

8th September 2009

## The Golden Quill

The newsletter of the Golden Hill Steiner School  
Community, Denmark, Western Australia  
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Issue 228



The light from world-wide spaces  
Works on within with living power;  
Transformed to light of soul  
It shines into the spirit depths  
To bring to birth the fruits  
Whereby out of the self of worlds  
The human self in course of time shall ripen.  
Calendar of the Soul

## Remember, Remember, Golden Hill Steiner School Open Day, Wednesday 9th September 2009, World Spritual Day & the 90th Anniversary of Steiner School!

### The first Waldorf School

"In the chaotic circumstances of post-World War I, Germany Steiner had been giving lectures on his ideas for a societal transformation in the direction of independence of the economic, governmental and cultural realms, known as Social Threefolding to the workers of various factories. the owner and managing director of the factory, Emil Molt, announced his decision to set up such a school for his factory workers' children to the company's Board of Directors and asked Steiner to be the school's pedagogical consultant. The name Waldorf thus comes from the factory which hosted the first school.

The original Waldorf school was formed as an independent institution licensed by the local government as an exploratory model school with special freedoms. Steiner insisted upon four conditions before opening:

1. that the school be open to all children;
2. that it be eo-educational;
3. that it be a unified twelve-year school;
4. that the teachers, those individuals actually in contact with the children, have primary control over the pedagogy of the school, with a minimum of interference from the state or from economic sources.

We thank you Rudolf Steiner & Emil Molt  
for your foresight and inspiration!

### DATES TO REMEMBER...

**GHSS Open Day Wednesday 9th  
September, also**

**World Spirituality Day 09.09.09, and  
90th Anniversary of the Opening of  
Rudolf Steiner's First School, 9th  
September**

**Spring Festival Thursday 24th  
September 2009**



# KARRI KINDY



Oh where is little caterpillar so green and small?

Upon the leaf so merrily you used to crawl

But now king winter calls you to dream so deep

So you crawl into your blanket warm and fall fast asleep

One day the sun will send you a beam of gold

Then watch your pretty wings from your body unfold

So gay, so bright, oh what delight!

Fly, butterfly fly, with joy into the light!

A very warm welcome to a new family who joined our kindergarten

this week. Grace (Prep), Ben (K4) and parents, Lana and Brett, may your time at Golden Hill be a rewarding experience.

As always, some thank you's; our windows are now sparkling thanks to Raigan, who has cleaned them.

Blue has put up a row of pegs for the marionettes and Matt has made a beautiful hanger which will be used...to hang something!! All of our requests from the beginning of term have now been fulfilled..thanks to all for your support.

One of our beloved kindergarten guinea pigs, Choco, is recuperating at the Boaden's home after the stresses of competing with his "hutch-mate", Patchy affected his health. Many thanks to Sophia for taking him to the vet and to Anna and family for offering him a quiet place to rest. We are hoping he will soon be well enough to return to kindergarten. Sunni and Yamika's pets, Velvet the rabbit and Treasure the guinea pig have now come to live in the kindergarten and are receiving many cuddles every day.

Most parents dress their children in plain, rainbow colours as per our school dress code, and we thank you for this as it assists in creating an atmosphere conducive to flourishing imaginative play. Parents are reminded to please avoid large images, logos and black when dressing your child for kindergarten. Could you also please ensure your child has a hat at school at all times, beanies are fine for the cooler months.

Another reminder, this time about lunches. Please avoid putting "treat" foods such as chocolates into your child's lunchbox, as this may create envy among the children, not to mention furtive attempts at procuring a nibble! These kinds of foods are best kept for home and a home-made treat (eg muffin, biscuits) provided in the lunchbox instead. Thanks for your co-operation with this.

Warm wishes

Denise

# CLASS 6/7 MEDIEVAL ADVENTURES IN BALINGUP



## Medieval Studies - Chris

One day Rebecca came into the room and told us about the medieval festival. She had a book it was called *Good Masters, Sweet Ladies*. Then we started to read the book so we had an idea what character we wanted to do. Paul from Denmark Arts came in to help us with our script. He would ask us to go and practice 2-3 times in three weeks. When he had finished helping us we gave him a \$15 breakfast voucher at the Bibbulman Cafe as thanks. When we had the play at the school I think we did very well and at the hospital we did very well.

