

The Penny Newsletter

Term 1 week 3

Wednesday 17 February 2010

In secret to encompass now
With memory what I've newly got
Shall be my striving's further aim:
Thus, ever strengthening selfhood's forces
Shall be awakened from within
And, in becoming, give me to myself.

From The Calendar of the Soul by Rudolf Steiner

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Calendar of Events

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF DATES FOR 2010

2010 Term Dates

TERM ONE

Tuesday 2 Feb - Friday 26 March

New parent orientation sessions - Weds 17 February at 2pm and 7pm

Labour Day Holiday - Monday 8 March

TERM TWO

Tuesday 13 April - Friday 25 June

ANZAC Day Holiday - Monday 26 April

Parent Teacher Interviews - Thursday 22 April 4pm-9pm

Parent Teacher Interviews Friday 23 April 8.30am-3.30pm

NOTE: DATES FOR P/T INTERVIEWS IN TERM 2 HAVE CHANGED.

Open Day - Wednesday 19 May

Queen's Birthday Holiday - Monday 14 June

Winter Solstice Festival - Friday 18 June (evening)

CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS

Fri 5 March: Year 8 - "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

10 - 12 March: Classes 5 & 6 - Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement Camp

Wed 17 - Friday 19 March - Class 4 Grampians Camp (TBC)

Fri 19 March: Year 7 - Medieval Calligraphy Workshop

22 - 26 March: Year 8 - Balnarring Camp

Fri 30 April - Class 7 Falcon Excursion

20-23 July: Year 8 City Camp

Last weeks of Term 3 (dates TBC) Rafting Camp: Year 8

29 Nov - 3 Dec: Year 8 Wilsons Prom Camp

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CLASS MEETINGS

Thursday 25 Feb - Class 2 Meeting at 7.30pm

Wednesday 3 March - Class 7 Meeting at 7.30pm

Thursday 4 March - Class 5 Meeting at 7.30pm

Tuesday 9 March - Class 1 Meeting at 7.30pm

Thursday 11 March - Class 4 Meeting at 7.30pm

Monday 15 March - Class 3 Meeting at 7.30pm

Wednesday 17 March - Class 8 Meeting at 7.30pm (note change of date because of camp)

From the School Facilitator

Communication... Communication... Communication

The school has clearly rolled into the year in full flight now; classes are settled into new rhythms and staff are settling into their new roles, tasks and plans for the year. It's a vibrant community, full of life, full of humour and full of good spirit, yet amongst this outstanding energy I am reminded that every day we need to communicate well to all those around us. One of the foundational pillars of a Steiner School is the importance of relationships, starting with our relationships with the children. This gives the essential confidence for a positive learning environment. At the core of good relationships is our communication with each other. The school will continue to flourish when we all pay great attention to our listening, speaking, and non-verbal communications. We start with the modelling of good communication with our children, listening clearly to their messages to us, and responding thoughtfully and 'heartfully' with their best interests at heart, rather than just reacting. The revision of the school Communication Policy is drawing to a close and this important document will be made available to the school community in the very near future. Any input or feedback from the school community is still welcomed in this review process. You can drop me a note, addressed to the School Facilitator.

Thank you to all those who provided the pancakes for our Shrove Tuesday community breakfast. It is these community events, where our children see the adults around them working and playing and sharing food together, which continue to strengthen our school community.

The challenge remains to continually improve our communications. Speak kindly to those who you need to, rather than speaking to others. Listen with compassion to ensure you fully understand the other person's experience or point of view and confirm that you have understood each other's messages... so the list goes on. Clear relationships make for a great school community, and a great education.

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NEW PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

On Wednesday 17th February there will be brief welcoming and orientation sessions for new families to our school. These will be held at 2.00pm and 7.30pm in the Library. This is the chance to ask about any aspect of school operations, policies on this or that, local practices (eg. what happens if my child loses their hat, where can the class 2 children play on the grounds?), school rules for children, any of those pesky questions. Please RSVP to the office to confirm your attendance.

