

The

# ESSENGER

Mansfield Rudolf Steiner  
School & Kindergarten  
Phone 5779 1445 (School)  
5779 1488 (Kindergarten)  
www.mansfieldsteiner.vic.edu.au

MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOV. 09

TERM 4 WEEK 4

*Open wide the door to morning  
Take love as you depart  
Walk gently on the earth  
With kindness in your heart....*

**GREETINGS! AND WELCOME TO THIS EDITION OF THE MESSENGER.**

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

**Term IV Tuesday 13<sup>TH</sup> October - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

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

**Boss Photography Kinder/School Photos Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> - Fri. 6<sup>th</sup> November**

**CLASS 5 & 6 Combined Steiner Schools Olympics at Little Yarra Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

**CELEBRATING GIRLS workshop 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> November (Coordinator- Maree Mielnik)**

**P & F CRAFT - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November, gathering to cut out Christmas decorations**

**'THE TEMPEST' a performance of Class 7 & 8 Thursday Nov 19<sup>th</sup> at the PAC 7.30pm**

**AMEB EXAMS 20<sup>th</sup> November at school**

**CLASS 5 & 6 SURF CAMP Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

**CLASS 1 & 2 PLAY Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 'King of Ireland's Son' in the Merton Hall 7.00pm**

**Report Writing Day - Student Free Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

**CLASS 8 GRADUATION Change of Date: 4<sup>th</sup> December in Merton Hall 7.00pm**

**Little Kinder Last Session for 2008 - Christmas festival Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

**End of Year MUSIC concert at PAC 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> of December to be confirmed**

**LAST DAY OF TERM - Christmas festivals - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

**Staff Clean up day - Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

**COT/Faculty meeting - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

## **KINDERGARTEN**

**MORNING STAR** Please provide your children with brimmed hats (one they can leave in the hat basket at kinder would be appreciated) and footwear that is protective of their toes.

**ROSA MUNDI** Kindergarten children orientation: As part of our orientation for Prep next year we will extend the Wednesday kinder session to 1.30pm. Starting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November and continuing until the end of the year. Kinder children will need to bring their lunch on Wednesdays. Healthy lunches please, no lollies. Kinder sessions on other days will remain the same.

**MORNING STAR** Kinder parents: Taryn will hold a parent information session at 10.00am on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November for all parents of children attending Rosa Mundi kinder in 2010. This will be an opportunity to ask questions and learn about the next stage of your child's education. More details will be sent to parents next week.

## CLASS 1 & 2

**WE ARE BUSY REHEARSING** for our class play 'The King of Ireland's Son' which we will perform on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 7pm in Merton Hall.

## SCHOOL PHOTO'S

**BOSS PHOTOGRAPHY** will be taking photographs on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Kindergarten/School Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Little Kinder/Prep/School and Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November School.

Please Note: No envelope = No Photo.

### **THE GRAPEVINE**

**LITTLE KINDER** The warmer weather has enabled us to have a special morning tea in the garden, as well as the children enjoying lots of creative work in the sandpit.

**KINDERGARTEN/PREP** This week in the kinder there has been an abundance of produce. We made cheese and spinach rolls with spinach from our vegetable garden and lemon and lime cordial to have with morning tea.

**CLASS 1 & 2** The children in both classes have enjoyed the return of the gnomes and have relished the opportunity to "become" Kind Red or Greedy Green during their play time. We have also been involved in lots of finger knitting for our contribution to the Maindample Heritage Day!

**CLASS 3 & 4** We all had a wonderful time at the Open Day. Congratulations to the children as they performed during the day. The class have begun a new item in craft with great enthusiasm. We also had some visiting student teachers from Melbourne Uni spend some time with us. The children also enjoyed creating a sheep display for the Maindample Heritage Day.

**CLASS 5 & 6** The children enjoyed the comedy and drama of Henry Lawson short stories last week as part of our studies of writing techniques and in particular grammar. This week we begin a new main lesson on Ancient Rome.

**CLASS 7 & 8** We have been rehearsing, rehearsing, rehearsing, trying to cram more lines into already brimming memories. **We are working on backdrops and I am looking for any assistance from anyone who has skills erecting scaffolding, lighting or sound, please contact Fran at school.**

Fran, Maureen and also Class 7 & 8 would like to thank the Secondary College Op Shop for being so very generous with their assistance in helping to supply fabrics and clothing for the class play 'The Tempest'. So if you need something in particular - visit them the Op Shop would appreciate your support.

## 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

**WHAT A GREAT BOOK BUYING Open Day!** With \$950 dollars raised, we now have 45 new books. Many THANKS to those who DONATED so generously - you made a difference to our children's reading! COUNTRY TALES are so generous to our school - lending the books and giving us discounts. ANYONE INTERESTED IN BOOK SUGGESTIONS? I have left a copy of "Santa's suggestions" for books for gift-worthy occasions and many ages... Handy reference!

