

The Penny Newsletter

Term 1 week 1

Wednesday 3 February 2010

Can I expand my soul
That it unites itself
With cosmic Word received as seed?
I sense that I must find the strength
To fashion worthily my soul
As fitting raiment for the spirit.

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

PLEASE NOTE PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEW DATES IN TERM 2

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 29 April 4pm-9pm

Parent Teacher Interviews Friday 30 April 8.30am-3.30pm

Open Day - Wednesday 19 May

Queen's Birthday Holiday - Monday 14 June

Winter Solstice Festival - Friday 18 June (evening)

CLASS MEETINGS

Wednesday 10 Feb - Class 1 Meeting at 7.30pm

Wednesday 10 Feb - Class 6 Meeting at 7.30pm

Wednesday 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

Thursday 11 March - Class 4 Meeting at 7.30pm

Monday 15 March - Class 3 Meeting at 7.30pm

Wednesday 24 March - Class 8 Meeting at 7.30pm

From the School Facilitator

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL - Appreciation

For each journey we undertake we can hopefully consciously enjoy their three stages: the preparation, the travelling itself and then the memories. As we start the journey into this school year may we reflect on all that we have done to prepare ourselves and our children, may we take many moments to just appreciate the experience of being here and then will come the remembering of the learning and adventures. Taking time for each of these reflections will hopefully heighten our sense of appreciation, our capacity to be conscious of the joys and hardships of the journey. Having heard the stories of staff who have travelled to less fortunate countries, town and schools, than our own over the Summer holidays and have seen the humble appreciation of simple gifts of wool or pencils, I am struck by the importance of being thankful and full of appreciation. As we start the journey of the school year together may we remain generous of spirit, clear in our thinking and communication and full of appreciation of the many opportunities that our school community offers. I welcome everyone to a calm and contented year of learning together in our school community.

As in the simple anecdote shared at the first assembly, may we strive to be more like Gandhi; if we lose one slipper, may we cast off the other so that someone else may enjoy and benefit from the pair. We all welcome the new staff and the continuing staff members to their new roles. I particularly welcome new families to the school and remind them that there is never such a thing as a silly question. Always ask rather than remain puzzled. Enjoy the year ahead. And now some other reminders.

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.

Car park safety: As usual we remind everyone to drive at walking pace only on the driveway and to only park in the outside loop of the car park. Always use the footpaths around the car park and never walk with children across the driveway. Your safety and consciousness will ensure minimal risks of accidents.

Emergency Management Plan: Please remember that we shall notify you if the school is required to close on a Code Red (Catastrophic) day in this region. You must ensure that your contact details are up to date so that we can contact you in any emergency.

Once the final decision to close is confirmed, at 12 noon the day prior, this decision will **not change** - regardless of any changes in the weather forecast. This will help limit confusion and help your family plan for how your children will be cared for when their school, kindergarten or child

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care centre is closed.

The direct link to the service closure list is:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/bushfires/closure/serviceclosures.htm>

Advice will be provided to you directly by the school / kindergarten. When a school or children's service is closed for bushfire, **no staff will remain on site.**

SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN SATISFACTION SURVEYS

Thank you to all those who completed the online survey or the hard copy parent satisfaction surveys. These are being collated and a summary will be made available in the near future. The feedback from these surveys is greatly appreciated as we continue to improve the quality of education and quality of organisation that this school strives for.

CONGRATULATION TO OUR YEAR 12 GRADUATES

2009 was the first year that our first cohort of Class 8 graduates completed year 12 studies. We are delighted that four of our 2005 Class 8 student were in the over 90s in their ENTER score and that all who applied were offered places at university. Several students are taking a GAP year, with a view to travelling in 2010 and commencing tertiary students in 2011. We congratulate the individuals and families who have moved from our school so successfully into the wider world of study and work.

Best wishes

Deborah Wardle

School Facilitator

Hot Weather Policy: The College would strongly encourage parents to ensure the children attend the Main lesson and the Practice lessons after recess during the exceptionally hot days of summer. However, we would be very happy if you are able to collect children at 1.00pm on days which are **38 degrees and over.**

Teachers will keep students inside on these days during lunch and recess.

From the Office

WANTED - A BAKER!

We celebrate staff birthdays by sharing a birthday cake in the staff room. Thank you to Carmela Leone who baked many delicious cakes for us, and thank you to other parents who have baked for us in the past. Carmela can't provide birthday cakes this year, and we are looking for someone (who must have an ABN) to bake for us for all staff birthdays. We pay \$20/cake and you can invoice the school.

