

The Penny Newsletter

Term 2 week 9

Wednesday 9 June 2010

Within my being's depths there speaks-
Intent on revelation
The cosmic word mysteriously:
Imbue your labour's aims
With my bright spirit light
To sacrifice yourself through me.

From The Calendar of the Soul by Rudolf Steiner

Castlemaine Steiner School & Kindergarten
cnr Rilens Road & Pyrenees Hwy Castlemaine
PO Box 473 Castlemaine Vic 3450

enquiries@castlemainesteinerschool.com.au (General Office)

admin@castlemainesteinerschool.com.au (School Facilitator)

bookkeeper@castlemainesteinerschool.com.au (Financial Enquiries)

www.castlemainesteinerschool.com.au

03 54706 235 fax 03 54706 237



Castlemaine Steiner School and Kindergarten's fortnightly news

The Penny Newsletter

Calendar of Events 2010 Term Dates

TERM TWO

Tuesday 13 April - Friday 25 June

Queen's Birthday Holiday - Monday 14 June

Winter Solstice Festival - Friday 18 June (evening)

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

Sunday 1 August - Class 5 Girls Day with Jane Bennett

National Tree Planting Day Sunday 1st 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)

Spring Festival - Wednesday 15 September

College Review Days - Thursday 16 and Friday 17 September

CLASS MEETINGS TERM 2 2010 (at 7.30pm)

Class 3: Monday 21 June

Banksia Kindergarten: Thursday 10 June

CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS

10 June - Year 7 Mosque/Melbourne Excursion

15 June - Classes 3 & 4 Werribee Open Range Zoo

18 June - Year 8 Bendigo Art Gallery excursion

20-23 July -Year 8 City Camp

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 7: Thursday 10 June - Visit to Mosque and St Patrick's Cathedral

Class 3&4: Tuesday 15 June - Visit to Werribee Zoo

Next Monday 14 June is the Queen's Birthday holiday - no school.

From the School Facilitator

Thinking about Thinking

A strength which emerges from the long term teacher-student relationship in Steiner schools is the slow and gradual development of "meta-cognition" or skills in "thinking about thinking". Meta-cognition includes:

- Developing an awareness of one's own learning processes
- Monitoring one's own learning strategies and assessing their effectiveness
- Consciously managing one's own motivation and attitudes toward learning (Weinstein et al, 2000).

This may seem pretty complicated for young children. In reality it's not too bad. **Learning Strategies** "include any thoughts, behaviours, beliefs, or emotions that facilitate the acquisition, understanding, or later transfer of new knowledge and skills" **Self-Regulation** includes monitoring and reflecting on one's learning strategies and their effectiveness and adjusting accordingly. (Weinstein et al, 2000).

For children and young adolescents to experience positive emotions, (such as joy, curiosity, the warmth of companionship, confidence in boundaries, or to be engrossed in the creative expression of music and art) indeed provides a foundation for positive learning strategies and self regulation in children.

In our school, the development of these meta-cognition skills commences with thinking about simple riddles and learning poems and songs in the early years. It culminates in the high level of self-direction and independence called upon in the Class 8 Projects. The capacity to reflect on one's own learning is a life skill which forms foundations for confident transitions later in life to higher education and the workforce. Our Class 8's are currently practising learning skills which will see them well into their next stages of secondary education and beyond.

Fortunately, "thinking about thinking" can be taught, (Lovett, 2008; Weinstein et al., 2000). A person's ability to learn is mutable, not fixed. In fact, understanding this fact alone can have a profound impact on students' learning (Lovett, 2008). Teaching our students to be confident and reflective learners is therefore one of the most valuable skills we can give them. Creating a supportive environment which enables students to practise "thinking about their learning" can improve students' performance and can also improve self confidence in students considered to be at risk (Lovett, 2008; Weinstein et al., 2000).

