

penny for your thoughts

term 1 week 1
Wednesday 4 February 2009

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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Please note the new email address, finance@castlemainesteinerschool.com.au, which should be used for any emails regarding fees or financial matters.

2009 Term Dates

Term 1	3 Feb – 3 Apr (NB 2 and 3 April are P/T interview days)
Term 2	21 Apr – 26 June
Term 3	21 Jul – 25 Sept
Term 4	13 Oct – 11 Dec

Dates to remember in Term 1:

- Mon 16 Feb: Whole Staff Mtg.
- Wed 18 Feb: New Parent Orientation
- **Mon 9 Mar: Labour Day – Public Holiday**
- **Tue 10 Mar: Curriculum Day – no school for children**
- Sat 21 Mar: Autumn Equinox
- Wed 1 April: Easter/Harvest Festival
- **Thur 2 and Fri 3 April: Parent/Teacher Days – no school for children**

CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS

Friday 20 March: Class 6 Local excursion

Tuesday 31 March: Class 6 Local excursion

Wednesday 22 April: Class 6 Local excursion

Year 8 Camp: 27 April – 1 May, Wilsons Prom

Class Meetings at 7.30pm unless your child's teacher changes the time.

Kindergarten – **Shared Lunches** on 25 Feb and 11 March

Prep – Thu 26 Feb

Class 1 – Thu 19 Feb

Class 2 – Mon 30 March

Class 3 – Wed 18 March

Class 4 - Mon 23 Feb

Class 5 – Thu 19 March

Class 6 - Wed 11 March

Class 7 – Wed 25 March

Class 8 – Mon 2 March

FROM THE COLLEGE

Welcome back to everyone and a huge welcome to all of our new families, staff and volunteers. The first assembly was beautiful and the singing, as Diana remarked was angelic. Our Class 1's received a warm and wonderful introduction to the 'big' school gatherings. These impressions will linger long in their hearts and minds and indeed for us as well. Such a start to the day can help to sustain us through the hot weather and the demands of our busy lives. New beginnings can never be underestimated!

I have included a small section of the Clothing and the Food Policy as well as a new Hot Weather Policy to clarify, remind and refresh yourselves and the children about our school practices. Please take a moment to read it – I know, I hate lengthy details too but ... Keep this Penny as a reference for the time when your child says ... "We're allowed to wear thongs to school now" or "I can take chips in my lunch now" or something like that, so you can check the policy and reply, very definitely, "No".

Have a terrific week everyone and keep cool!

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.

Clothing Policy:

CLOTHING:

- Appropriate, comfortable, functional and modest clothing is essential. Children must wear shoes appropriate for physical activity and loose fitting attire which allows free movement. Skirts and jeans are NOT appropriate for Sport, Gym or Rock and Water.
- Students' dress should be clean and neat (no torn or ripped clothing or footwear).
- We expect that children refrain from wearing tops which have any visual images, messages or labels larger than the palm of a child's hand. If a child forgets we would ask them to either cover up the image or wear the top inside out.
- Mini skirts are only acceptable if worn with shorts or leggings underneath. 'Short' shorts are only acceptable if worn with leggings underneath.
- Tops must cover the stomach, kidney and chest. Transparent and see-through clothes are not appropriate. Singlet strap tops may be worn inside but shoulders need to be covered outside.
- Trousers must be supported by a belt; underwear should not be exposed.

FOOTWEAR:

- Students must wear shoes outside at all times. Thongs and light sandals are not to be worn to school. For sport sessions children must wear shoes which are appropriate for physical activity.
- Slippers or inside shoes should be brought to school to wear in the school class rooms. Please note these should be plain and functional.

HATS:

- The school hats must be worn at all times outside the classroom during Terms 1 & 2.

We would encourage 'home hats' to be worn at all times before and after school in Terms 1 & 2.

HAIR:

- Hair is to be kept clean and tidy and be tied back off the face and shoulders.
- Dyed hair is not acceptable up to and including Class 6 and should be discreet in years 7 & 8. College discourages the use of chemical dyes.

