What a lovely way to celebrate equinox!

We realise that for some any change in tradition is unsettling perhaps troubling, if this is your feeling, we offer this thought...

To have true meaning that nourishes the soul in a festival, it must continually be created anew lest it become dry and stale and lifeless.

The Teachers



BUSY BEE UPDATE

We extend a big thankyou to our many helpers

who worked at our first Busy Bee for this year. We had a team putting in the ventilation system into the kindy to stop the damp. that was a big job

and good one to get done before the weather changes.

We also cleaned most windows and all gutters were cleaned. And a general tidy up took place. So all is looking good.

warm regards
Anna



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Every child in the school needs a plain, coloured, crew neck T-Shirt as their costume for **The Birds Who Flew Beyond Time** which will be silk screened with a Golden Feather. they will also need pants or a skirt of a plain colour which goes with the top.

Please ensure T-Shirts are given to me no later than **Monday 30th March 2009.**

Thank you

Rebecca

IS THIS YOU...

Last issue we put out a call for another Sabine to grace our office and thanks to the concerted efforts of our Employment Committee - Grace, Sabine, Denise & Christine, we found our perfect person!

It is with pleasure we welcome Kardi Harrower into our hearts and lives.

For those who have not yet had the pleasure of meeting Kardi (a new parent in our school) pop into the office and introduce yourself!

We wish you well Kardi!



KARRI KINDY

*"Princes and princesses gather here today
As the sun shines on this Autumn day
Brave and true we will be
Each good deed sets us free
Each kind word makes us strong
We will strive for the right
We will conquer the wrong"*

So begins our new circle which, through the imagination of "princes and princesses", celebrates the triumph of the human spirit over darkness. The children, wielding peacock feathers and wooden swords enact simple movements in the circle representing a journey culminating in ".....til they come to the golden castle
The castle on the hill
Where beauty, truth and goodness reigns
And love welcomes them home"
This week on "bread day" the children will hear the story of the harvest loaf as the dough is mixed, and everyone will have a turn at kneading, before the loaf is shaped and baked for our morning tea. On Friday we will be busy cooking cornbread to share with everyone at the festival.
Enjoy the beautiful Denmark Autumn everyone!
Warm wishes from all of us in the kindergarten.
Denise

MESSAGE FROM AFAR...

Dear Golden Hill friends,

We have been extremely busy settling into our new life in Canberra. Amarante and Solita are making friends and adapting to life at North Ainslie Primary School – a state school with some special things about it - it is a small school where they use a restorative justice framework to work through any issues with the children; it was the original school in Canberra for the children of migrants and refugees to learn English and it continues to run the NESB program so the school population is diverse and interesting; and, the school is accredited for the International Baccalaureate which means the girls can attend a Dutch university later on if they wish to. On March 16, Amarante sang with a group of North Ainslie children at the Chief Minister's breakfast to mark the beginning of Senior's Week and their singing was broadcast on a local radio station. Amarante is glad that she can continue her passion for singing and music, instilled through Regi, Rebecca and Golden Hill.

Amarante and Solita spent 6 weeks over Christmas and New Year with their father and Oma in The Netherlands and visiting France and Germany. They came back with

loads of stories about how life is lived in their Papa's country of origin and speaking fluent Dutch – they understood it before but their time there really helped them to be fluent speakers and connect with their Dutch heritage. Ishbel is starting to talk and is a sweet-natured girl with an immense determination to do everything her big sisters do!

Catherine is living a hectic life of working and single parenting, but loving her job in health and HIV policy and research at AusAID.

Canberra is a place where life is not too fast-paced, where you can see wonderful exhibitions and listen to diverse music. The surrounding hills provide places to bushwalk and the coastline is not too far away.

It has been a big transition but we are mostly travelling well. We all miss Golden Hill, Denmark and our friends there, and hope that you are all doing well in this new year.

With love and peace,
Catherine, Amarante, Solita and Ishbel

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES...

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds, 'What does 'love' mean?'

The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined. See what you think:

'When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore.

So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.'

Rebecca- age 8

'When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different.

You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.'

Billy - age 4

'Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.'

Terri - age 4

'Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.'

Bobby - age 7 (Wow!)

'You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.'

Jessica - age 8

WALK/CYCLE PATH

For those who are not aware our school has been lobbying the Denmark Shire Council for a walk/cycle path along Scotsdale Road, as we believe, for anyone who wishes to walk or cycle to school, this is a very dangerous road.

Last week Grace Verity spoke with our Shire President, Kim Barrow, to get an update on our application, only to find it had not progressed very far! Kim suggested we lobby our local councillors to push this application through. The council is due to finish its 2009 Budget in approx. 4 weeks so we need to get cracking!

Please take the time to **speak directly** to your local Denmark shire council representative with the intent of receiving their direct support.

DRESS CODE REMINDER

A friendly reminder to all parents and students to remember colour is a central theme in our education and is incorporated in our dress code. Students please wear only plain coloured tops with sleeves, no slogans, illustrations or logo's. All clothing is to be in a clean, tidy condition, not torn or in a state of disrepair. All shorts, skirts, trousers and tracksuit pants are to be in plain colours and covered shoes must be worn at all times, as are hats. **For further information please refer page 13 of the Parent Handbook.**

ALSO...Please remember to feed your child thoughtfully! A car engine can not be expected to run at its optimum without the correct fuel. Neither can your child! A variety of fresh food in small portions will help your child to function at their very best!

SOME EXCITING NEWS...

For the best part of 2008 Sue Mills has been working on our behalf for a grant, National Solar Schools program, which would enable us to receive funding towards making our school more solar friendly.

Thanks to Sue's initiative we received a substantial grant under the Government's National Solar Schools program to install Solar Panels on the roof of class 2/3. This renewable energy system will then be connected to the Western Power (Synergy) grid. The rest of the grant money will be used for the installation of rain water tanks.

May we take this opportunity to say thank you, Sue for your tenacity and determination in putting the application together as well as sourcing the company to install the solar panels.

A huge amount of time and man power went into the grants application process and we are forever grateful!

AND MORE EXCITING NEWS!!

We have today, been given the fantastic news that we have secured the wooden gazebo at Berridge Park on the river for our spot at the Easter Markets on Saturday April 11th. This is a beautiful space for our face painting and story telling.

Now what we need is our energetic parents to volunteer an hour of their very precious time to help us make this our best presence ever at the markets!

We implore you to please let us know when and in what area you can help us by volunteering for one or more of the items below;-

8.30am-10am Set Up of stall

10.00am-4pm One hour of your time between these times to help attend the stall or utilise your creative talents for face painting and storytelling.

If you are not able to physically attend on the day could you perhaps help out by supplying a freshly baked cake or slice?

4pm-5pm Take down of stall

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK,

SO COME ONE, COME ALL!

The deadline for the next newsletter is Monday 30th March 2009. Please leave all contributions either in the office or email directly to ondy@t4.com.au. Please note all contributions will only be added at the discretion of the College of Teachers.