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.

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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.

NEWSLETTERS

The Penny is our school newsletter. We have a full Penny every fortnight on a Wednesday, **and the deadline is the day before, Tuesday, at morning drop-off (by 9.00am)**. Ads can be put in the Penny, but should be kept short (preferably no more than two lines and a heading). **WE WILL PUT THEM IN THE PENNY IF WE HAVE ROOM**. Business ads must be paid for - \$5 for a small ad. Cost for longer ads can be negotiated. When we don't have a full Penny, we have a short reminder note, the Penny Farthing. We do not put ads in the Penny Farthing - only school notes and memory joggers about school matters.

FORMS

We have the usual beginning-of-year forms to fill out, which were sent out with fee notices. We will put out a school telephone tree as soon as possible. Please let us know if you do not want your telephone number to appear on our phone tree, which will be distributed to all school families.

EMA

Forms to be picked up from the office, because not everyone will need one, are:

EMA: Paid to Health Care Card Holders, for children in Prep to Year 8. Information about EMA was sent out with the fees. Forms can be picked up from the office (or be emailed).

SCHOOL START BONUS VOUCHERS

If you have a child starting in either Prep or Class 7 this year, you should have cashed the School Start Bonus Voucher you received at the end of last year. If you have lost your voucher, please see Bea at the office.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE (PREP TO YEAR 8)

- Conveyance Allowance forms were sent out with the fee notices. We would like a new Conveyance Allowance form from everyone this year. If we don't receive a claim form, we will not claim the conveyance allowance for you.
- Everyone who travels on the school bus should have filled in a Bus Conveyance Allowance. The Conveyance Allowance for children on the bus comes to the school and covers the cost of the bus.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON 26th FEBRUARY.

Music News

Hi Everyone!

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All the music teachers are looking forward greatly to being, working, playing and singing with your wonderful children in their music lessons this year! We have a full program of concerts, soirees and events planned for you and your families. Our lesson timetables are being "fine tuned" over this first week and should be settled by week two. Teachers will let the children know as soon as possible when to bring instruments for lessons. Ensemble times, however, are set out below. All instruments need to be brought on the appropriate day for class ensemble.

Class 7/8 strings - Monday
Class 7/8 multi-instrumental - Monday
Class 4 ensemble - Wednesday
Class 5 ensemble - Thursday
Class 6 ensemble - Friday

Carl Pannuzzo will be taking both junior choir and senior choirs on Wednesday mornings.
Lots of love to you all from the Music Team:
Leonie, Jeanette, Andrew, Libby, Carl and Darren

Maintenance News

Welcome back everyone, the school buildings and grounds are looking great thanks to a dedicated team over the break! Various painting and varnishing work, extension to the craft room, gardening and plant climbing support on the Eurythmy building have all enhanced our beautiful grounds. Also, the Class 1 parents have already had a working bee to freshen their area for the year, including demolition of the old fowl yard (in preparation for a new one) and an extension of the sandpit!

The colourful flags flying over our school sign were sewn by Jenni in the office. Jenni is obviously settling well in to Steiner rhythm - she has sewn different coloured flags to be changed with the seasons!

Thanks everyone who has helped maintain and develop the lovely physical environment for our children, especially the generous volunteer work done by parents and friends who are the key to such a beautiful school community!

Enjoy 2010!

Love and maintenance, Peter

Parents & Friends Library News

Welcome to 2010 and the second year of the P&F Library! This is now located in the Parents Room and is open on Monday mornings immediately after Assembly. We anticipate more opening times when more volunteers are on board.

Membership is \$10 per year which entitles the membership cardholder to borrow one book for 3 weeks. MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2010 ARE NOW DUE - PLEASE PAY AT THE OFFICE.

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BOOK RETURNS

All books borrowed last year are due to be returned by Monday 8 February. Please return them either directly to the P&F Library after Assembly or to the office at any time during school hours.

Happy reading!

Kerry Anne Armstrong
(P&F Library Volunteer)

Kindergarten News

*In the Summer garden
Where we singing go
Light is flowing, glowing, flowing
Where the roses grow.*

A warm welcome to all our Kindergarten children and families! It has been lovely to meet you all at our recent orientation visits last Friday-Monday. We have many children coming on from Ring-a-Rosie last year, plus many new children. Several families are completely new to the area - a special welcome to you as you settle in to your new homes.