## Jean-Luc

On Friday August 21st Golden Hill Steiner School Class 6/7 departed home base to perform at Balingup Medieval Festival. Our plan of action was to have as much fun as possible in two days and put on the best performance. Here are some of the things we did...

## Sinai

On the way to Balingup for the Medieval Festival, we went to the Bicentennial Tree. The tree was the biggest one there, there were metal spikes sticking out of the tree with wire around the edges so it looked safe. Everyone was eager to go up but some, at the sight of the tree, were a bit scared! Six of us went up from platform to platform. I got to the first platform and was quite dizzy and felt sick. I was so scared to go up any further but I willed myself to go. I went all the way up to the top and went down again, safe, it was the scariest thing I've ever done and I made it!! it was fun and I want to do it again. The height of the Bicentennial tree was 104 metres, WOW what a height!

## Luke

On the way to Balingup we stopped at Manjimup and explored the Timber Park. It was amazing to look at and climb on, all the old trains, engines, and all the rusted old artifacts, such as cranes, old ploughs and a giant furnace type thing.

## Meggie

Friday night we walked down to the medieval feast we asked Rebecca if anyone else was going to be dressed up and she said "yes" but we were all a bit embarrassed and nervous but when we walked through the hall there were women wearing beautiful dresses and monks, only two people weren't wearing Medieval costumes. When we stepped into the big dining room there were candles on the ceiling and long tables with vines and flowers, it looked like someone had planned it for hours! Rebecca trusted us enough that she sat at a different table we weren't being silly and when the men came in with their drums and instruments we girls got up and danced and some people were looking at us in a way saying "What are you all doing we aren't meant to dance?" but we danced anyway. When we were eating dinner someone took a picture of Ashley because she looked so good in her costume she had a white underdress with puffy sleeves and on top she had a brown corset with slits all the way to the wrist all laced up. When the King and Queen came in we all stood up then, it was time to eat. Yum!





### Violet

Saturday morning we woke up to the smell of cooking pancakes, we got up for brekkie; then went to the bathrooms to get dressed in our costumes for the day. As we walked down the road towards the festival we heard music and chatter, once the whole class was through the gates we could see stalls everywhere selling things like beautiful wreaths, swords, apples and other things like that. There was also a blacksmith who was making gorgeous dragons. At about midday we were in the parade pulling a giant paper mache chicken painted with bright colours and patterned with flowers. The next day we got to stand by and watch the parade, there were pantomime horses and drummers, even a Viking ship rowed down the road!

### Scout

Before we went to the fair all five girls were very excited to ride the camels. We were wandering around the fair when we saw them, we all raced over to where they were we paid our money and got our helmets. Rebecca wandered over and saw we all had helmets on, we told her we were going to ride a camel. She asked if there was room for her and luckily there was one more seat for her. When it was our turn we got on; it was hard to get on because we were wearing dresses but we managed. It was amazing but it seemed to go so quick!

### Haydn

At the fighting arena, there was free-for-all, duels as well as historical re-enactments presented by a group called The Gray Company. They were experienced fighters who used real swords (blunt ones) and a full suit of armour. They had battles between Crusaders and Saracens, with King Richard the Lionheart and Saladin.

There was to be a wedding on Sunday with a yet undecided best man. A battle arose, between House Templestone, House Dark Sun and House Dark Horse, all fighting to be the best man. The winner was called the Grim Reaper, though I don't know how the bride-to-be felt about that. You could try on armour and chain mail at some of the stalls and there were also opportunities to practice fighting.