We are settled in to our new library - still a few things need to find a final place and some boxes are still full! So many happy faces to be borrowing again! Each class has been reminded of our respect for our new space, and for each others reading time! Hope you will visit too! Happy reading - Kaye

**SPINDLEWOOD TRADING** WANTED TO BUY - a secondhand double bed, contact Ishe on 5775 2058 0488 259 571

### OPEN DAY

#### Outstanding Auction Funds

\$137.50	POINT LONSDALE ACCOMMODATION	MICHELLE RICHTER
\$137.50	" "	LINDA DAVIES
\$137.50	" "	MAUREEN ENGLEFIELD
\$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	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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 school this week.**

## PARENTS & FRIENDS

### LITTLE KINDER-CLASS 8 CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

**IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN FOLKS**- Helpers needed to sew little felt Christmas decorations for the kinder and class children - please join us at school on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November in the 'meeting room' next to the office to cut out patterns. Please let Janine 57789559 or Sally (in the office) know if you are available to embrace the spirit of Christmas and fondly stitch a gift or two - many hands make light work.

### CROISSANTS

**JUSTINE** is sorry but she is unable to organise an end of year croissant order, if anyone else wants to run it she would be prepared to offer assistance, otherwise she will hope to offer another one before Easter, thanks, Justine (ph. 5775 2176 (library) if you want to discuss it with her).

### RENDERING

**NEED HELP** ring Cam 5778 7255, bring rubber gloves.

### 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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

**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.

**IT'S ON AGAIN - THE MANSFIELD EQUATHON** will be held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November ( the day after the Mansfield Show) Make up a team, or do it on your own - this is a SWIM, RIDE, RUN event, hosted by Mansfield Pony Club and auspiced by Modern Pentathlon Victoria.

Those who competed last year had loads of fun - age categories, open, "have-a-go", youth, family, corporate teams. Start with a swim, then on to the Showgrounds for a showjumping round, then finish with a run. Medals presented by Modern Pentathlon Victoria. If you need a rider, swimmer or runner we can help match you to a team. Programs and entry forms at Horsepower and Williams Hunt Solicitors, or call Colleen Reynolds 5775 1590, or Kammy Cordner-Hunt 5775 1979

**CHRISTMAS FARMER'S MARKET** in the grounds of the Mansfield Primary School on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Anyone interested in holding a stall or busking are invited to contact Allison Walker (Market Manager) on 0417319879 or go to [www.mansfieldfarmersmarket.com](http://www.mansfieldfarmersmarket.com)

### **MILO CRICKET IN MANSFIELD**

**MILO CRICKET** has been very hard to get up and going this year. There was no interest at registration day and no one willing to take up the coordinator's role. *Does your child want to play Milo Cricket?* There is an expression of interest form at your school office.

*Is there anyone willing to coordinate the program?*

Please see Sally at the office if your wish to register your interest, thank you.

**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. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov.	Public Holiday				
Tues. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov.	Public Holiday				
Wed. 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Helen	Patterson	Patterson	Allison	Allison
Thurs. 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Lisa	Clare Ch.	Sarah B.	Sarah B.	Jenny R
Fri. 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Lisa	Lyndal	Lyndal	Charlotte	Jenny R
<b>Windows-</b> Sharon	<b>Merton Hall-</b> Sarah Mc	<b>Outdoors</b> -John	<b>Merton Hall-Fri.</b> 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.

## 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.)**

### 12. Are Waldorf Teachers specially trained?

In as much as each school is independent, each establishes its own requirements. As a rule, and especially in the schools accepted for membership in the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America, Class teachers have a university degree and teaching certification from a recognized Waldorf teacher Training Centre. Typically, the specialized course of study is two years, and includes practice teaching in Waldorf School under the supervision of experienced Waldorf Teachers. All teachers must of course satisfy whatever state (or provincial) credentialing and licensing requirements apply.

Dr. Steiner, speaking at Oxford in 1922, established "three golden rules" that must form the fundamental attitude of the teacher and that must be embraced by the teacher's entire being, not held merely in theory: "to receive the child in gratitude from the world it comes from; to educate the child with love; and to lead the child into the true freedom which belongs to man."

### 13. How do you handle very bright children or children who are intellectually advanced?

We avoid the temptation to compartmentalize children, especially in terms of such ill-defined factors as "mental age". In fact, extremes of precociousness - or of backwardness - are rare, not only mentally, but physically and emotionally as well. Even rarer is the child who is noticeably more mature than his or her classmates in all three areas of development. A child's advanced capabilities in cognitive skills may be offset by developmental lag in one or both of the other two realms and the teacher will focus on bringing the child's total being into balance. Thus, all the children in the age group study the same subjects at the same time. The challenge is to make sure it is the right material for the age group, presented in the *right* way. If so, brighter children will not be bored, the slower children will not become frustrated. The wrong material for the age-level may get through to the brighter children regardless, just as a few might master physical skills that are too advanced for the age group in general. The mistake is in establishing such achievement by the few as the norm or the goal for all. When children are pushed ahead of their age group in one set of skills- say, academic achievement - it is usually at the expense of proper backgrounding in those skills, not to mention at the expense also of developing "wholeness" and "well-roundedness" in other skills that should also be receiving attention at that age.

A Waldorf teacher recognizes that some children excel in some subjects - and that some are simply brighter (or stronger or more dextrous or taller or whatever). Thus, a clever child might be given a more challenging assignment than another child, but the *substance* of the work will be the same for both. For example, when the children learn division, some will grasp the concept more quickly than others; they will then be given more difficult problems to solve. What they will not be given is a premature jump into the following year's curriculum.