MAKEUP:

- In classes Prep to 6 inclusive, makeup, *including spray deodorant and perfume*, is not permitted in any form. Children will be expected to remove all makeup and nail polish worn to school. Makeup, including spray deodorant and perfume, *must not* be brought to school by students at ANY year level.
- Classes 7 & 8 may use a *discreet* application of makeup but it *must not* be applied at school.

JEWELLERY:

- Up to and including Class 6 NO jewellery may be worn to school.
- Watches are not to be worn in classes 1 and 2. When children first begin to be able to wear watches in Class 3, we request that they be the analogue (i.e. clock face) and not digital type. (NOTE: The clock face best represents the reality of the sun's passage through the heavens.)
- *Some* jewellery may be worn by students in classes 7 & 8 provided that it does not distract or interrupt their ability to work in class or compromise their safety on the playground.
- Jewellery must be removed during all sporting activities.

The school takes NO RESPONSIBILITY for the loss or damage of any items of jewellery including watches.

HOT WEATHER:

- On hot days children are encouraged to wear sunscreen. In terms I and IV they must wear the school hat.
- Clothing is to provide adequate sun protection; it must cover the shoulders.

Children should arrive at school in appropriate clothing. The parents of those not complying with this policy will be phoned and asked to bring in appropriate clothing.

Food Policy

The teachers have an interest in seeing that any food consumed at school is wholesome and nutritious. Children eat their lunches together with the class teacher. This is a purposeful decision which recognizes that eating is also an act of social 'nourishment'. It is also an opportunity to reinforce manners and respect for the food that we eat and the social space in which we eat it. There should be a high level of awareness among Class Teachers of the prevalence of various food allergies in their class and in the school; this needs to be particularly considered whenever food is shared.

- **School Lunches**

A child's lunch should contain a healthy balance of nutritious foods. Please note that no lollies, chocolates, chewing gum, 'fizzy' drinks, chips or other recognised junk foods are to be eaten at school. Processed food should be at a minimum and should be in unidentifiable packaging. Families are regularly reminded of this in the school newsletter.

- **Food in the Early Childhood Area**
The above statement on children's lunches applies. Also, where food is prepared for children, the school will, where possible, use organic and biodynamic produce. The early childhood assistants will have completed a recognized food handling course in the 1st year of their employment.
- **Recycling**
The school endeavours to recycle all waste. Children are asked to take home all lunch wrappings or containers which cannot be put through the school's recycling program, eg lunch wrap, box drink containers.

FROM THE OFFICE

Fee Notices

Fee notices have been sent out and fees are due on or before **20 February** unless you sign a fee agreement form. If you haven't received your statement, please contact the office.

We have had several deposits paid into the school account without identification. 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.

New Parents Welcome and Information Session:

If you are new to the school and would like an overview of many aspects of school operations, how things work at this school, please mark **Wednesday 18 February** in your diary. Informal information sessions will be held for new families at **2.30pm in the school Library**.

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, and we would appreciate it if they could be returned as soon as possible.

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

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen;
and

- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 **or** be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner **or** be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (28 January 2009 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (13 July 2009).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 27 February 2009 for the first instalment and 7 August 2009 for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of **\$221** for primary students and **\$443** for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school.

Students turning 16 years in 2009 will be paid on a pro rata basis.

New EMA payment option for 2009

Commencing in 2009, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will introduce a new payment option for the payment of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) to parents.

Under the new system, eligible parents will have the option to receive the 50% 'parent portion' of the EMA payment directly into the parent's nominated bank account, **or** as a cheque payment.

The 2009 EMA application form includes a section for you to nominate whether you would like your EMA payment to be made to your own bank account or to receive your payment as a cheque (which is the current arrangement). The banking details required will include the BSB code and the account number.