This year we have two Kinder groups - "Wattle" with Dorothy (teacher) and Helen (assistant) on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday, and "Banksia" with KerryAnne (teacher) and George (assistant) on Thursdays (full day), and Fridays. Please pay careful attention to your child's "transition times" for the first 2-3 weeks - these details were sent to you recently and have been designed to enhance a smooth start for the children.

Children will need a broad-brimmed hat (clearly labelled with the child's name), secure and comfortable footwear, and a piece of fruit each session.

A handbook for parents is currently being prepared and we anticipate distributing this to all kinder families within the next few weeks. Meanwhile we look forward to our Kinder days together.

With love, Dorothy and Kerry Anne

PS: Do any Prep families have Kindergarten washing still to return?

Prep News

*Good morning dear Earth.
Good morning dear Sun.
Good morning dear stones
And flowers every one.
Good morning dear beasts
And birds in the trees.
Good morning to you
And good morning me.*

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A very warm welcome to Prep to all the children and their families. We especially welcome Harriet, Imoo and Ziggy who were not with us in Kinder. Many of the children visited Prep on Tuesday in preparation for our first day on Wednesday. I am looking forward to a wonderful year with your children.

We will begin the year with a summer morning circle, with songs and verses about the beach, sailing in boats, mermaids and shells. Our first story will be about Sandy the Gnome. Sandy leaves his cave home, high in the rocky cliffs, by the sea to build a new sand cave home. But Sandy misses the beautiful crystal treasures that "shone like stars in the night sky" in the walls of his old cave. The children will tell you if Sandy's wish comes true.

Please remember two pieces of fruit each day and sunhats and spare clothes. Also please remember to ring me or see me after school if there is anything at all you wish to discuss.

Love, Heather

Class One News

How beautifully our Class 1 children came into their very first morning Assembly on Tuesday, accompanied by their Class 8 assistants! This is such an important milestone and one that will be long remembered. The group is settling in well and are very eager to start their learning journey.

Love, Anne

Class Two News

Welcome back! How the children have grown! We had a very lively and busy day with many stories to tell. It is good to be back! All this term we will look at Native American stories. Our first main lesson will be a language lesson, followed by a Maths main lesson and a short 2-week block on the "Song of Seven Herbs". This Friday Michael Coles will come into the class to make a drum for us.

Please make sure to come to our class meeting on Thursday evening 24 February. I will give a detailed whole year update on that night.

Thanks to everybody who remembered to bring feathers, broom handles and blankets for the rest time (what could we be doing?).

Many thanks, too, for the welcoming Morning Tea organized by our class carers for new, incoming, Class 1 parents.

Take care, Dagmar

Class Three News

Welcome back to all our wonderful families. We look forward to another great year. I'll be sending home a note with various dates soon.

Warm wishes, Lyn

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Class Four News

Here we are in Class 4, the oldest class on 'this side of the school'. The children and I are appreciating how far we have come in our growing and learning. A poignant reminder was seeing our new class 1 at our Monday Assembly, accompanied so sensitively and reverently by our Class 8 senior students. With the privileges of Class 4 come responsibilities. This week we are reflecting on our learning hopes and goals for the coming year and working together to establish agreements and rules to help us achieve these. Welcome back to all the children and their families and a special welcome to Gabriel Thomas and Annie, Gabriel's mum, to our class community and school. A class letter will be sent home next week to outline plans and give diary dates for the year. Best wishes for the new school year.

Love, Mary

Class Five News

I hope you all had a wonderful break and are back refreshed and with new energy. What a great start to the new year we've had! We all love our new room; the space, the kitchen, the light, the lockers and of course the exciting new epoch. All this term will be coloured by the myths and culture of India, and colourful it will be! We want to start every day with a routine of verses, yoga exercises, meditation and music before we engage in our study of the stories and cultural features of India. Some people have already brought in Indian things to share with our class - if you have anything that might contribute to our work, please come and see me.

We received a lovely thank you letter from the Dieu Giac orphanage in Ho Chi Minh City. They were absolutely delighted with our donation (nearly AU\$700) and gifts. And the Kinder children and teachers did some songs and dances to say thank you (see photo below). It was a wonderful experience.

Love, Rob



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Class Six News

Happy New Year and Happy Return to School! I hope your children all received letters from me prior to school beginning - if they didn't please send me a note! We have had a really excellent start to Class 6 today, and I hope you can make it to our Class Meeting next week, Wednesday 10 February at 7.30pm, in our classroom because there is much to talk about re plans for the year. Best wishes, Diana

Class Seven News

A wonderful start back to 2010 with a wonderful group of children. Welcome to Katie, Charlie and James and their families, who have joined us this year.