### Elijah

At the Medieval Festival we performed our play. There were lots of other people performing as well. We waited behind stage, when the Cryer called out our school's name we went up on stage. It was very different from what we were used to; there were mic's and you couldn't do all the actions that you had rehearsed. Despite these difficulties everything went great. There were loads of people. They loved it especially when Scout & Violet did their monologue, the crowd all smiled & laughed. The next day we heard someone say that they thought we were a Performing Arts School, LOL!

### Ashley

We were all ready for a quiet night and Rebecca came in and said we were going to the burning of the dragon. No one really wanted to go but I decided I would, then others said they would too, before we knew it we were all walking down the road to where the dragon was going to be burned. As we drew closer to the dragon, there were people fire twirling. The dragon had spikes on its back and a huge mouth with teeth. A man appeared with a big stick with a sheep skull on the end. He looked like Merlin. They lit the dragon and there was lots of drumming. When the dragon fell over, some of the girls left the crowd of people and danced a ring around the fire, about eighty people followed. It was a great night and I'm so glad we didn't stay at the school.



## OPEN DAY - ALL WELCOME

WEDNESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2009

We warmly invite visitors, parents of prospective students, parents and friends to attend our open day to be held on Wednesday 9th September. This will be an opportunity to experience a taste of the education we offer at Golden Hill by observing some typical lessons and experiences in each class, so please let any interested friends know about the day.

The programme for the day is as follows:-

8.45am	School day commences at the usual time.
9.30am	Open Day commences. Visitors begin arriving.
9.45am	Choir presentation, Classes 1-7
10am	Class 1
10.30am	Class 2/3
11am	Morning Tea & Meet the Teachers
11.30am	Class 4/5 - Gardening
12Noon	Kindergarten Puppet Play - The Frog Prince
12.30pm	Class 6/7
1pm	Visitors Depart

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We would like to congratulate our two, yest thats two winners of our "Name Our Library" event.

The two winning entries were from

Tia Paterson - Class 1 and Onanya Meijer - Class 2

They both submitted the chosen name of "The Golden Leaf".

Special thanks to Teahouse books for their generous donation of a book voucher for our winners. As part of Teahouse' commitment to literature and reading they currently offer a 5% discount to all books sold to school's and children organisations. In addition, if the total purchase is in excess of \$150.00 they will increase the discount to 10% on all items included in that purchase.

We thank all those students and families who submitted their ideas!!

The library will be open Term 4, Tuesday 11.30 - 12.30 and Fridays 2.30-3pm. If any parents would like to borrow before the open date please just come to the office to sign out books.

Thankyou

The Library Committee

## Vital Years Conference 2009 Report: "The Gentle Awakening of the Young Child Through The Arts"

In July I was fortunate, along with Christine, to attend the bi-annual conference of the Australian Rudolf Steiner Early Childhood Association which was held in Brisbane. There were three keynote speakers who addressed the broad theme of "The Gentle Awakening of the Young Child Through the Arts". Renate Long-Breipohl opened the conference. Renate is very well-respected in Steiner circles, having co-founded the Samford Valley Steiner school near Brisbane and taught in the kindergarten for ten years. In 1997 she joined Parsifal College in Sydney as a co-ordinator and tutor for the early childhood courses and she has also lectured in Australia and the South East Pacific region.

The gentle awakening of the child begins at birth, with the very gradual dawning of consciousness that is reflected in the development of walking, talking and pictorial/imaginative thinking. Awakening is different from waking up in that it is more what the child does for himself. How can awakening happen in the best possible way? What role do the arts play in this process? Adults in the kindergarten environment should be engaged artistically in the domestic arts and work processes. The teacher should be engaged in creative artistic endeavours. Steiner said this is important as it has a replenishing effect on the teacher's life forces. The arts and play belong together, where necessity and freedom come together to form an harmonious whole.

