

The

ESSENGER

Mansfield Rudolf Steiner
School & Kindergarten
Phone 5779 1445 (School)
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MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER. 09

TERM 4 WEEK 3

*Thro' the night Thy angels kept
Watch above me while I slept
Now the dark has passed away
Thank Thee, Lord, for this new day.
North and south and east and west
May Thy holy name be blest;
Everywhere beneath the sun,
As in Heaven, Thy will be done.*

GREETINGS! AND WELCOME TO THIS EDITION OF THE MESSENGER.

2009 - SCHOOL EVENTS AND DATES TO REMEMBER.....

Term IV Tuesday 13TH October - Wednesday 16th December

High Country Festival long weekend-NO SCHOOL Mon 2nd and Tues. 3rd November

Boss Photography Kinder/School Photos Wed. 4th - Fri. 6th November

CLASS 5 & 6 Combined Steiner Schools Olympics at Little Yarra Thursday 12th November

CELEBRATING GIRLS workshop 14th & 15th November (Coordinator- Maree Mielnik)

'THE TEMPEST' a performance of Class 7 & 8 Thursday Nov 19th at the PAC 7.30pm

AMEB EXAMS 20th November at school

CLASS 5 & 6 SURF CAMP Monday 23rd - Wednesday 25th November

CLASS 1 & 2 PLAY 'King of Ireland's Son' in the Merton Hall 7.00pm

Report Writing Day - Student Free Friday 27th November

CLASS 8 GRADUATION Change of Date: 4th December in Merton Hall 7.00pm

Little Kinder Last Session for 2008 - Christmas festival Thursday 10th December

End of Year MUSIC concert at PAC 1st or 2nd of December to be confirmed

LAST DAY OF TERM - Christmas festivals - Wednesday 16th December

Staff Clean up day - Thursday 17th December

COT/Faculty meeting - Friday 18th December

KINDERGARTEN

KINDER/PREP A reminder that all children must bring a hat to school every day this term.

PLEASE NOTE: The Kindergarten now has its own phone line, if you wish to speak to Kindergarten staff phone: 57791488. If the call goes unanswered it will divert to the school office.

CLASS 1 & 2

WE ARE BUSY REHEARSING for our class play 'The King of Ireland's Son' which we will perform at the end of November.

SCHOOL PHONE LIST

PLEASE FIND ATTACHED a current school phone list for your information.

SCHOOL PHOTO'S

BOSS PHOTOGRAPHY will be taking photographs on Wednesday 4th Kindergarten/School Thursday 5th Little Kinder/Prep/School and Friday 6th November School. Please complete the order forms and return with money as soon as possible - No envelope = No Photo.

Please bear in mind that photo's follow the long weekend- ALL forms need to be returned duly completed by Friday 30th, thank you.

THE GRAPEVINE

LITTLE KINDER Last Thursday we enjoyed a walk to the big school to visit the Class 4 ensemble and Julia Arnold (cello teacher).

KINDERGARTEN/PREP The prep and kinder children worked together in a large group last week, all working towards a goal. Their main project was a giant sandcastle in the sandpit.

CLASS 1 & 2 Thank you to Dianne for filling in for Jeanette again this week. The children are having lots of fun and joyful lessons with the 'Gnomes' representing the four mathematical processes.

CLASS 3 & 4 The class have been keen to hear the Norse Myths and have been busy creating wonderful work during Main Lesson. There has been a huge rush to complete craft work so fingers have been working very hard this week.

CLASS 5 & 6 We have enjoyed our music making sessions with Andy Rigby. In the mornings we are brushing up some cricket skills in preparation for the Kanga Cricket carnival in November.

CLASS 7 & 8 The school's first class 8 Graduation Project presentation was held in the Merton Hall last Wednesday night. Students have been working on a project of their choice since the beginning of the year. They were asked to select a mentor to guide and support them on their venture; and also to keep a journal of their progress including the trials and tribulations. On Wednesday evening the students presented their completed project (accompanied by a talk) to an assembly of parents, teachers and mentors. The efforts the students had gone to (and the lessons learnt) were overwhelming.

