

# The Penny Newsletter

Term 3 week 1

Wednesday 21 July 2010

In this the shrouding gloom of winter  
The soul feels ardently impelled  
To manifest its innate strength,  
To guide it into darkneses,  
Anticipating thus  
Through warmth of heart the sense-world's revelation.

*From The Calendar of the Soul by Rudolf Steiner*

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## Calendar of Events 2010 Term Dates

### **TERM THREE**

**Tuesday 20 July - Wednesday 15 September**

Monday 26 July - Class 5 mothers meet with Jane Bennett 7.30pm

Tuesday 27 July - Michael Carr-Gregg Talk

Friday 30 July - National Tree Planting Day for schools

Friday 30 July - Bell Shakespeare Co. Actors at Work - Years 7 & 8

Sunday 1 August - Class 5 Girls Day with Jane Bennett

National Tree Planting Day Sunday 1 August 2010

Parent Teacher Interviews - Thursday 5 August 4-9pm (school as usual)

Parent Teacher Interviews - Friday 6 August 8.30am-4.00pm (pupil-free)

9-13 August - Multi-Cultural Week

Wednesday 18 August - Boite School Chorus (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)

Tuesday 24 August - Year 9 Information Evening 7.00pm at CSC (NEW DATE)

Friday 27 August - Music Concert at Phee Broadway Theatre

Spring Festival - Wednesday 15 September - school

Combined Kindergarten Spring Festival - Thursday 16 September

**College Review Days - Thursday 16 and Friday 17 September - No School**

### **CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS**

20-23 July -Year 8 City Camp

30 Aug - 2 Sept - Class 5 Camp to Wyperfeld National Park

11-15 October Year 8 Rafting Camp at Mitchell River

15-17 November - Class 4 Kangaroo @ Princetown

29 Nov -3 Dec - Year 8 Wilson's Prom Camp

### **CLASS MEETINGS (AT 7.30PM UNLESS ANOTHER TIME IS ARRANGED)**

Prep: Thu 26 August

Class 1: Wed 8 Sept

Class 2: TBA

Class 3: Mon 6 Sept

Class 4: Thu 9 Sept (family evening)

Class 5: No class meeting this term because of Girls Day

Class 6: Wed 1 Sept

Class 7: Wed 25 August

Class 8: TBA

Castlemaine Steiner School and Kindergarten's fortnightly news

## *SPANISH FIESTA*

*Celebrating Spanish  
in our School*



*Friday 13 August*

*1:00 pm*

*Come for lunch and join the fun!*

### **SPANISH FIESTA! Olé!**

We will be enjoying a Spanish multi-cultural week from 9 - 13 August, and on Friday 13 August our week will culminate in a fiesta here at the school. Everyone will be asked to dress in their best mantillas or sombreros, click their castanets and come to the school to help us celebrate everything Spanish. We would also like anyone who could set up a stall with any kind of Spanish flavour **in the afternoon** to let the office staff know so that we can have our very own Spanish market.

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**Book for Michael Carr Gregg Talk: "Demystifying Adolescence".**

**Tuesday 27 July at 7.00pm.**

**We will now take bookings from families outside the school community. Tell your friends.**

**Bookings may only be made by paying \$15 at the office.**

## From the School Facilitator

**Information Communication Technology (ICT): Finding a way through the dilemmas, making new policy.**

Much has been in the media of late about the importance of parental supervision of children using computers and mobile phones. The rising incidence of trauma and even suicide from cyber-bullying is alarming. Recent information sessions and training options on cyber-safety in this local area have been well supported. Our school is currently upgrading a simple "pod of laptops" for limited use in the Class 7&8 programmes to ensure that students have covered introductory ICT concepts before reaching Year 9 in mainstream or Steiner schools, where there will be an expectation of some ICT literacy. Most families have various levels of access to computers in their homes; most families are using various communication technologies on a daily basis. How is our school responding to these ever changing technologies and skills of many of our students?