Payment Amounts

Instalment	Portion	Primary school*	Secondary school*
One	Parent	\$ 77.35	\$ 155.05
	School	\$ 77.35	\$ 155.05
Two	Parent	\$ 33.15	\$ 66.45
	School	\$ 33.15	\$ 66.45
	Total	\$ 221.00	\$ 443.00

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2009 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after 27 February 2009 and prior to or on 7 August 2009, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

EMA application forms are available from the school office.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE (PREP TO YEAR 8)

- Conveyance Allowance: New families and families **with children who have started in Prep** need to fill in a Conveyance Allowance form. Families who claimed last year and who do not have a Prep child do not need to fill in a new form **UNLESS you have moved since we last claimed.**
- 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.
- In recognition of increases in costs of private transport and to achieve consistency in educational funding indexation, the Conveyance Allowance rates in 2009 will be subject to indexation.
- For 2009 the Conveyance Allowance rates for privately arranged transport by car or by bus will increase by 2.5 per cent.

2009 Conveyance Allowance Rates		
Distance (km)	Private Car	Private Bus
4.8-10	\$410	\$461
>10-15	\$513	\$564
>15-20	\$615	\$666
>20-25	\$718	\$769
>25-30	\$820	\$871
>30-35	\$923	\$974
>35	\$1,025	\$1076

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 school families. Also, please fill in and return your Family Information Form as quickly as possible so that we have up-to-date details.

WE HAVE TO SUBMIT OUR CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE CLAIM BY THE LAST WEEK IN FEBRUARY, SO ANY NEW CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE CLAIMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY.

HATS ALL children are expected to wear their **blue school hat** in Term 1. The hats cost **\$9.75 each** and this amount will be included on family invoices when new ones or replacements are given out. The issue of "Sun Protection" is a particularly important one. The school has a clear policy that all children must have a hat that *shades the face and covers the neck* in order to be allowed to play outside in Terms 1 and 4. **HATS in 2009:** Children without a hat at school at all will unfortunately be required to stay within the shade area for the entire play time. We request your full support in having your child/ren bring and wear the school hat in the hot Summer months.

GOVERNANCE REVIEW PROGRESS

The Administrative Council and the Board of Directors of the school are closer to updating the Constitution and restructuring the management structures of the school. This will lead to many great improvements behind the scenes in how the school functions. A regular

newsletter will be distributed to outline the proposed changes and improvements to how the school is run.

OPEN DAYS – Will be held on **Wednesday 20 May and 21 October, 9am to 4pm.**

Bookings are essential for a school tour. All families, especially those new to the school, are welcome to the OPEN DAY. Please pass the word on that there are enrolment places available in PREP in 2009

SCHOOL PARENT LIBRARY: The PARENTS' LIBRARY COLLECTION will be available for use this year to parents who have signed up as members to the library. The Membership Fee for the Parent Library will be \$10 per year. Parents electing to use the library must pay the fee at the office and take the receipt to the Library to collect their library borrowing card. Everyone is reminded that they can support the development of the school library by a donation to our tax deductible library fund. We always welcome voluntary assistance in the Library. Please see Johanna, the school librarian, to arrange some training and orientation if you can help the school in this role.

Building of Administration Building and Entrance Canopy: Following many frustrating delays, the building project is finally underway. Children and parents are reminded that they must NEVER enter the building site. It will be a very noisy and dusty 2 terms. The construction of the rammed earth walls in Term 1 will be a particularly difficult time. Please be patient. We do not anticipate completion until near the end of Term 2 of these two structures. Later in the term when the Entrance Canopy is under construction we will advise the school community on the temporary new entrance to the school. A copy of the floor plan will be in the library and all questions to Deb Wardle.

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 to me*

We welcome all the children and their families to Prep. Many of the children came to visit our room on Tuesday and I am looking forward to the class coming together for our first day on Wednesday. It is very important that we support the children to make this transition to Prep as smoothly as possible, therefore communication between parents and teacher is very important. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions or mention any concerns, however small. You can see me after school, ring me at home (5472 3038) or mention something briefly in the mornings.