Eleanor Winship was the next speaker. From Atlanta in the USA, she was our guide in the realm of music, leading us each day in voice exercises and singing as well as lecturing on the role of music in the awakening of the young child. Music has never been so easily available as it is today. In the old days, if you wanted to listen to music, you would have to seek out musicians, and music would bring people together. With the advent of MP3 players, people can be in their own little world, they isolate us. When a child is constantly exposed to music and sound, with the radio or stereo playing, they turn off their openness. By protecting children from continually being surrounded by noise, we preserve the sense of wonder inherent in each sound. Music is a gift from the gods. In it we feel the echoes of the element that weaves and lives in the innermost core of things. Music brings echoes of the spiritual world. Creative musicians have an unconscious recall of music and attempt to re-create it on earth. We can sensitise ourselves to this memory. Our bodies are an instrument to bring music to the earth.

Eleanor spoke about the "Mood of the Fifth" as a bridge between two worlds. Intervals are the relationship between each note and are the building blocks of music. In the old days, the 7th was the smallest interval that could be heard and gave the feeling of going on forever. When people came into their bodies, the 5th interval could be heard. The mood of the fifth, or pentatonic scale gives the feeling of being in the angelic realm, and is the bridge between heaven and earth. Mood of the fifth music centres around A and often swings down to D and up to E. Rudolf Steiner recommended that children up to the age

of nine sing music without half steps and without minor or major feelings. This music is pentatonic. It is older than major and minor music and is often found in folk melodies. By surrounding young children in the mood of the fifth, we allow them to incarnate gently. It is a worthwhile endeavour to keep the child's ears open and surround them with beautiful sounds.

The third keynote speaker was Michael Howard, a sculptor, also from the USA. He said that every child is seeking to be whole and free and to develop the artist within themselves. There is an artist in every human being which has little to do with art as a vocation or hobby, but more as a way of looking at the world. The young child, through imitation looks to an adult who is striving towards wholeness and freedom of artistry. The primary goals of education are to develop the inner gifts and potential of each child and to prepare each child for the real world. There are two ways of thinking;

\*Scientific, which is purely physical, quantifiable, an "onlooker consciousness". Technology is an expression of the will of the scientific world.

\*Artistic, welcomes the diversity of colours, sounds, tones and forms and relates to accepting different qualities in children, a "participant consciousness". Michael believes that most of our social problems can only be met out of our artistic side. Upon conversation at the teacher's meeting though, we agreed that there probably needs to be a balance between the two kinds of thinking. Michael says that the way of the artist is the only solution to conflict because it is the part of us that is interested in diversity of colours, forms and tones and how they harmonise to create a whole. Most conflicts arise because we are not free within ourselves, but don't want to admit it. The extent to which we can become free is the extent to which we can live harmoniously as individuals. As we become more and more individualised, we need to develop a deep empathy for others, and learning to perceive colours, forms etc is a schooling in empathy.

The conference certainly provided much to ponder and I have only touched on a few areas here! In addition to the lectures, there were workshops. I participated in the morning circles workshop and a felting workshop and proudly came home with a felted seasonal mat. I also attended the optional schools tour and we visited Samford Valley Steiner School and spent some time at the kindergartens there. We then went to Silkwood Steiner School on the Gold Coast and Fingerprints, a Steiner-based daycare centre. All very beautiful and with a slightly different flavour to our Steiner schools in the West. After the conference I headed to the Sunshine Coast hinterland area for a break and was also able to visit Noosa Pengari Steiner School. I came back with a feeling of gratitude for the beauty of our school and it's surroundings, for the gift of sharing and connecting with other Steiner kindergarten teachers, assistants and playgroup leaders from around Australia and New Zealand, and I thank the school for enabling us to attend the conference.

Denise Bullen

# SPRING

The mornings and nights are chilly, we've had rain, hail and wind, the sun only a fleeting presence, yet all around us are the signs of spring. Daffodils are blooming, wildflowers make bushwalks even more delightful, magpies are nesting, and yes, the snakes are re-appearing (I recently saw a young tiger snake along the heritage trail!). The days are growing ever-longer as the seasonal cycle spirals towards the spring equinox, which this year falls on Wednesday 23rd September. The long in-breath of winter turns and the earth begins to breathe outwards. The equinox, when day and night are of equal length, is a time to enjoy the wonder and beauty of the natural world as it blossoms, from a personal experience of balance and steadiness. Standing firm and sure on solid ground as the elements gush forth.