The projects were as follows:

Maddy Nation: Training a young horse

Lewis White: Welding a sculpture

Tristan Bergmoser: A short film on the History of Mt.Buller

Polly Ritchie: Shakespearean soliloquoy

Angela Pitt: Wrote, illustrated and printed a book.

Luca Cherubin: Choreographed a dance

Zac Clark: A film of family trip to New Zealand

Jordy Maloney: Designed and built an incubator

Jessica Conway-Klusik: Oil Painting and producing a painting

Sian Scale: Designing and making a patchwork quilt

Monty Lieber: Writing the script and filming a comedy

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

WE BEGIN THE TERM amidst new renovations to the foyer and moving into our wonderful new classrooms. Please bear with us as the renovations at front of the school are completed.

STUDENT TEACHERS

OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS we will be hosting visits from student teachers currently doing rounds at the High School.

LIBRARY

OPEN DAY - Kaye, Lyndal and Maree hoped you had the opportunity to step into our beautiful Library on Saturday. Congratulations to our raffle winners - we hope you get much enjoyment from your prizes.

MARIMBA MAKING

WITH ANDY RIGBY All students enjoyed learning to play the marimba and the older students had an opportunity to make a marimba for the school to use.

Special thanks to Mansfield Primary and Secondary College for the loan of their marimbas. *Thank You also to Stephen Cherubin* for making the Marimba stand and keys that Andy and our students then worked on to create a school based instrument. Andy was very pleased with the musical ability, enthusiasm and the interest our students showed during his two day workshop and expressed an interest in returning to make a bass marimba one day.

It was great having Andy visit us to share his knowledge and musical expertise and we thank him very much for bringing this workshop to our students with such talent and flair.



Thank You

To our whole School community who contributed so much to making the Open day a great success.

First of all, the working bee, thank you to everyone who attended to prepare the kinder and school grounds before, during and after to make the whole school look and feel fantastic!

Our welcome tent manned by Committee of Management members was the doorway to the kindergarten and school, the children's activities in the kindergarten and school grounds were once again bustling with enthusiastic children, thank you to all the parent co-ordinators and helpers. The Umbrella Café, coffee/cake café, lunch tent, produce stall and craft stalls and the smoothie stall all did a bustling trade offering delicious, wholesome foods and drinks. The plant stall once again did a bustling trade, thanks to Andrew and Allison's work during the year to nurture these plants for open day. The well stocked library stall offered a great range of books etc. for all ages. All these activities set the tone and atmosphere for the Open Day Fair together with our outside vendors - Jean Shannon, Betty Gerrish, Janina & Jakob and Kim & Louise from Sylph (McAdam Square) who joined us for the day - thank you! The school raffle was fantastic, thank you to all donors.

A big Thank you also to the many people and businesses who donated items for the auction, Sarah Tehan was overwhelmed by the response and this event alone raised in excess of \$3,000 on the day.

Special thanks to Janine, Maree, and Cam for their overall leadership and organisation of the event, together with ALL the parents who stepped forward to coordinate specific stalls, thank you all so much for the time and effort to bring the day's events to fruition.

To all the parents who provided support before, during and after the event, thank you and well done, the day was a huge success, with so many positive comments about the school, the grounds, and the creative education provided.

Special thanks to Jeanette, Linda, Matthew and Fran for their beautiful, well presented rooms – a testament to the quality of teaching staff and their commitment to promoting and delivering Steiner education in Mansfield. Thank you also to Jen, Howard and Matt for organising the fantastic afternoon entertainment. It is always a pleasure to see and hear the students perform and the open mike entertainment was a great way to relax and unwind afterwards.