The immediacy of technology and deciding on an ICT strategy for a Steiner school requires considerable time and reflection. Getting our ICT Strategy right is essential - it is becoming a top priority management/pedagogical issue. Steiner Education Australia, our umbrella organisation, is developing a general position paper on ICT in Steiner Schools, from which some aspects of this piece is taken. Three starting principles may include:

1. We tend to start with the premise that: *Human communications mediated by digital technology is detrimental to early childhood and primary education.* As a principle then, computers, laptops or other mobile devices are not used in any kindergarten or primary classroom. (but digital cameras are OK on excursions). Another Steiner school might permit a primary teacher to have a laptop in their classroom for administration use. Will we?

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2. *Whatever the benefits of ICT, its implementation in a Steiner school should first and foremost (evoking the oath of Hippocrates) do no harm - psychologically, physically or environmentally.*

As a principle we try to be a low electromagnetic radiation school. Limited mobile phones at school (adults only, not allowed for students) and most of our computer network is hard wired with copper. There is a low power wireless connection for the Class 7&8 laptops.

3. We also remember that: *Digital technology is the anathema of human movement, and especially the two fundamental dynamics in Steiner education - human living speech and Eurythmy.* Therefore as a principle we will maintain our sport and outdoor camps programs as a foil to modern digital life. We will need to place renewed emphasis on Creative Speech and class plays and Eurythmy across the school as a balance to digital technology.

Among many options we will aim for ICT in our education setting to be used constructively by students for:

- Communications,
- Developing ethical and moral practice,
- Searching and researching relevant information,
- Learning how computers and networks work,
- Learning how ICT relates to all areas of learning,

Integrating ICT into Steiner education presents many challenges in terms of scope and sequence, particularly in comparison to National trends being articulated in the government's new national curriculum. In developing the students' ICT programme at our school we start with the question: What qualities are we looking for in an educational ICT environment? These qualities will include using the ICT tool to enhance, not compromise, positive communications between human beings.

I am reminded of the Michael Leunig story in A2 section of the Age (July 10th 2010). After lamenting, as he does so beautifully, about some of the scary and sad things about modern life he recounts meeting a working man in the street who said to Leunig,

"I know your face...I never forget a face, I own nearly 300 racing pigeons and I know each and every one of them by looking at their faces. They're all different".

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Leunig recognised that he was "in the company of a holy man, a man without an Iphone, connected to nature's primal mysteries". I anticipate that our teaching of ICT does not detract from our students' capacities to learn about true human-to-human interactions, the lovely primal mystery of facial recognition. We move on this journey of policy development, with our eyes wide open, our brains and hearts engaged.

## Other Activities this term:

1. **"Spot Check" of the new management model.** It is 12 months since the school embarked formally on the *Facilitated Distributed Leadership Management* model, and we are checking in on progress and effectiveness. Teachers and non-teaching staff and parents are invited to complete a brief survey which will be collated by an external person, Ian Stehlik from Canberra, who assisted the school with the Governance review in 2008. If you would like to provide feedback on your experiences of the mandated management positions, (Administrative and/or Educational mandates) just drop me a line and I will forward the survey questions to you.
2. **Strategic Plan Review;** We continue to work towards reaffirming the strategic directions that the school plans to take over the next five years. Broad statements of direction across seven areas of the school are being developed between now and the end of the year. The seven areas are:
  - (i) GROWTH POTENTIAL (Scale or size of the school)
  - (ii) EDUCATION PLAN (Curriculum priorities or developments, eg, developing the Social and emotional health programme)
  - (iii) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (Engagement with parents and links with the wider community)
  - (iv) TEACHER SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT
  - (v) GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT
  - (vi) FINANCIAL VIABILITY
  - (vii) FACILITIES AND SITE: Maintenance and development

We will invite commentary on these Strategic Direction statements as they are developed in early Term 4.

Deborah Wardle

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**SAFETY IN THE CAR PARK!  
PLEASE SLOW DOWN!! THIS IS ESSENTIAL**

## WINTER BUGS

Please do not spread these winter bugs. Rest at home is the best cure.