From the Office

FEE NOTICES

Fee notices have been sent out and fees are due on or before 19th February unless you sign a fee agreement form. If you haven't received your statement, please contact the office.

If you make direct deposits to the school account, please check your statement and make sure that all your payments are on it. If not, please contact the school. Always make sure that you put some identification on all payments. Unidentified payments become donations to the school at the end of year reconciliation.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE (PREP TO YEAR 8)

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON 26th FEBRUARY.

EMA APPLICATIONS CLOSE 26th FEBRUARY.

Please, please return your signed Local Excursion Permissions Forms as the teachers want to take classes on autumnal walks and cannot do so until all forms are received.

EMPLOYMENT - RELIEVING LIBRARIAN

We are seeking a reliever to work in the library, replacing the librarian when on sick leave. Hours will vary and may be approximately 12 hours per week. Casual teaching conditions apply, with salary according to experience. (Range from \$29.09 to \$40.17 /hour). A working with Children check is required. Library qualification preferred or relevant experience in a school library considered. For a Position Description contact the office or enquiries@castlemainesteinerschool.com.au. Enquiries to Deborah Wardle, School Facilitator. Applications Close: Monday 1st March 2010.

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Spanish News

¡Hola a todos! Spanish lessons have begun. ¡Olé! And what a delight it has been meeting the students! Our initial lessons have been focusing on greetings, everyday words and sound familiarisation through verses and simple songs. We will build on this as we grow in knowledge and confidence.

My teaching days are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please don't hesitate to contact me at the school if you would like to discuss any aspect of the Spanish language program. I look forward to getting to know all the families that form part of this wonderful learning community.

Saludos, Susana

Maintenance News

The mudbrick and marine ply table, recently completed by the Class 7 students as their building project to complement the pizza oven, made its debut yesterday, Pancake Tuesday. The table looked resplendent, sporting pancake toppings, and what a lovely start to the day, enjoying a community pancake in the morning freshness. Thank you to Class 7 for the table, Lisa Hall for the drive and coordination of the building project, and the people who helped clean up after the feast!



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast, 2010
Thank you to David Caddy for the photos

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You may also have noticed the freshened-up 'Castlemaine Steiner School' sign in the central shade area of the school. The timber branch supporting the sign was almost deemed past its use-by date, but we managed to eke a little more service out of it, based on the nostalgia of it being an original piece. We have a photograph of our children in front of the sign years ago, as many do, but I feel that the next freshening up will include a new sculpted support.

Please drive slowly in the car park. Also, our grassed areas are struggling. Your help would be appreciated by not driving or parking on the oval or grassed areas. Thanks.

Love and maintenance, Peter

Banksia Kindergarten News

Little shell, little shell, tell me about the ocean
Little shell, little shell, tell me about the sea
Where have you been? Where will you go?
Little shell, little shell, that the waves brought to me.

Every child has now begun kinder and our transition times are almost complete. Our days together have been settled and smooth and very happy and well watered! Thank you to all parents for your attention to beginning the year details and supporting your children with arrival procedures (e.g. hanging up belongings, placing fruit in the basket, washing hands, etc.). Your ongoing and gentle assistance now is the most appropriate support as the children gradually develop their independence in these tasks. Thank you!

Please remember to hold adult conversations OUTSIDE the kinder room and garden - out of sight and hearing of the children - as we establish our kinder rhythm. This is important both at the start and end of the session. Please collect children quietly, being mindful of the nourishment of the program and allowing this to linger and be carried home with them, rather than breaking this mood with adult-focused conversations.

NB: PLEASE REMEMBER TO "SIGN IN" AND "SIGN OUT" EVERY KINDER DAY - THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT - THANK YOU.

With love, Kerry Anne

Wattle Kindergarten News

We are all settling into the rhythms of the Kindergarten day; painting is the favourite activity. The parents room is available for any parents to continue their conversations, either at the beginning of the day or lunch time. It will help children be more settled if conversations are kept to a minimum within the Kindergarten. Pick up time needs to be

Castlemaine Steiner School and Kindergarten's fortnightly news

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focused on greeting your child and helping them to be ready to leave.