Providing such a supportive and nurturing learning environment for all students is our strongest endeavour. Students can quickly learn the value of contributing positively to their class dynamic. As parents, we can all support students to understand the joys of learning, by modelling thinking

The Penny Newsletter

about our thinking!

Here is an old favourite riddle. Drop me a line if you can think about the answer!

What am I ?

"Four stiff standers, four dilly danders

Two lookers, two crookers and a wig wag"!! What am I??

References: Lovett, M. (2008). [Teaching Metacognition](#). ([more info](#)) Presentation at the Educause Learning Initiative 2008 annual meeting.

Weinstein, C. E., Husman, J., & Dierking, D. R. (2000). [Self-Regulation Interventions with a Focus on Learning Strategies](#). Chapter 22 in the Handbook of Self-Regulation, M. Boekaerts, P.R. Pintrich & M. Zeidner (eds.), Academic Press, p. 727-747.

Spring Fair Coordinator 2010 - We are delighted to announce that Debbie Taylor has successfully applied to be the 2010 Spring Fair Coordinator. Debbie brings with her a wealth of events organising, an exceptional eye for true community engagement and a wonderful enthusiasm for the task. Debbie will start to contact Class Carers about the Spring Fair programme in the near future. We sincerely thank Debbie for taking on this huge project and urge all the school community to once again raise your mighty wings to pull this glorious event together. The building of strong community spirit remains the greatest motive of this annual celebration.

Administration Advisory Committee: Vacancies. There are still two vacancies on the Administration Advisory Committee. This is a mandated sub-committee of the Board of Directors which meets monthly to discuss and prepare reports to the Board of Directors, covering the three areas of

1. finance reports, 2. staffing and 3. site and building.

The skills and experience important on this committee:

- (i) Finance Skills - familiarity with sound financial management processes;
- (ii) Employment and HR Experience
- (iii) Site and Building development
- (iv) Confidentiality

Expressions of Interest should be addressed to the Board of Directors and received at the school before **Friday 11 June 2010**.

Email contact for the vacancies is via the Company Secretary/School Facilitator: Deborah Wardle at admin@castlemainesteinerschool.com.au

The Penny Newsletter

From the Board of Directors

1. At the recent Board of Directors meeting the revised **Communication Policy** was approved. In essence the new policy articulates the steps for parents and staff members to use when seeking information, raising concerns or complaints, or lodging grievances with the school. The policy makes clear the processes for communications with teaching staff, administration and management staff and with the Board of Directors.

In this policy, the Board expresses the school's interest in transparency and a confidence in receiving and responding to feedback. To quote from the introductory section of the policy:

"Social harmony, health and a positive, creative living environment are the guiding motives for our school policies and rules. A healthy social life is dependent on the cultivation of social responsibility based on individual insight and sound observation and listening skills.

The health of our school community as a whole is reflected in our commitment to clear, open communication and transparency of educational and organizational structures. High levels of professional confidentiality are maintained to ensure confidence in school communications.

The school community seeks to address issues of grievance and conflict in a constructive manner. We acknowledge that the manner of involvement, commitment and communication by parents and staff, have an exemplary and motivating influence on the pupils.

These guidelines are to facilitate the smooth functioning of the school and to assist students, staff and parents to work successfully together. The guidelines complement the regular, informal communications that already take place between members of the school community."

A summary of the guidelines for communicating is being developed for wide distribution across the school community, and any parent wishing to read the full policy may download it from the school website.

2. Spending the 2009 Spring Fair funds: The Board of Directors also approved the following three projects to be funded by the funds raised at last year's and previous Spring Fairs. The list of possibilities was longer than the funds available and were shortened to:

1. Allocations of \$500 per class to Classes from Playgroup through to Class 8 for use in special equipment or furniture, or camps and excursions.
2. Supporting Parent Education activities: such as the coming Michael Carr Gregg talk;
3. Replacing the drama backdrop used in class plays stands which have become broken and damaged.

Thank you sincerely to all who have contributed to the Spring Fairs and enabled these projects to go ahead. Feedback is welcomed for use of future Spring Fair funds. The list can always be added to!