## From the Office

### **FEE NOTICES**

Fee notices have been sent out and fees are due on or by 6 August unless you sign a fee agreement form. If you haven't received your statement, please contact the office.

### **DIRECT DEPOSITS**

Annemarie would like to thank all those families who are putting their account codes on their direct payments as this makes it much easier for admin to ensure that your payment goes to the correct account.

### **PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

We will be having Parent Teacher interviews on Thursday 5 August (after school only) and Friday 6 August (all day - no school on that day). Interview appointment sheets are in the foyer for you to fill or, alternatively, phone the office and ask Bea or Jenni to make an appointment for you.

**PLEASE LEAVE TIME BETWEEN INTERVIEWS RATHER THAN BOOKING  
INTERVIEWS ONE AFTER THE OTHER.**

### **EMA**

If you claimed in the first half of the year and you still have a Health Care Card, you don't need to claim again. If you have a child in Prep-Year 8 and you have just received a HCC, please pick up a claim form from the office to claim for the second half of the year. Forms must be returned by **6 August**.

### **CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE**

We will also be claiming this allowance for the second half of the year, so please submit forms by **6 August** if you did not claim previously or if you have moved house.

### **MISSING KEY**

The key on our lovely, carved wooden key ring (made especially by Darren to make sure that no one would pocket it by accident) is missing. This is the key to open the Parents Room, the store room, etc. If anyone has it, could you please return it to the office.

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## Maintenance News

Welcome back everyone! We have been immersed in various projects over the holidays, developing the aesthetics and safety of the grounds. The class 1 yard has received a lovely new fence, the shape of which reminiscently mimics the interesting building roofline! The fence design is aimed at keeping the focus and interest of the children within the yard, and less distracted beyond it. Planting along the fence line will add to this. Which reminds me- we are approaching ideal planting time. Perfect Working Bee community sharing, hands in the soil, laughing, shoulder rubbing stuff. I'll get some dates together for the next Penny, but first, Thank You!! to the dynamic Class 1 Parents and children for the chook yard and renovation works to the mudbrick cubby. Beautiful work! We have a wealth of creative, interesting, community here. If you have any ideas on developing our school and grounds to reflect these qualities, you're most welcome to contact me.

Please be careful and drive slowly in the school, and please don't park on the oval. There is more parking space on Rilens Road, out the front of the school, and a lovely walking track in.

I wish you a safe and happy term 3.  
Love and "site management". Peter.

## Craft News

*Buttons and patches and the cold wind blowing,  
The days go fast when I am sewing.....*

Craft group would like to invite all wool wizards and felting fairies to the new venue. We will be meeting in a new location to make room for the growing Playgroup family.

Ordinary folk and new families are especially welcome.

Bring along projects from home or join in preparations for the Spring Fair stall.

We will continue to meet at the same time, 9.30am till 11.30am on Mondays.

Please contact Felicity for further details and our new address.

Phone: 0408 837 079 Email: fa\_lockwood@hotmail .com

## Wattle Kindergarten News

Welcome back to Term 3. I hope everyone is refreshed after the holidays. I had a wonderful time at the Kolisko Conference in New Zealand.

We have some farewells and welcomes: We will see Orlando "through the fence" and wish him well as he joins Prep. Emma and Angus are moving back to Melbourne and will be missed by us all. We wish them well. Ben McConachy is joining us each day now, and this week we have a visitor, Flynn.

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On Wednesday 3 August there will be no Kindergarten as it is Parent/Teacher interviews day. Please put your name against a time that suits you on the list at the Kindergarten. On Thursday 5 August at 7.15pm for 7.30pm we have a combined Kindergarten evening, with Rob (Class 5 teacher), who will speak about the temperaments. Please try to come. Our Spring Festival will be a combined festival with the Banksia Group, and will be on Thursday 16 September, so we will have an extra day that week - please mark it in your diary now.

We look forward to a busy and happy term.

Love from Dorothy and Helen

PS: Ring-a-Rosie starts on Monday afternoon, 26 July, so we will share our room with more children.