We were so very fortunate weather wise on Saturday and it was wonderful to see the flow of visitor's to the school considering the many other events on in the community at this time! Even hot and tired staff and parents at the end of the day could not diminish the sense of satisfaction and the huge accomplishment of another great well attended Open Day, thank you to everyone for your time, enthusiasm, hardwork and community spirit.

Open Day reminds us all what an asset our school is to the school community and the Mansfield district.

Outstanding Auction Funds

\$45	MAAIKES PRODUCE	ALISON RETEIF
\$50	NICKY SANDERS WEB DESIGN	MAREE MIELNIK
\$137.50	POINT LONSDALE ACCOMMODATION	MICHELLE RICHTER
\$137.50	" "	LINDA DAVIES
\$137.50	" "	MAUREEN ENGLEFIELD
\$300	STEPHEN BOLITHO ELECTRICAL	EUAN FRIDAY
\$140	LEIBER UPHOLSTERY	FRAN CUMMINS
\$100	KYM HENDERSONS WOODEN TOYS	FIONA BOLITHO
\$65	STRATHBOGIE OLIVE OIL	POP STONEY
\$160	BRIDGESTONE SERVICE	RICK LINDSAY
\$90	ONE EXTRA LESSON ASSESSMENT	POP
\$70	WET ON WET WITH JANINA	JULIE HUMBERT
\$115	KERSTIE LEE LANDSCAPE	PAUL WILLIAMS 0419 320772
\$140	SUE ABLITT AND GEOFF BOYES	KATE AND BILL PARSONS
\$70	TRUFFLE TREE-SNOWGUM NURSERY	STEVE BOLITHO
\$320	ANTHONY BELL EXCAVATION	BEC MCMILLAN

Please send your payment to the office as soon as possible so we can make a complete reconciliation of Open Day funds. Cheques made payable to MRSS&K Parents & Friends

Open Day Debrief meeting in the Morning Star room on Tuesday 10th November, please bring your feedback and if you can't make it leave any suggestions in an envelope with Sally in the office – thanks. Your feedback is really important to record for next years event – please take the time to jot it down whilst its still fresh in your mind, see you on the 10th at 2.00pm.

Open Day Fundraising figure thus far (estimated \$2,000 expenses pending) \$9,039.60 with \$2,000 auction funds outstanding.

Plates and containers – **PLEASE collect your plates and containers from the ART ROOM this week.**

PARENTS & FRIENDS

FAMILY IN NEED OF SUPPORT – This year has not been an easy one for Sarah Lawson, just recently her daughter Eve was diagnosed with Epilepsy and whilst treatment is in progress, Eve's condition is very serious with frequent fits during the day and more particularly during the night. If you feel inclined to deliver a meal to help Sarah out at this time please do so, 10 Logan Street Mansfield, (we all know what it's like to be run ragged with a childhood illness).

COMMUNITY NOTICES

FIRST WEDNESDAY - CONCERNS & APPROACHES, open discussion with Janina on Wednesday 4th November from 7 – 8.30pm and Rudolf Steiner's Six Exercises No.3 from 8.30 – 9.00pm.

SADDLE CLUB is starting up again. Everything provided for your child's introduction to riding and horsecare. Beginners to intermediate Kammy 5775 1979 0409 799 795

MANSFIELD SECONDARY COLLEGE - YEAR 8 families are invited to have a say in the development of the new Arts Precinct Development. Wednesday 28th October 12.45 - 3pm Light lunch included Contact Maree on 5775 2022

SCHOOL START BONUS Prep or Year 7 2010 will receive a \$300 voucher for the Vict. Govt. School Start Bonus by the end of Term 4, 2009. These funds are to cover the cost of uniforms, school bags, books etc. You will be able to redeem your voucher by taking it to any Australia Post outlet with Bank@Post facilities from 11 January 2010.

CLEANERS FOR THIS WEEK: Please make note of your rostered day to clean and make the effort to get here - the classes look cared for when it's done, a little neglected when it's not...