The Kindergarten has 3 or 4 chickens, approximately six months old, looking for another home. Please talk to Kerry Anne or Dorothy if you are interested.

Love from Dorothy

PS: Has anyone seen our cane washing basket?

Prep News

Please look out for the more detailed letter I will be sending home this week.

Love, Heather

Class One News

We have completed our first short main lesson of Form Drawing and Painting and now we are beginning our lesson on Introducing the Letters. We are using wonderful stories to give these a rich context.

Thank you, parents, for your wonderful help with pancakes yesterday morning. What a great way to start the day!

Please see the list below so that you are aware of the special things that happen through the week. Both exercises and eurythmy require clothing that is comfortable to move in, e.g. leggings for girls, track pants, etc. Jeans are not appropriate.

Monday: Assembly - you are always welcome.
Exercises with Sue Murphy.

Wednesday: Craft with Chris during middle session.

Thursday: Eurythmy with Ros after lunch.

Friday (when we are here from next term on): Cooking with help from Melinda.

Please continue diligently checking heads. The Class Meeting will be Tuesday 9 March.

We're having a wonderful time. Many thanks for your great support.

Love, Anne

Class Two News

What rich stories are represented by the Native American culture. The respect and understanding of Mother Earth is vibrating in every story. This morning we "prayed" our recorders to the rising sun.

Dream catchers are coming home to ease the children into their sleep and to assure deep

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dreams.

Please remember our class meeting next week on Thursday 25 February at 7.30pm. I will look at the development of the child in Class 2 as well as this year's curriculum and timetable. These meetings are very valuable for an exchange of parents' views, as well as an insight for me into your values and parenting ideas.

Take care, Dagmar

Class Three News

From the 'wisdom of the earth' stones from Aboriginal and First Nation people, we are now amidst the Hebrew Creation stories. Painting each morning is a beautifully calm way to start our day. As well, our music has taken another leap to learning to enjoy our own instruments - much excitement this week!

Warm wishes, Lyn

Class Four News

We are into our main lesson learning about Indigenous Aboriginal culture. A colourful Rainbow serpent nearly 20 metres long wraps itself around our classroom. As we explore and share stories from the Dreamtime, and immerse ourselves in Aboriginal art and culture, we are enjoying writing and retelling, reading and performing stories that are thousands of years old. Class newsletter coming soon.

Best wishes, Mary

Class Five News

For a week now we have been engrossed in the stories of the sons of Pandu. They're full of all the elements that make up exciting stories: beauty, love, devotion, envy, evil and forgiveness. Ask your child to relate some of them to you, they're worth it. Apart from this we're doing some wonderful work making lotus flowers, painting henna patterns on our hands, cooking a yummy Indian recipe and last, but certainly not least, our morning routine with yoga and meditation. And there is more to come. We could fill a whole year with work on India.

Children have been asked to investigate a subject of their own choice. It can be anything that has their interest, but is at the same time challenging. They need to put together a scrapbook of information on the chosen topic, in their own handwriting, with photos and drawing. Please support them in this little project. The main focus is on how to do research and set out a project.

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Your child has probably already mentioned the camp in a few weeks' time. We'll be staying two nights at the Pioneer Settlement in Swan Hill. Details will follow in the coming days. For now, the dates are 10, 11 and 12 March.

Love, Rob

Class Six News

We have been working hard on *Geometry*, which has incorporated beautiful use of colour. *Geometry* opens up whole new worlds of movement and design and is a lot of fun. We have found it a very satisfying subject and have gained so much. In the background I have been telling the story of Troy and leaving mythological Greece behind as we move toward Alexander the Great. We have also enjoyed learning a few new Maths games and lots of geometrical rhythm and shapes. Stuart is working with the class on Wednesday afternoons and we are very pleased to have all our Specialist Teachers back in action.

Best wishes, Diana

Class Seven News

Hello everyone!

We had a most interesting visit from Stuart Chignell on Monday, who enlightened us further on Medieval clothes and textiles, and how they were made.