## Banksia Kindergarten News

*King Winter sits on his mountain throne  
He spreads icy coldness all over town  
Over the tree tops down on the grass  
All sparkling white as King Winter moves past.*

Welcome back to Term 3!

On Thursdays we will be doing some warm winter baking.....rye currant buns which will then be served with butter for our morning tea.

Please remember to bring back sleeping sacks on our first day tomorrow.

NB. Parent teacher interviews will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August, please book a time at the office (THERE WILL BE NO KINDER THAT DAY).

I am looking forward to seeing everyone tomorrow as I emerge from my winter cave.

With love,  
KerryAnne

## Prep News

*We are the little gnomes,  
We live in earthy homes.  
We trip and trap along the tracks,  
With gold and silver in our sacks.*

Welcome to term 4. I hope that everyone enjoyed a restful holiday and that all the coughs and colds of last term have gone.

We are very pleased to welcome Orlando to Prep this term and look forward to having lots of fun and sharing many special times with him.

Warm coats and hats will be needed for outside play this term, also please ensure your child has a change of clothes in their locker.

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I hope that you enjoyed sharing your child's report book with them. Please return them to school so that I can continue to add to them over the next two terms.

We will not be having regular hot lunches every Wednesday this term, but Debbie does have some special treats planned for us. A note will go home.

Don't forget to fill in a time for Parent/Teacher meetings - the sheets are outside the office.

It was lovely to see all the children today and to watch how easily they settled into their play.

I am looking forward to a very enjoyable term.

Love Heather

## Class Four News

Welcome back to school after our much-needed winter break. I hope that you and your family were able to recuperate and enjoy some lovely family time. The middle week saw me enjoying sunny Hobart for a few days, which I so appreciated.

Term 3 will be a busy one. The children will have their long-awaited animal projects to complete, more Norse stories, culminating in our class play (possibly in week 7), and we will be studying fractions, as well as continuing local geography and history with Viv.

I will send further details as the term progresses.

Warm wishes, Mary

## Class Five News

Welcome back to you all. I hope you've had a lovely holiday.

After having been on the Ganges and the Mekong River, we have now turned our attention to the river Nile. For four weeks we will study the fascinating world of ancient Egypt.

Later this term we will go on camp to Wyperfeld National Park. Details will follow, but you can put the dates in your diaries: 30 August - 2 September.

Love Rob

## Class Six News

Welcome back! I hope your holidays were wonderful.

Along with others from our school, I spent an inspiring week at a Steiner Teachers' Conference during the break and have come back re-invigorated about our wonderful curriculum.

Diana

## Class Seven News

Kia ora! We had a wonderful time in New Zealand at the Kolisko Conference. It was very cold and frosty but with lots of warm hearts and smiles.

Chemistry is our first main lesson this term, with Wayne.

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Walks on Wednesday mornings will require waterproof shoes, gloves, scarves and coats please.

Welcome back to Term 3,

Love Ann

## Class Eight News

Welcome back everyone! We're looking forward to a very busy term, starting this week with a four-day camp. We are in Melbourne, staying at a Melbourne University College, visiting the Old Melbourne Gaol, skating at the new Icehouse, seeing Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors", and much more.

The Year 9 Information Evening will be held at 7.30pm on 24 Tuesday August at the Senior campus of the Castlemaine Secondary College.

John

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## **National Tree Planting Day - Friday 30 July (Week 2 Term 3)**

The whole school will be planting indigenous plants and we would love lots of parents to help, please let your class carer know if you can help for all or any of the times.

8.45-9.30am Classes 8 and 3

9.30-10.15am Classes 7 and 2

10.15-11am Classes 6 and 1

11.30-12.15pm Class 4

12.15-1pm Class 5

Any queries call Lisa 54722216 or accost her in the garden!

**Castlemaine Steiner School and Kindergarten's fortnightly news**

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## Music news

Many students from Victorian Steiner schools (including ours) attended the State Music Camp during the holidays. Congratulations to those from our school who attended, including Ruby Huzzey, Lilly Hayes (Cl 7) and Ruby Shirres (Cl 5). Of special note was having Ruby Shirres being given a conductor's award for outstanding contribution to the orchestra.

