

27th July 2009

The Golden Quill

The newsletter of the Golden Hill Steiner School
Community, Denmark, Western Australia
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Issue 225



“Reverence, enthusiasm, and a sense of guardianship, these three are actually the panacea, the magical remedy, in the soul of the educator and teacher.”

Rudolf Steiner

Attention all parents and students - new start times for school with immediate effect 8.45am - 2.55pm. We ask for your courteous support of our Teachers with the very important issue of starting on time each day so children can participate in their classes morning circle.

CIRCLE TIME

Early childhood educators know that children love to be part of a learning circle. "Circle time" is an essential ingredient of Waldorf education. Circles offer participation in a larger whole and can foster the development of key sensory and neuromuscular faculties.

Arrivals and Departures

Parents are reminded of the importance of ensuring their child arrives at school on time each morning. Punctuality is important as it enables your child to connect with his/her peers and teacher and integrate with the class before the official commencement of the school day and thus facilitates a smooth transition from home to school. Prompt collection of your child at the end of the school day is equally important as it allows the child to feel safe and secure. Being collected late can cause anxiety in children.

Thankyou for your co-operation with this
The Teachers

Dogs Policy

Parents and visitors please be reminded that dogs are not allowed on the school grounds during school hours.

DATES TO REMEMBER...

Busy Bee **All hands on deck, please!!**
Saturday 15th August 9am-12Noon

Karri Kindy Parent Teacher Mtg
Tuesday 25th August at 3pm

GHSS Open Day Wednesday 9th
September

Spring Festival Thursday 24th
September 2009



KARRI KINDY



Spring is coming, spring is coming
Birdies build your nest
Weave together straw and feather
Doing each your best

The first signs of spring are visible in our Kindergarten, the jonquils are blooming and the deciduous trees have some new leaves. Last week we enjoyed a picnic in our garden on a sunny day, and look forward to more sunny weather.

We warmly welcome two new girls, Maya and Tabitha and their families to Karri Kindergarten.

A number of families have enquired about ordering sunshadow slippers. If we order at least ten pairs, we will be charged wholesale prices, so if your child needs a new pair, please write details on the form provided (check the noticeboard) by the end of this week.

Our kindergarten **parent/teacher meeting** for this term will be held on **Tuesday 25th August at 3pm**. I will be sharing some information from the Vital Years Conference which I attended in July, the theme of which was "The Gentle Awakening of the Young Child Through the Arts"
Child care will be provided and all are very welcome to attend.

Warm Wishes

Denise



SOUP DAYS UPDATE

Dear Parents,

The soup days are proving to be quite popular with all our students! A wonderful time to connect with other classes and share in delicious home cooked food. We have between 41 and 45 students participating in each soup day.

Could the parents please make sure that we have at least 10-12 litres of soup (in total) on offer for the children.

It has also been brought to the CR Committee that a lot of our wee ones prefer a smooth soup. Especially our Karri Kindy cherubs.

Could we please request that in addition to having a vegetarian option that this soup be pureed. Thankyou

We would also like to take this time to send out our sincerest gratitude and Thanks to our local businesses who have so generously supported these soup days:

Thankyou to Mari and Lee of Eziway for providing the delicious cheese and their much needed fridge space! Thankyou to Sean of the Denmark Bakery for all his lovely bread most of which

has been the nice dark seeded loaves!
And of course our special thanks to all our fantastic parents who are giving their time and energy to make these soul memories for all our golden children.
Your CR Committee

Reading & Writing Steiner Style!

In Waldorf schools, the approach to teaching reading is more gradual and multi-sensory than the pace of the public schools. We consider this "slowness" a virtue, not a deficit. It is based on a radically different conception of child development and a much broader conception of what is important to learn and experience in early childhood. Formal instruction of reading in a Waldorf school begins in first grade when a child is six, turning seven (older than first graders in the public school). The "reading readiness" instruction and homework that occupies and frequently oppresses five-year olds in public school kindergartens is very different in Waldorf kindergartens. Instead the teachers plan meaningful activities that engage the active will of the children. Through the activities of the kindergarten's daily and weekly rhythms, the children feel at home. The stress-free environment strengthens their language

development through sensory integration, movement, gesture, music, art, as well as practical skills like baking and cleaning, social cooperation, and self-initiated free play. For those who understand childhood, the latter are potent educational forces. In addition to puppet shows, fairy tales, and seasonal songs, the children play rhythmic games, and learn nursery rhymes and singing games in French and German. Also the children have weekly eurythmy classes. (Eurythmy is an artistic movement discipline unique to the Waldorf schools.) Thus, the fertile ground of future learning is prepared through recognizing that the young child is primarily a person of will (movement) not logic, imagination not abstraction. As Rudolf Steiner observed, "Thought is will grown old. Will is youthful thinking in the soul." Learning by doing and experiencing gradually metamorphoses into reflective thought. Surprisingly, the fine motor skill dexterity required in the activity of knitting—following the thread, linking, counting the stitches, persevering in focused work—which all first graders do in a Waldorf school, correlates with reading readiness and the acquisition of math skills

Learning to Read & Write in the Waldorf Schools
By William Ward

PLANT A TREE DAY



Planet Ark Nationwide Plant a Tree Day

Friday 31st July 2009

We were very fortunate to have Project Officer and Co-ordinator, Elissa Stewart from the Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee come and not only provide our school with Upper, Middle and Lower canopy indigenous trees planted on Friday but also provided a tree for each child to plant at home. Ms Stewart guided our children throughout the planting and imparted wonderful information about the importance of trees and re-vegetation and the impact this has on our local region and on a global scale. Families joined their children for a school community planting and it was a wonderful day had by all.

The Golden Hill Steiner School and all their families would like to extend a big thank you to Elissa and the Catchment Group for their time and generous support!

Parent Participation Scheme 2009

This year we will be holding your participation records in the office. This is because many people lost or misplaced their forms throughout last year.

If you filled out a form last year stating what you are willing to help with then you do not need to do that again.

Any changes or queries please email Deborah at info@lunaretreats.com

Can all families ensure their 2008 record sheet is up to date and handed in at the office and invoices can be issued as required. If you did not do 20 hrs last year (2008) can you please contact the office?

Each family in the school is asked to do 20hrs/yr helping in and around the school.

Alternatively families can choose to pay \$200/yr Projects that can be completed at home are also accepted.

Each family must attend one busy bee through out the year.

School councillors and group coordinators are deemed to have met their hours.

Record forms will be held in the office during normal office hours and they will also be available to fill in at busy bees.

It is each family's responsibility to keep their record sheets up to date.

Hours can not be carried from one year to the next.

PLEASE NOTE

All parents are invited to access all Committee & Council reports via hardcopy in the office or on our website. We have also recently reviewed the Behavioural Management Policy and this is also available for viewing.

NEWSLETTER

Please note the following dates for distribution of GHSS Newsletter -

27th July, 11th August, 25th

August, 8th September, 22nd

September

Deadline Dates - 6th July, 14th

August, 21st August, 4th

September, 18th September,

The deadline for the next newsletter is Friday 21st August 2009. Please leave all contributions either in the office or email directly to andy@t4.com.au. Please note all contributions will only be added at the discretion of the College of Teachers