We all send our best wishes and thoughts to Lily, who is recovering from an operation performed last week. Get better soon. We are missing you. I'll send home some work so you don't get bored just lying about!

Love, Ann

Class Eight News

Class 8 are settling in to the routine of the new school year and the Renaissance studies that we have begun with. We are especially looking at some of the personalities of this time, people like the Medicis, Savonarola and Machiavelli, in addition to the artists da Vinci, Donatello, Raphael and Michaelangelo.

It was also wonderful to see the new table next to the pizza oven put to such good use today, it being the completion of our Class 3 building project begun all those years ago. Many thanks to Lisa for taking it on and seeing it through.

John

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Parents & Friends

CRAFT GROUP

Our parents' craft group makes things to sell at the Spring Fair but it is also a fun group to socialise and to share skills in. We will be meeting again on Monday mornings from 9.15am in the Playgroup house. Both beginners and experienced crafters will be very welcome.

Lyned Isaac ph 5472 3554

Ride to School - every Thursday!

If you're looking for people to ride to school with, we're going to be doing group rides again to and from school on a Thursday. We'd love you to join us. We leave at 8am from Victory Park. If you have any questions, call Susie on 5470 6303.

Community News

The content of the following notices does not necessarily reflect the views of the Castlemaine Steiner School and Kindergarten.

Positions available for School Crossing Supervisors in Mount Alexander Shire. Interested parents/grandparents please contact Veronica Abbot on 5471 1700 for further information.

House for Rent

Three bedrooms plus studio, huge block in Castlemaine. Phone Vanessa 0401 185052.

CLASSICAL GUITAR LESSONS

Beginners, intermediate, advanced. Children and adults.

Please call Bronwen on 0450 741 814.

PONY FOR SALE

13hand appaloosa pony, quiet, reliable and perfect for beginner.

Price neg. Pl call 0438016618

Come and experience the uplifting liberating benefit of a MEDITATION- HEALING CIRCLE, a SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT CLASS or a PRIVATE HEALING SESSION for yourself or your child. More info on the school notice board or call Gitesha on 54705704.

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ORTHO-BIONOMY

I am now available to offer sessions in Castlemaine, Monday and Friday by appointment.
Julie Luckman 0407 838 790 or 5472 4091.

ABOUT ORTHO-BIONOMY

Ortho-bionomy is a form of body work that has its origins in Osteopathy. In essence it is a gentle, safe and effective practice which uses comfortable positioning, light touch and relaxing movements to unlock tension, relieve pain, reduce stress and promote postural and structural balance. OB can help (for example) acute and chronic back pain and joint pain, speed recovery from injuries, enhance children's growth and development. OB principles and techniques recognise the self-healing, self-regulating capacity of the body, and seeks to facilitate and enhance the basic curative force inherent in each person.

Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School Annual Art Show and Sale 13 - 14 March 2010

The 7th Annual Art show is coming up on 13 and 14 March at Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School. Entry is open to artists working in all mediums. Entry forms are available from: www.mrssl.com.au Entries MUST close Friday 5 March. For Craft expo enquiries and entries, please contact Jillian 0407 873 194. Whether exhibiting or not, we invite you to come along. All located in the great space of the School Gymnasium. Opening Hours 10am - 4pm Saturday and Sunday.

For all Artshow enquiries call Jenny Walford 9725 6394

For Craft Expo enquiries call Jillian Finch 0407 873194

www.mrssl.com.au

YOGA - Gita style Hatha. - Strengthen your whole self on all levels nurturing the spirit within. Thursdays 9-10AM St Mary's Hall (upstairs). Free invitation first class. \$10 session. Bookings essential. Enquiries welcomed: Vivienne Desmarchelier ph 5470 5287.

The Harcourt Applefest is on again this year from 5 - 8 March. Look out for a program of events in your local information centre or from the website

www.harcourtapplefest.org.au.

FREE TO GOOD HOME

Pure bred Sebrights: 3 cockerels and 2 pullets. Call Donna 5423 2195.

WANTED TO BUY

Good quality second-hand wood heater to heat 10-12 squares. Julie Luckman 5472 4091.