We also should mention Indi Phillips, Year 10, originally of our school was in the top orchestra playing four movements of Mahler, Symphony No. 4.

Music Team

## Parents & Friends

### FABULOUS FOOD FROM LOES & KRIKKE

#### Wednesday 28th July 2010 menu

- Winter vegetable soup \$5 a serve
- Spinach-ricotta balls in tomato sauce with polenta \$12 a serve
- Homemade focaccia bread with herbs from our garden \$4.50 ( one bread is 300grams)
- Homemade biscuits with Belgian chocolate \$4.50 for 100gram

You can order by sending us an e-mail [Loes.krikke@gmail.com](mailto:Loes.krikke@gmail.com) or text message 0421 425 663.

Soup for the children can be ordered and paid for at the office of the school.  
You can pick up your take away order from 3.15pm in the kitchen (parents room) at the school.

**Bring plenty of containers!!!**

### **PRIMARY SCHOOL CHESS TOURNAMENT**

Harry Poulton is organising the inter Primary School Chess Tournament for the Shire. Does anyone want to be in a team to represent our school? Please contact Bea, Jenni or Ines in the office.

## Spring Fair News

Here we are in the depths of winter, so I figure it is a great time to start preparing for (or at least thinking about) a fabulous Spring Fair! Which is on Saturday 6 November.

Winter is such a wonderful time to sit around the fire in the evenings and make small items for the children's tent, or clean out the children's toy box for all those bits and pieces that make great treasures for the fishing dip. Or, if you are really chilly, perhaps come and warm up by doing some weeding in our school garden on a Tuesday morning and help beat the spring onslaught of weeds!

The general feedback that we received at the end of last year was that the majority of parents liked the system where they got to vote on which activity they would like to be involved in. Many parents enjoyed working and meeting parents from other classes and it was a great way for new families to be introduced to the school community

The Spring Fair this year will run the same way. With you getting to vote on which activity you would like to be involved in. It is always great to get feedback that is not all about the positives, so please let me know if you think otherwise

In the next fortnight the nomination sheets for which activity you would like to be involved in will be sent out. Please fill it in and return it as soon as possible so that we can get the working groups on their way.

For all the new parents, a clear explanation will be attached to your nomination sheet. Either your class carer or Deb T will also be available at some of the class meetings this term to give a quick run down of how it all works. If you need to know anything before this time please do not hesitate to call me or email.

Debbie Taylor

For all feedback or enquiries regarding Spring Fair please contact Debbie Taylor 0414 814 993 or email at [debbietaylor@iprimus.com.au](mailto:debbietaylor@iprimus.com.au)

## Community News

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

### **URGENT : ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED FOR NEW SCHOOL FAMILY!!**

Temporary accommodation needed urgently for a new family to this area. They are buying a house here, but it is not yet available. If you can help, please ring Kerry or Daniel on 5336 4247 or 0411 262 818. Any 'roof' considered!

### **WANTED TO RENT**

We are looking for a warm, comfortable family home to rent, somewhere accessible to the school but within a 10km or so radius would be fine. We need at least 3 bedrooms, with a space that can be used as a study/office. We would prefer to be out of town with a large yard or acreage. Please call Julie on 5476 2693 or email [julie.tisdale@gmail.com](mailto:julie.tisdale@gmail.com)

### **Two Workshops being offered by the GOTAFE Regional Academy of Dramatic Arts**

Jan Russ (casting director and assistant producer) will conduct a Screen-Testing Workshop on **Saturday 7 August** in Benalla, and John Wood (actor) will conduct a Film and TV Acting masterclass in Benalla on **Saturday 2 October**. Information and registration on 1300 468 233.

