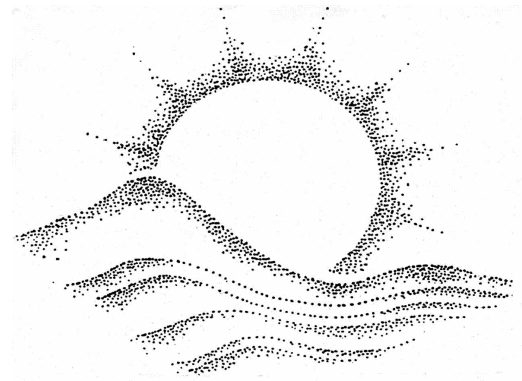




The Golden Quill

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



25 August 2008

Issue 212

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Special events

August 28 - Council meeting
September 2 - Kindergarten parent teacher meeting
September 6 - Busy bee 9-12
September 20- Open Day & Spring Festival

No boundaries separate
where spirit links sustain
light-brilliant, love-radiant
eternal soul bonds.

So I am in your thoughts,
so you in mine.

Rudolf Steiner

APPRECIATION

A big thank you and medal of appreciation to all our teachers, staff, Council members and parents for all their great and hard work teaching the children and doing whatever needs to be done making the school so beautiful.

Vision workshop (Part 2)

The continuation of the previous workshop a few months ago was held at Golden Hill on Sunday 10 August 2008. It was a fantastic turnout of 23 community members, and what a glorious day it was.

The workshop was facilitated by Donald Clarke who is a newly local life coach and professional facilitator among other titles. He has extensive experience with community organisations and schools such as the Bibra Lake and West Coast Steiner schools.

We touched on a lot of areas and looked at what's 'missing' in our school and what's in abundance. There were

a lot of interesting points and discussions. One question Donald asked us was, "What can we add to the larger community?" This question broadened the perspective and was interesting to ponder. As we discussed this, a feeling of isolation from the local community was had, being our own little entity on the outskirts of town and not having much to do with the rest of Denmark and beyond, and vice versa.

To aid in a richer experience for our school life, we asked ourselves, "Who are we?" "Why are we here?" "Where are we heading?"; and "How do we intend to get there?" We may agree that another vision workshop be held in the near future to continue discussion, contemplation and the practical reality for implementation of clear strategies for the long and short term goals to produce strength of integration for our school's future.

I can say that we came away with more understanding of what's needed, heightened community spirit, new and richer perspectives. Some independent action plans from individuals members have been refreshing and will add to our current social life of the school. Well done and thank you all for coming, your input is very valuable.

A subcommittee was created to revisit the school vision which met on Tuesday 19 August 2008.

Vision subcommittee

The vision subcommittee comprised Christine Blamey, Rebecca Pampling, Theresa Short, Kristy Ratcliffe and Rieka Bosman. We met at Rebecca's beautiful warm home to do some word, heart and vision searching to come up with a draft vision and mission statement and also to look at aims and values. We struggled with words, compared perspectives and read through other independent schools handbooks for inspiration, as well as minutes from previous vision workshops at GHSS.

We asked ourselves, "What is it that we want to create for our children, our community and on the larger scale, the cosmos?" Some points we touched on were:

- striving for truth;
- a strong and resilient sense of self;
- clear and purposeful thinking;
- imagination and inspired creativity;
- children who aren't just educated to fit into society, but who are able of themselves to take initiative in finding their own path; and
- compassion of feeling for all of life.

The next vision subcommittee meeting will be held at GHSS on Tuesday 26 August 2008 at 6.30pm. Any inspirational people or ideas are welcome, if you feel like joining us please do. All welcome. Some male perspective may add something different so please come and share it for our schools future.

Open Day and Spring Festival Saturday 20th September

Plans are underway for this year's Open Day which again will be combined with our Spring Festival. All children are asked to attend with their families and to bring along friends, relatives and prospective students. Monday 22nd September is a rest day following the Open Day. We are asking for parent assistance to make this day a success.

The programme at this point is:

9.45-10.30am Talk on Steiner Education by the teachers

10.30-11.50am Class Presentations

11.50-12.20pm Lunch (sausage sizzle-Class 4/5/6 parents)

12.20-1.30pm Garlands, Games and Activities, Story.

More details to follow soon.

The Teachers

Looking for a Trailer

Dear Parents, does anyone have an old 6x4 trailer, can be unlicensed to use around the school?

Contact Sabine in the office 9848 1811.

Thank you for mulch

Quentin, our gardener would like to thank Albert Adams for his generous donation of mulch.

The gardenbeds will love it!

Parent Handbook ...

Now available to all parents!!!

Please come and collect a free copy of the Parent Handbook at the office, or look it up on our website: www.goldenhill.wa.edu.au

Friday Soup and toasties

Many thanks to Donna Carman who is warming our hearts and bodies with her delicious soups and toasties each Friday lunch and Co - soup chef Karen Trom- Wright. The kitchen fills with wonderful smells which draw parents and children alike .