Deborah Wardle
School Facilitator

The Penny Newsletter

Michael Carr Gregg Talk: The school is delighted to welcome this nationally renowned speaker on adolescence to speak at our school on **Tuesday 27 July at 7.00pm** "*Demystifying Adolescence*" will be the topic. We will hear current trends and strategies for supporting young adolescents through these tender and vulnerable years.

Numbers are limited as we will only have the Eurythmy room available. Bookings may only be made by paying the fee of \$15 for the night at the office. The session is targeted particularly at parents of students in Classes 5 to 8.

STAFF CAR PARK

Please remember that the middle area of the car park is for staff only. Please don't park there to drop off and pick up children. Members of staff often have to go to town to collect things and get back at pick up time to find that there is nowhere close to the main buildings to park, which can mean several trips and a lot of walking carrying heavy loads just to empty the car!

From the Office

EDUCATION TAX REFUND

It's almost tax time again, so remember that you can claim eligible education spending this financial year if you receive the Family Tax Benefit Part A.

This amount will be noted on your next statement, no extra documentation will be required, so keep this for your tax return

Eurythmy News

There is no Eurythmy for the remainder of this term as Ros has a shoulder injury.

Wattle Kindergarten News

Thank you to the parents who are helping in the kindergarten. I greatly appreciate this. We are having a busy time getting our lanterns ready for mid winter.

Ben McConachy is visiting us on Tuesdays and we look forward to him joining the group next term.

Look out for the invitation to our festival and walk.

Monday 21 June at 5 pm - Combined lantern walk at the Botanical Gardens.

Wednesday 23 June at 9am - Winter Festival at Kinder, all parents invited. Please wear something white.

The Penny Newsletter

Banksia Kindergarten News

*Jack Frost was in the garden,
When I went out to play
He nipped my toes and fingers
And quickly ran away.*

We are very busy preparing for our Winter Celebrations...making lanterns for our LANTERN WALK to be held on the winter solstice, Monday 21 June, together with the Wattle Kinder Families (more details and song sheet coming home soon), plus...learning songs for our Winter Festival on Friday 25 June (our last day of Term 2).

We also have a busy week for parents coming up:

1. EVENING MEETING AT 7.15PM TOMORROW THURSDAY 10 JUNE IN THE KINDERGARTEN
2. FAMILY PICNIC LUNCH AT THE BOTANICAL GARDENS THIS FRIDAY AFTER KINDER AT 12.30PM. B.Y.O. LUNCH (N.B. WEATHER PERMITTING)

The mornings are cold; warmer slippers are welcome! The gumboots and waterproof coats are much appreciated for outdoor play. Please assist your child to place their belongings tidily on the bag/coat hooks or the verandah as space is a premium. Thank you for your attention to this.

With love - Kerry Anne

Prep News

*Look out; look out Jack Frost is about,
He's after your fingers and toes.
And all through the night, with fingers of white,
He goes where nobody knows.*

We are all enjoying a very special visitor in Prep, Snowy the lamb. He likes to follow us about and play hide-and-seek. All the children are helping to feed and care for Snowy. Snowy will stay with us until the end of term, if you would like to look after him over the weekend, please see me or ring in the evening (54723038).

Please remember to send two pieces of fruit each day - one apple and something else is good.

The Penny Newsletter

An invitation to our Winter Festival will go home today. Please read it carefully. Prep will finish at 12.15pm on the day of the Festival, children will return at 5.20pm. Please remember NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY during the Winter Spiral. I will organise one person to take a photo at the end of the evening and print a copy for each family. I look forward to sharing this very special festival with you.

Love,
Heather

Class Two News

Most of the spider webs with Ida, the magic number spider, have gone home now. This was an interesting main lesson in which the children learned more about multiplication and number patterns. For the rest of the year we will work on learning most of the time tables we have discovered through Ida's many different rainbow coloured webs.