### **BUSINESS FOR SALE**

Great opportunity to own a beautiful, successful, eclectic country store - stocking a wide range of goods including a range of Steiner products. The shop is situated in the picturesque Upper Yarra region. Call Natalie to arrange a visit on 0409 989 251 or view online brochure at [www.upperyarrabusinessforsale.com.au](http://www.upperyarrabusinessforsale.com.au)

### **YOGA NINJAS IN YOUNG PEOPLE**

Barbara has 30 years' experience in teaching health and fitness to children and adults. Since 2003 Barbara has been teaching Pilates and Yoga and has a passion in sharing the fun of yoga with children and teachers.

Classes for Term 3: 13 July - 13 September, Fees \$120 (unwaged \$100)

On Wednesdays 3.40pm: 7-11 years; 4.45pm 12 years plus at Holistic Balance Centre, 16a Lyttleton St, Castlemaine Contact: Barbara Harry, 4570 6922, Aust. Yoga Inst, "RYTA 200", RCYT Level 1.

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## **Myste presents Winter Sound Journeys® at Castlemaine Steiner School**

Sound Journeys, the sacred music improvisations Myste offer, are powerful collective experiences during which you are immersed in the frequency of gongs tuned to the planets, singing bowls, flutes, drums and gentle percussions. Lying down or seated, after an energetic connection to the circle, all you need to do is relax and allow yourself to receive. Each evening is different, tuned to the energy of the season and to each group, opening the way for you to access the regenerative theta and delta brainwaves and experience an increasing sense of Peace. **Cost: \$20 per person. Bookings are essential for the Sound Journeys as places are limited.**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July (6-8pm)**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August (10am-12pm)**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August (6-8pm)**

## **Need a babysitter?**

Mature Year 8 Steiner student, Maria Moore, is available to babysit. \$7 per hour for first child and \$1 per hour for each extra child.

Phone 54705582

## **CHILDREN'S POTTERY CLASSES - IN CASTLEMAINE**

Thursdays, 6 sessions starting 5 August, \$120 including all materials. Experienced potter and qualified teacher. Contact Danielle Barclay on 0413 816 152/54289 383 or

[danbarclay9@gmail.com](mailto:danbarclay9@gmail.com)

## **MUCKLEFORD CRICKET CLUB**

The club is looking for cricketers (aged 10+ for the under 13 or under 16 sides) for the 2010/2011 season. Beginners welcome. See the website on

<http://muckleford.cricketvictoria.com.au> or contact Brett Cole, 0439 882765 or Steve Comte, 0400 929609

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**Mount Alexander Volunteer Network presents community training sessions in:**

**Food handlers**

- Castlemaine on 30<sup>th</sup> July; 9.30am - 12.30 pm
- Taradale on 13<sup>th</sup> August; 6.30pm - 9.30pm
- Newstead on 20<sup>th</sup> August; 9.30am - 12.30 pm

**Level 2 First Aid** - Also called "Senior First Aid" mHLTFA301B

With funding assistance from the Mount Alexander Shire Council's Community Grants program, the Mount Alexander Volunteer Network is able to provide you subsidised First Aid training. Delivered by Carol Waddington of CHIRP, this Level 2 First Aid training will be delivered in both day, night & weekend sessions throughout September.

Only \$30 per person (includes \$5 amenities fee) Limited places: register now

**BOOKINGS FOR ALL TRAINING SESSIONS:** [mavn@cch.org.au](mailto:mavn@cch.org.au) Tele: 0425 323 005

## **WINTER COLD SNAP INCREASES RISK OF ASTHMA**

Tips for managing the winter chills:

- Try and keep the inside and outside temperature as uniform as possible in the home since sharp drops in temperature can trigger asthma. The same principle applies to the heater in the car.
- Get your doctor to review your child's asthma regularly and update their Asthma Action Plan, especially before winter.
- Flu vaccination: Australian immunisation guidelines recommend that people with severe asthma (asthma that results in frequent admissions to hospital) should have a flu vaccination annually.
- Stock up on any asthma medications that your child may need during winter. At the first sign of a cold/virus follow the written Asthma Action Plan given to you by your child's doctor.
- If you have central heating, clean the ducts before you turn on the heater for winter.
- Exercise in the warmer part of a winter's day.
- Always carry your blue reliever medication with you.