Karri Kindergarten 2009

We invite expressions of interest for our kindergarten for children turning four, five or six between January 1 and December 31 2009.



Expression of Interest forms are available from Sabine in the school office and should be returned by Friday 26th August, to allow enrolments during term four.

Deepest gratitude..

Goes out to Peter Wilson and Jillian Catto for the grand work of the oval, path and car park, how magnificent and welcoming it all looks. I'm sure the oval hasn't seen this much attention in many years, and when the final steps to completion are done we will be playing soccer again in no time. Thanks for your energy on this grounds project and for seeing it through - I'm sure it hasn't been an easy task,



From your appreciative school community,

How to save \$25

All parents who have not paid their school fees by now nor contacted Sabine to confirm a payment plan /agreement for term 3 have been charged a \$25 late payment fee. If your payment plan does not cover paying all outstanding fees off by the end of the term or school year, Sabine will help you calculate how much you need to pay per week fortnight or month to be debt free at the end of the year.

Please do not neglect the most fundamental obligation and primary support for the school- paying school fees. We thank the parents who pay on time.

Kind Regards

Playgroup

Peppermint cottage playgroup

Here is my little house,
and here is the door,
the windows are shining and so is the floor,
outside there's a chimney as tall as can be,
with smoke that goes curling up,
come and see.

Its a joy to see the happy little children with looks of anticipation arrive at their playgroup each week. We catch up with each other with a cuppa on the deck, soaking up the warmth of the winter sun. The children by now know the rhythm of the morning well; The circle of songs and verses, the morning tea around the table and the little bell at the end calling everyone for the story and farewell song. Some of our winter activities have been: creating little gnomes, making bird feeders out of pine cones covered in seeds and cooking sweet porridge.

The Tuesday group is quite full but Friday is a small group and we still hope some families will join us. We start at 9.15 until 11.15 and feel free to drop by and join in.

Clare and Theda

Library

The school library is housed in Peppermint Cottage. It is open to all parents and has some great books on Steiner Education, Early childhood, Anthroposophy, Parenting, Festivals, Crafts, TV, as well as young children's story books. You can come in on Tuesday or Friday mornings between 8.45 and 9.30 to borrow/ return books. Membership is \$10 per year.

The deadline for the next newsletter is 8 September '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

From Karri Kindergarten

Jasper the old (knitted) gnome roams the world from time to time but he always returns to teach us how to say "Good Morning" in the language of whichever country he last visited. So far, we have greeted him in German (Guten Morgen), Italian (Bon Giorno) and Japanese (Ohayo Gozamasu). Which country will he visit when next he wears his "roaming cap"?

As with everything the children learn in Kindergarten, we teach by providing a model which they freely imitate. Verses, songs, movements are repeated to allow time for learning.

Handcraft skills (sewing, finger-knitting, french-knitting etc) are practiced daily to allow for fine-motor development, later needed for writing. Again, these skills are taught in an imaginative way (using verses to help remember the movements) By using as little instruction as possible, we allow the children to remain in the dreamy consciousness that is natural up to the age of seven years. After this time the life forces (etheric body) are more available for intellectual development.

If you have any friends with young children who may be interested in

them attending kindergarten next year, please let them know we are calling for expressions of interest by 26th September, to enable enrolments to be taken in term 4. We accept children turning four anytime during the calendar year. Our Open Day on Saturday 20th September is an opportunity for them to view the kindergarten and find out more about Steiner education.

Warm wishes

Denise

Close Ties Between Parents And Babies Yield Benefits For Preschoolers

Science Daily (Feb. 7, 2008) — Having close ties with parents is obviously good for preschoolers, but what does that really mean? It means that the preschoolers are better able to control their own behaviour by showing patience, deliberation, restraint, and even maturity. That's the finding of a new study conducted by researchers at the University of Iowa.

The researchers looked at 102 mostly white families--mothers, fathers, and babies--who had volunteered for the study from the time the children were 7 months old until they were almost 4 and a half years old.

Repeated observations were carried out in the families' homes and in a laboratory. In the first two years,

Some of these findings were similar for fathers and children. Mutually responsive, positive relationships between fathers and children in the first two years of life also were associated with children's better performance in tasks that called for self-regulation when the children were 4 and a half. However, in contrast to mothers and children, the reasons for the father-child link were less clear. Relationships between fathers and children in general have been studied much less than those between mothers and children, and more research is needed to understand their dynamics.

"Most parents know that when they interact with their infant and young toddler, they are laying important foundations for the child's future development," according to Grazyna Kochanska, Stuit Professor of Developmental Psychology at the

University of Iowa and the lead author of the study. "Now we have a better understanding of what that really means. Your investment in building a mutually responsive, positive, close relationship early on will generate considerable payoff several years later."

Journal reference: Child

Development, Vol. 79, Issue 1, Mother-Child and Father-Child

Mutually Responsive Orientation in the First Two Years and Children's Outcomes at Preschool Age:

Mechanisms of Influence, by Kochanska, G, Aksan, N, Prisco, TR, and Adams, EE (University of Iowa).