We have begun to study our play: "The Voyage of Mael Duin". Please bring kilts, sashes, brooches or pins to school after the Queen's Birthday long weekend, as well as white tops.

We will show you the play on the last day of school around 10am, followed by a shared morning tea.

Please also be aware of invitations to our Mid Winter Festival coming to you this week.

Take care,
Dagmar

Class Four News

Next Tuesday we are joining with Class Three to visit the Werribee Open Range Zoo as part of our Human and Animal main lesson. So far in our studies, we have looked at the threefoldness of the human body - head, trunk and limbs, and from this basis we are looking at the animal kingdom to see how various animals represent these aspects of the human being. It is very interesting to experience the children's natural curiosity and their connection to the animal kingdom as they share their insights and thoughts about various animals.

Next week, on Friday it's our Winter Festival. Time to create our lanterns for our special lantern procession.

Warm wishes, love, Mary

The Penny Newsletter

Class Five News

The Wonders of *Geometry* came to an end last week. It was hard to give it up. How much we all enjoyed the work jumps off the pages in the students' books. So we have a new main lesson. We've named it *Yiri*, an Aboriginal word for song lines. The rest of this term we will be exploring aspects of the Indigenous people.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Class Meeting and to our little play. And didn't the students again do a wonderful job, performing for the whole school.

A Magic Brocade, indeed.

Love,
Rob

Class Six News

We have spent an intensive couple of weeks revising Maths with "Mary Mac's General Store", and have worked hard with fractions, decimals and percentages. Now Mary Mac is preparing her store to cope with the huge population increase of the Gold Rush to The Golden Triangle and we will have an investigation of the "bones" of our earth, the geology of our area and our ecological responsibilities!

We are also preparing for the Winter Solstice Festival.

See you there!

Love,
Diana

Class Seven News

We are still enjoying exploring Islamic history, culture and art, trying out different foods and listening to many stories. Tomorrow we visit a city Mosque, St. Patrick's Cathedral and will enjoy a Moroccan meal at La Paella.

Our juggling is improving all the time, thanks to Sue Murphy and Chris Curtis for teaching us.

Cheers,
Ann

Class Eight News

Class 8 have been working very hard on their major projects lately and this week each will be giving a full class presentation of their progress to date. This is an important part of the process that will culminate in August when they present them to their families, mentors and special guests.

The Penny Newsletter

Next week they head off to Bendigo to view the McCubbin collection and participate in an "Impressionists" workshop in readiness for the next stage of their art program.

John

Music News

Please! Please! Please!

Each Class bring instruments for ensemble.

Class 7 & 8 - Monday

Class 4 - Wednesday

Class 5 - Thursday

Class 6 - Friday

Please! Please! Please!

Take them all home after ensemble.

Please also remember to take instruments home after lessons.

Also, feel free to contact us at any time, or leave a note and we will contact you.

Carl, Darren, Libby, Leonie, Jeannette and Andrew

Parents & Friends

PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR CHILDREN TO ENSURE YOU RECEIVE AN INVITATION TO THE MID WINTER FESTIVAL ON FRIDAY 18 JUNE.

WANTED - ONE OR TWO WELL-BEHAVED DONKEYS

Donkeys needed for our Spanish Fiesta on 13 August. Please let the office know.

CRAFT GROUP

The parents craft group continue to meet Monday mornings in the playgroup room. We've made good progress with wonderful contributions from everyone and great support by regulars. We are currently working on getting kits out and hope to have these ready soon for the holidays.

NEW CRAFT COORDINATOR NEEDED

Due to personal and family circumstances, I cannot hold the role of co-ordinator anymore. I am happy to continue to support the group as far as possible and even supply enough projects for the rest of the year (if this is wanted). This is a fun role and does not require deep craft knowledge to be effective. Please contact the office if you are interested.