We had a great first French lesson with Rebecca - thank you - and we have started looking at Medieval Life and Times. The students are very carefully creating beautiful lettering in their books.

Cheers, Ann

Class Eight News

Welcome back everyone to a very exciting year which will see the implementation of a very innovative and enriched Senior School program involving classes 7 & 8.

Class 8 is a huge year by itself and it is great to see the way the students are already growing into the challenges of the Year 8 Major project and anticipating our production of 'A Midsummer Nights Dream' scheduled for Term 4. We will also be going on many camps in what will be a very full outdoor ed. program.

I would like to acknowledge all the Class 8 students for the poise and sensitivity they displayed throughout Tuesday's assembly as they assisted the new Class 1 students to attend their first assembly in which they were welcomed into the larger school community. Their quiet, mature and reassuring composure was a great credit to them all and contributed to the assembly being such a meaningful event for the Class 1 students, their parents and indeed the whole school, so thanks and well done.

May I also take this opportunity to welcome Ari and his family to the school and also to welcome Ruby back into the fold.

John

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 9.15 am in the

Castlemaine Steiner School and Kindergarten's fortnightly news

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Playgroup house. Both beginners and experienced crafters will be much appreciated.

At the first meeting on Monday the 8th February we will be talking about project ideas. Even if you can't come regularly your input will be welcome. Bring along your thoughts and/or examples of things we could make.

We may also have a couple of sessions for specific projects at group members' houses. We'd love to hear from any crafters (knitting, crochet, sewing, embroidery, wet or dry felting, dollmaking, woodwork etc) who would like to share their skills for one of these occasions.

Lyned Isaac

ph 5472 3554

T-Shirts

Target have plain T-shirts on special for \$2.30 right now. All sizes.

Wanted- Family Day Carers

I currently work doing FDC in Castlemaine and am writing this to encourage other parents into the field! It is a flexible job. You can choose the days, hours and children that suit. An FD carer may have up to 4 pre-school children and 3 after school children (your own children will count towards these numbers), in their care. I have found that within the School community there is a need for this type of care and of course from the general community as well. If you would like any further information, please feel free to contact me, Sally Foran 54706241, for a chat, or you can talk to the FDC co-ordinator Ayesha Mckewan on 54723665.

GERMAN VOLUNTEER

Jan has been a very welcome and enjoyable house-guest in all the homes he has stayed in so far. There are places available in first term and some of second and third term. If you would like to have Jan come and stay for a while (usually half a term, more or less) then book in quick as there have been quite a few expressions of interest. Phone Lisa Minster on 54723503.

Pancake Tuesday - 16 February 2010

We like to celebrate Shrove Tuesday by sharing a pancake breakfast from 8.00am onwards. We will provide tea, coffee, milk and sugar for the breakfast. Can everyone please bring some pancake mix for their own family. We will meet at the pizza oven.

Class Carers: We do have school barbecues, but please try to find one family in your class who could bring in a barbecue, if possible, so that we don't have too many people waiting for the pancakes to be cooked. Also, try to find someone with lemons to contribute. Anyone who wants to bring jam or other toppings is welcome to bring that too. **We look forward to seeing everyone there. This is a great chance for the community to get together, and for new families to be welcomed to the school.**

Community News

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

HOUSE TO LET IN CASTLEMAINE

Three bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large living area, garden. \$270 per week. Contact Jan Gardner 0439 071184.

ART SPACE WANTED

Powered studio or workspace, minimum size 100 square metres within 10kms of Castlemaine Post Office. Please call Kelly on 0434 159 420

RELATIONSHIP EVOLUTION RETREAT

Castlemaine, 13-14 February

The retreat is for those wanting to improve their relationships with others and the world around them. Special discount price available to Steiner community members for this retreat.

Phone Jim or Lisa - 54723503

www.absoluteself.org

SPHERES OF EXPERIENCE - DYAD EVENING

We are pleased to announce that dyad evenings will start up again this year. This is an exciting opportunity for anyone wanting to

FREE TO GOOD HOME

Free to a good home - one very CUTE WHITE rabbit. Named "CYBER" - he could be good on the keyboard! Not yet house trained, but then anything is possible. Phone Oli Wardle in the evenings 5472-1008.

SOULSONG - The Jerusalem Ensemble will perform a unique musical event composed from the Book of Psalms and Sufi poet Rumi. Specially dedicated to peace in the Middle East. **AT DAYLESFORD TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY AT 7.30PM**
TICKETS \$15 OR \$10 (CONC)