The hot weather will probably continue for some time. It is fine to pick the children up early or to have a day off if needed. Please talk to me about what would be the best time to pick children up if they are going home early.

Prep starts at 8.45am and finishes at 3.00pm. Please try to be punctual. I ask that all children are picked up in the afternoons no later than 3.15pm. If you need to wait for older siblings to finish school at 3.25pm, you may pick your Prep child up at 3.15pm and then go to wait quietly in the sandpit near the climbing frame.

Please note: children are to remain quietly in the sandpit and NOT play on the climbing frame. At 3.25pm please go to our older child's classroom to pick them up.

I am looking forward to sharing a very happy year with you and your children.

Love Heather

Debbie, Tania and Sue

CLASS 1 NEWS

*Blessings for this room of ours
May it be filled with learning
And with laughter
With loving kindness,
Thoughtful care
Abiding faith and wholesome fare*

*Bless this day of new
As we join in our circle
Held by the love of our families
Thanking bees, trees, sheep and human helpers
Who so thoughtfully
Made dolls, cushions, crayons, paper
To create this space for all our learning.
Blessings on this classroom and the
Whole school surrounding!*

Take care, Dagmar

PS: A letter has been sent home with a more thorough update.

CLASS 3 NEWS

Welcome back after the summer holidays. It sounds like many families have been to the beach and had a lovely time.

On our first day of school all the growing that took place over the holidays was measured in how many bigger chairs and higher desks we needed.

Many thanks to Peter, Martin and max for helping to fit us out.

It is so beautiful to see the children after the holidays and this quote really sums it up

—

*When I return to the classroom
And see children's eyes
Holding wonder like a cup.
Then I know why I teach.*

Marva Collins

Love, Mary

CLASS 4 NEWS

A very warm welcome back to a new school year. I hope you all had a wonderful break. I met a class full of children keen to work and learn. Our first main lesson of

the year focuses on the Aboriginal people and their culture. Lots of stories are there to be told, interesting things to be learned.

During the holidays I visited the Steiner Kindergarten in the Buddhist orphanage in Ho Chi Minh City. I intend to start a fundraising project with the children, helping the beautiful work that is done there. More information will follow.

Other bits of info...? I will be doing maths practice sessions in Class 8 and Anne Perry will come and work with my class during these hours. The Rock & Water program also starts this year.

Love, Rob

CLASS 5 NEWS

From the Ancient Times in Egypt:

*Hail Ra! Lord of the Rays.
When Thou risest on the horizon and sheddest Thy
Beams of Light upon the Lands, Thou art beautiful.
And all the gods rejoice when they behold Thee.
Shine Thou with Thy beams of Light upon my face.*

It was a pleasure to see everyone looking so cheerful and enthusiastic at our first assembly. I'm glad we all made it safely through the heat!

We are looking forward to a wonderful year with an exciting curriculum... starting in Egypt!

Best wishes, Diana

CLASS 6 NEWS

Lovely to see everyone back and to meet my Class 6 children. Please note, you should have received a letter yesterday from me. Welcome to the 2009 school year.

Love, Ann

CLASS 7 NEWS

Welcome back everyone! Welcome, too, to our new students: Emma Beilharz, Ned Middleton and Angellica Formica (who, unfortunately, has tonsillitis and hasn't been able to come to school yet).

John

CLASS 8 NEWS

Welcome back to our final wonderful year together and we will indeed be studying and enjoying the works of many of the greatest artists, inventors and writers in world history. The Renaissance takes up our first main lesson, so do ask your children to share some of what they are learning with you. I hope we can all become inspired together.

On a practical note, please encourage sensible, appropriate clothing and shoes for school. I look forward to a great final year.

Love, Ann

PARENTS & FRIENDS

Friday ride-day

Friday ride-day will continue this year, so remember to factor this in when making car-pooling arrangements with other families for 2009. Starting as usual at 8am at Victory Park. Bring water bottles.