Lyned Isaac

The Penny Newsletter

GARAGE SALE

Class 3 parents held a successful fundraising garage sale last Saturday. It was an enjoyable day and we raised approx \$500 for the class. Many thanks to all who contributed their energy and goods and to all who turned up to buy!

DELICIOUS MENU FOR NEXT WEEK (16/6) from LOES & KRIKKE

Kids lunch - Organic Pumpkin Soup in a Mug with homemade bread \$5

Take Home Menu

Chickpea and cauliflower soup (500ml) \$5

Mushroom risotto burgers and warm lentil salad with seasonal vegetables \$12 per serve

Focaccia \$4.50

Biscuits \$4.50

Community News

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

Organic Hay (\$12) and straw (\$6). Can deliver. Phone John 0427 306717/5462 2228a.h.

THE WELLBUSH VINEYARD OPEN DAY, SUNDAY 4 JULY 2010, 12.00NOON-4.00PM

Lynn and David Wallace invite you to the Wellbush Vineyard Open Day, featuring a string quartet, open fires, bocce, BBQs, antipasto platters, complimentary tastings, BYO picnics welcome. 659 Huntly-Fosterville Rd, Bagshot via Huntly. Ph: 54488515/wellbush@aapt.net.au.

FOR SALE

Yamaha upright piano - Modern - Brown Timber Veneer - Very Good Condition \$1450.00

Phone Louise on 0400614958 or 54721212

GITA-STYLE HATHA YOGA CLASSES now available at Curves in Castlemaine. Well appointed,

warm room. Small groups only, daily sessions all week including lunch times, after school drop off and after work. Strengthen your whole self on all levels nurturing the spirit within. Enquiries welcome. Bookings essential. Vivienne Desmarchelier Ph 5470 5287.

FREE TO GOOD HOME

Labrador border collie cross 3 months old desexed and vaccinated but untrained very smart lovable friendly (owner went interstate) phone Martine 0408196680 or 5472450

The Penny Newsletter

House for Rent - Central Castlemaine

Berkeley St - Easy walk to shops and station. Rent \$270 p.w. Available start of July
3 Bdr (2 double sized with BIRs). Brick veneer: Very clean and comfortable (warm &
cool). Central heating, evap. cooling and ceiling fans. Gas cooking and water. Bath..
Lockable single garage. Decent-sized backyard with good soil for vegies.
Contact Lyned or Michael for further information ph 54723554

ROOM TO SUB-LET

Well appointed, cosy room available. Ideal for meditation groups, massage, study group or
counselling. Good heating and lights. Central location in Castlemaine. Enquiries Vivienne
Desmarchelier ph.5470 5287

BIOGRAPHICAL LIFE-STORY WORKSHOP - seeking expressions of interest.

Over 8 weeks in Term 3. Maximum group number seven. Mondays from 1-3 pm in
Castlemaine. (If time is not suitable I would still like to hear from you for future
possibilities.) Cost \$20 per session. Discover your life patterns and their meaning
through specific readings, personal reflections, group sharing, artistic exercises and
creative writing. We will explore Steiner's laws underlying biographical development and
utilise methodologies for working with 'rhythms and mirror images' in our life-story
based on Gudrun Burkhard's text TAKING CHARGE. It is a therapeutic anthroposophical
approach to understanding life's challenges and making positive meaning of our sense of
soul destiny. It is also an opportunity to deepen our interest, understanding and
compassion for another's journey. Vivienne Desmarchelier Ph 5470 5287

INTERESTED IN LEARNING SPANISH?

A beginners' class is starting next term. 1 Hour class to be held on Tuesday mornings.
For more information call Susana on 54723424 or 0400 060034

ORTHO-BIONOMY TRAINING WEEKEND

Foundation Training Weekend Castlemaine 26-27 June. Phase Four Foundation Class will teach
exercises and techniques to release tension patterns along the spine, shoulders, pelvis and limbs.
Instructor: Zarna Carter. Contact: Julie Luckman 5472 4091 or mobile 0407 838 790.