The study was funded, in part, by the National Institute of Mental Health.

Adapted from materials provided by [Society for Research in Child Development](#), via [EurekaAlert!](#), a service of AAAS.

Oat and Macadamia Nut slice

Ingredients

3/4 cup plain flour
1/2 tspn bicarb soda
1 1/2 cups rolled oats
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup shredded coconut
1/2 cup macadamia nuts, chopped
125 gms butter, melted
1 tblspn honey
1 egg, lightly beaten

Method

1. Sift flour and bicarb soda into a large mixing bowl. Stir through oats, sugar, coconut and nuts.
2. Combine butter, honey and egg, add to oat mixture, stir to combine.
3. Press mixture into a greased 27cm x 17cm lamington pan. Bake in a moderate oven 180C for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown.
4. Mark into squares while hot, cool in pan.

WATCH THIS SPACE

Hello friends. My name is Kristy. A friend from the school council has brought to my attention a need for more submissions to the school newsletter, and at the recent workshop "visioning the future of our school", the group identified a need for more parent education. With this in mind, I thought it might be a good idea to make regular contributions every fortnight to share with the school community some information I have gleaned from articles, books, and personal experience in relation to Steiner education.

Please allow me to introduce myself. Our family is made up of me and my husband Andrew, and our two children Ellen and Jarrah. Ellen is in Kindergarten and Jarrah, who is only 2 and 4 months, wishes he could go to kindy also. We moved to Denmark from Albany earlier this year to live as part of this community and to have better access to the Golden Hill Steiner community (before the move I was driving Ellen here for half-days

of kindy!). What a great move it has been! We are very happy here.

My learning journey about Rudolf Steiner, Anthroposophy, and Steiner Education started when I was studying a Graduate Diploma of Education in Ballarat Victoria about 6 years ago. The principles struck a chord deep within me, and I entered my teaching experience endeavouring to bring some of this "flavour" into my own high-school teaching. That experience was short-lived, as I became pregnant during the first few months and finished out only one year of teaching before settling down into a mothering career. When Ellen was about a year old, we attended a Steiner playgroup in Ballarat and when we moved to Albany I sought out the Steiner playgroup there. At this point a great acceleration occurred in my interest and learning about the philosophical underpinning of what was happening at these playgroups and in Steiner schools all over the world. I took on the responsibility as leader of one session of the Bulala Steiner Play-

group and I was even fortunate enough to attend a workshop in Perth last year for Steiner teachers. Andrew and I began to place Steiner education for our children as a very high priority, and with this in mind we were involved in a working group looking into starting a Steiner kindergarten in Albany. In the final analysis, however, we decided to move just a little way down the road to an established Steiner school... Golden Hill, of course! Andrew doesn't mind the commute to Albany for work (and works from home sometimes), and our family is much happier here in Denmark.

Now I would like to share the learning journey with you, our school community. I am definitely NOT an expert of any sort, just a keenly interested parent committed to sustainable living and conscious parenting who would like to share what I am learning with people who may also be interested in getting a bit deeper into what's going on here at our school. So if this sounds interesting to you... WATCH THIS SPACE!

House available?

Yallingup Steiner School has a term-long teacher exchange program going on at the moment - our Class 5/6 teacher Bruce has gone to a German school and we have one of their teachers, Erdmuth Kuth, teaching here. She and her daughter Sophia (17) and son (21) are looking for somewhere, other than Dunsborough, to stay for a weekend so that they can experience a bit more of the region. If anyone in or around Denmark has a house available for a weekend (or even one night) before the end of term please contact Claire on 9755 2230.

Energy and waterwise future for our community

Free energy and water saving products and installation available this Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Places are limited please call 1800 882 803

Denmark Walpole Community Energy and Water Project.

Rainwater

The rainwater tank which supplies the classrooms has been flushed and cleaned, so until we have enough rain to replenish the supply again, only town water will be available for drinking. If you wish your child(ren) to drink rainwater, you will need to send a bottle with them each day. Kindergarten parents please note that rainwater from another source will be supplied for the children to drink until we can find another solution.

The Teachers

Wanted

We are looking for a large 4 bedroom home to rent long term, available late September/early October and would appreciate it if anyone hears anything via the bush telegraph to please contact Annabelle on 98483953 or my mobile 0408600384

email: annabelle.arnold@gmail.com

I have excellent references and a couple of small pets so it needs to be fenced.

"How many years of seeking Before nothing is finally learnt"

House for rent

Great house available for rent Golden Hill family on the move to Canberra and need new tenants for their rental property - 2 Campbell Rd - nicely placed between Ocean Beach and town - 4 bedroom - BIRs - spacious open plan living and dining area - enormous walk in pantry - covered veranda all round and best of all, a full view of the enclosed back garden from the kitchen window. Ideal for families with children. Currently renting for \$240 per week. Available early November. Call Catherine on 9848 3845 for a 'looksee' and Ondy at Denmark Real Estate on 9848 1440 if you are seriously interested.