Pancake Tuesday – 24 February 2009

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 have one school barbecue. Please try to find one family in your class to 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.**

German Volunteer

Martin is staying in Newstead at the moment and needs rides to and from school. If anyone can help at any time, see Martin or phone him at Vicki Herzer's 5476 2528.

Drama Group

We're not wasting any time! The drama group has started in the first week of term. If you feel the urge to explore new things, act silly or just have a good time, come and join us. I'm sure there will be something in this year's program that tickles your fancy. Drama evenings are on Tuesdays at the school.

Rob Jorritsma

COMMUNITY NOTICES

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

Singing in the Maine

We have been invited to perform in the Castlemaine State Festival. We welcome singers new and experienced to share in some performance foolery and serious musical fun. Rehearsal details as follows:

February 21st, 28th, March 7th, 14th, 21st, Saturday Afternoons 2.30-5.30pm

Castlemaine Community House, Lyttleton St (opp Tog's Cafe), \$30 / \$25 conc including all resources. No charge for singing children accompanying an adult

Melbourne Rudolf Steiner Seminar – High School Education Course

One-year part-time introductory course in High School Education, Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School, Warranwood. Contact Sandra Paulka on 9876 5199.

Craft Curriculum Course for Adults – Beginning 24 Feb 2009

Sophia Mundi Steiner School

In this course, we make many of the articles that the students make during craft lessons in a Steiner School. Taken for a full year, this course could qualify a state trained teacher for craft teaching in a Steiner school. However, no previous teaching or craft experience is necessary. The course is also suitable for those not interested in teaching but wishing to learn for their own interest.

Afternoons: Tuesdays 1.30 to 3.00pm **Evenings:** Tuesdays 7.00 to 8.30pm.

West African Drum and Dance Classes for kids of any age with Sayon Souare from Guinea Conakry

Fun classes include drumming, playing percussion, dancing, singing and telling stories of the rhythms and dances. Sayon has taught children in schools and at home in Guinea, Gambia, Senegal and Australia. Weekly classes are starting in Campbells Creek on 9 February. Max 10 students per class. Cost \$80 for 8 weeks or \$120 for 2 siblings. Adult classes also running. Drum hire available for \$15 for 8 weeks. Call Molly Souare on 0414 804 698 for more information and bookings.

Music for Children (3 – 5 years) -Song, Rhythm and movement using voice, body and percussion. Music for Children is a structured program drawing on the philosophies of Dalcroze, Kodaly and Orff. Classes are held in Castlemaine at the music studio on the first floor about Stonemans Bookroom. Enrolments and enquiries: Deb Capp Phone 5476 2635.

Babysitting/After School

Experienced Mum (of Class 2 girl) available most weekday afternoons/evenings to pick up your child from school, care for and make dinner, etc., Fri/Sat nights as well, and curriculum days!!! Kirstie 5473 4503 or 0421198140.

Work Wanted – Urgent

For two German girls, Elena (19) and Johanna (20). Both are in Castlemaine till 21 February and they would like to find some work: babysitting, cleaning, gardening, fruit picking – anything really. They would work separately and even only for a couple of hours. Phone and discuss possibilities, Elena 0418 35 0876.

FOR SALE

Charming, solid house on a hill. Two bedrooms plus small sleepout. Back veranda deck space from which to savour the view. High ceilings, open fireplace (plus gas heater & stove). Outside toilet. Deep block with scope for building further. Close to Botanic Gardens and railway station. Please contact Ambrosia on 08 83883682.

FOR SALE

1. Deisel 4WD Landrover, EC, 12 mnths reg., 2 owners, \$8990.
 2. 1973 Viscount Royale Caravan, 4 berth, gas fridge, gas oven and cooker. Great caravan! \$2500.
 3. Toyota Camry 1996 Sedan, EC, 12 mnths Reg, \$6500.
- Phone Kirstie on 5473 4503 or 0421 198140.

**INSTRUMENTS
FOR SALE**

½ size viola, \$100. Phone Cindy 5470 69 45

WANTED

¾ Size viola. Phone Cindy 5470 69 45