	<u>KINDER</u>	<u>SCH 1</u>	<u>SCH 2</u>	<u>SCH 3</u>	<u>SCH 4</u>
Mon. 26 th Oct.	Cam	Kerstie	Kerstie	Allison	Allison
Tues. 27 th Oct.	Melinda	Kerstie	Kerstie	Allison	Allison
Wed. 28 th Oct.	Helen	Patterson	Patterson	Allison	Allison
Thurs. 29 th Oct.	Lisa	Clare Ch.	Sarah B.	Sarah B.	Jenny R
Fri. 30 th Oct.	Lisa	Lyndal	Lyndal	Charlotte	Jenny R
Windows- Sharon	Merton Hall- Sarah Mc		Outdoors - John		Merton Hall-Fri. Sarah McC

Please bear with us this term as we determine what is working well and what is not, if you have any queries please speak with Sally or Richard, thank you.

What a wonderful scene in the Rosa Mundi playground last week as the children worked industriously to build the 'biggest' sandcastle you have ever seen, complete with tunnels of flowing water. Enthusiastic engineering and teamwork were evident; and joyful play experienced by all involved.



As it is universally with children's play - the building up and breaking down of structures - the next morning only flowers marked the sight.

THE WALDORF SCHOOLS - 32 questions and answers - Wade B. Holland

An Overview of the education from the Elementary School through the High School.

We are including a series of questions and answers on Steiner education over the coming weeks. (These are offered for your general interest and background understanding. Although they are generally applicable to Steiner education they do not necessarily reflect exactly what happens in individual schools.)

10. Why does the same teacher stay with the class for several years?

Continuity - and authority. Children learn through acceptance of authority in the grade-school years, just as in infancy they learned through imitation, and in the teen years will seek knowledge through critical contact with specialists expert in their fields. In the elementary school, the early years especially, the broadening of the child's horizons beyond home and family are just beginning, and the class becomes a type of 'family' as well, with its authority figure - the teacher - in a role analogous to parent. Ideally, the same continuity should apply in the 'class family' as in the biological family. This is the time for establishing one's sense of security in life, and stable relationships are crucial, including importantly the child's relationships with authority figures.

Thus, Waldorf schools do not support the concept of changing the child's Class Teacher on an annual basis. Sometimes, one teacher will take a class all the way from first through to eighth grade. More often, a class will have two, or perhaps three, Class Teachers during the eight years of elementary school. The needs of each class are evaluated each year by the entire faculty, and for each class it is decided whether to continue with the same teacher or to make a change.

11. What qualities should a Waldorf teacher have?

For the youngest children, learning is by imitation: the teacher must be worthy of that imitation. In the grade-school years, children learn through acceptance of the teacher's direction: the teacher must have the maturity and the personality to provide that guidance justly, equitably, and consistently. Adolescents learn by testing the knowledge of others: the teacher must be truly knowledgeable in the subject matter.

In the same way that these vast changes in the child take place between the kindergarten and the senior year in high school, so too the student-teacher relationship changes markedly - or perhaps more accurately, keeps pace with the child's development. Kindergarten children establish a bond with the teacher that is very much akin to the infant-parent relationship. Already in the first grade, we find the child looking to the teacher in a different way: the authority of the teacher is entering the child's consciousness. The role of the teacher as authority (but devoid of authoritarianism) gradually increases, and in the middle years becomes dominant.

Towards the end of the grade school years, a new force arises - the child's own critical faculties are awakening. The word of the teacher is now subjected increasingly to critical analysis. Earlier, the child asked only, "Is it fair?" Now, the question becomes, "Is it the truth?" By high school, the years of ready acceptance of the teacher's authority have passed. The high school teacher must prove his or her expertise, must be prepared to back up any assertion.

The progression is from the *guardian*, to the *authority*, to the *expert*.