"Know thyself" is a saying for the Spring Equinox, knowing our strengths and limitations. Knowing the areas of our self that we sense are most alive to the process of transformation. Knowing just where and how we are being healed and how to protect our new sprouts of growth.

Transformation and healing is the motif of spring. Just as in Autumn we have Michael with his sword of courage, in spring the archangel Raphael with a deeply thoughtful gaze leans on a staff of Mercury and brings healing. Rudolf Steiner refers to Raphael as ..the Cosmic Physician...using the forces of air, mingling and combining fire, water and earth so as to transmute them into healing forces, working and weaving in the Cosmos...

...Raphael is active in human breathing. For this is a great secret; all the healing forces reside originally in the human breathing system

When we instinctively feel the urge to take in the fresh air of Spring, in nature, we are in alignment with cosmic wisdom. The natural world, which surrounds us here in Denmark, offers us an avenue to return to our truly balanced human nature, being in nature heals and nourishes.

Into our inner being

The riches of the senses pour

The Cosmic Spirit finds itself

Reflected in the human eye

Which ever must renew its strength

From out that spirit source.

-from "The Calendar of the Soul" by Rudolf Steiner

- adapted from an article written by a former teacher at our school, Kathy Shiels

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## Spring Festival - Helpers Please!

Our Spring Festival is fast approaching and all are invited to join with the children and teachers in a celebration of the spring equinox which this year falls on the 23rd September. On Thursday 24th September we will recognise this turning point in the seasonal cycle of the year.

9am-10am Parents are invited to join with their child's class in creating lovely spring garlands. We would love everyone in our school community to don a garland of spring blooms so please bring along vines and flowers

10am Bedecked in blossoms we will enjoy Class 4/5's performance of "The Selfish Giant". Susan's class will then perform a dance

10.30am Class 2/3 will surprise with their ode to spring

10.45am Class 1 will dazzle us with their dancing

11.00am Class 6/7 will treat us to a special performance

11.30am We will come together to enjoy a delicious spring feast. Please bring a plate of something with a spring flavour.

We look forward to seeing everyone there, dressed in the vibrant colours of spring, carrying armloads of vines, creepers and flowers, and a plate of delicacies.

With warm wishes

The Teachers

## COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

### POST-PONED!

John Cunningham our facilitator, will not be coming to Australia until (hopefully) February or March, so we are putting our non-violent Communication Workshop on hold until we know for sure. He is keen to come but needs to set up enough work in schools across Australia to make it viable.

Sorry for the delay!

Rebecca

### CONGRATULATIONS..

to Chris Urquhart who has done himself and our community proud by being 1 of only 18 selected for the annual intake of the Soccer Excellence Program at John Curtin College of the Arts in Fremantle. We wish him all the very best with his endeavours. Well done Chris.



### Finance Matters

Parents please be reminded of your most fundamental obligation regarding fee payments.

If you are not on a payment plan and have yet to pay for Term 3, you must pay them by Friday August 28th. From this date forth a late payment fee of \$25 will apply. Payments can be made in cash, or with a cheque at the office. If you wish to use Centrepay payment services come and talk to Sabine. You can also pay via ETFE or direct debit through a bank into the school's bank account. Thanks for your support in this matter.



### Sunslipper Orders

Are being received here at golden Hill Steiner School. If we, as a school, order collectively the savings can be shared amongst our Golden Hill Families. Lydia Kenyon is handling the arrangements. Please find attached the order sheet to be returned with your child if you are interested in replacing old ones or need a new pair. Any further enquiries, please contact Lydia on 9848 3999. To view the colours, patterns and sizes the web site is [www.sunshadowslippers.com](http://www.sunshadowslippers.com)

The deadline for the next newsletter is Friday 18th September 2009. Please leave all contributions either in the office or email directly to [ondy@t4.com.au](mailto:ondy@t4.com.au). Please note all contributions will only be added at the discretion of the College of Teachers.