

The

ESSENGER

Mansfield Rudolf Steiner
School & Kindergarten
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MONDAY 9TH NOV. 09

TERM 4 WEEK 5

*Quiet now, we pause to rest,
Silence is our tranquil nest,
Our movement stilled, our voices cease,
We bathe our souls in quiet peace.*

GREETINGS! AND WELCOME TO THIS EDITION OF THE MESSENGER.

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

Term IV Tuesday 13TH October - Wednesday 16TH December

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

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

P & F CRAFT - Friday 13th November, gathering to cut out Christmas decorations

'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 Thursday 26th November '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

MORNING STAR For your information: If your child is feeling unwell be aware that 'Chicken Pox' is doing the rounds at the present time. If your child should contract the illness they are excluded from kinder (or school) for at least 5 days after the eruption first appears.

ROSA MUNDI Kindergarten children orientation starts this Wednesday: As part of our orientation for Prep next year we will extend the Wednesday kinder session to 1.30pm. Starting on Wednesday 11th 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 27th 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. Enquiries please speak to Taryn.

CLASS 1 & 2

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

THE GRAPEVINE

LITTLE KINDER The children enjoyed being outside on Thursday, lots of bubbles were made, watched and chased, as well as lots of creative work in the sandpit.

KINDERGARTEN/PREP The children enjoyed a short and busy week last week. We welcomed Gary into our class for school photos. The children discovered that the caterpillars had hatched on the grapevine.

CLASS 1 & 2 Although the week was short the children still managed to fit in a number of activities. They smiled their best for our photographer and they finally said goodbye to the gnomes. Next week we begin a new Main Lesson with Class One creating their first reader!

CLASS 3 & 4 The children have been busy writing their stories about the wall of Asgard. They have also enjoyed discovering how to write their names used Norse runes.

CLASS 5 & 6 We are looking forward to our combined Steiner school Greek Olympics at Little Yarra on Thursday and have been practising javelin and discus throwing. We have also been revising our work in maths converting fractions to decimals and percentages and vice versa.

CLASS 7 & 8 Things are gearing up for our first performance of 'The Tempest'. The costumes are great and we are very appreciative of the generosity of the Mansfield Secondary College Op Shop in providing materials and garments. Please circulate the attached poster, and invite family and friends to the PAC for the matinee or evening performance.

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.

LIBRARY

MUCH LAUGHTER IN THE LIBRARY ON FRIDAY! All classes enjoyed 'Bad dog Marley' by John Grogan. Did you know the picture book is different from the big book? Why would they change it? Interesting conversations about books can happen in many places - any opportunity to talk book!!!! Happy reading and talking! Kaye. PS Some children are learning to return books so they can borrow a new one - encouragement from home is always effective...Thanks, K

MUSIC NEWS

IT'S TERM 4 AGAIN, AND WE ARE ALL PLAYING A LOT OF MUSIC AS WELL AS EVERYTHING ELSE!

I don't often write at such length, and I would really appreciate it if you would take the time to read this, if your child is in classes 3 to 8.

Sometimes it is hard for parents to understand why it is such a problem when children do not bring their instrument or music (or both!) to school. They can of course borrow an instrument and share music, or we can give them a spare copy. But for a young student, the difference in sound and feel when using someone else's violin or 'cello is often enough to make playing difficult and learning impossible.

Other people's music has unfamiliar markings and spare music may have no markings at all. Music handed out in class is invariably lost if the child's music folder is not there for it to be stored in. Huge amounts of time are wasted sorting out replacement instruments, and huge amounts of paper expended ensuring that there are enough spare copies to cope with all contingencies.

I have listed again the days for individual and group lessons for each class. Could you please put this up on the 'frigg' door or somewhere prominent so that both you and your child can remember this important thing. If you have problem getting the instrument to school on a particular day, please contact your child's teacher to discuss - there is always a solution!

Class 3 - violin Monday	'cello Wednesday
Class 4 - violin Tuesday	'cello Wednesday
Class 5 - violin Thursday	'cello Tuesday or Wednesday TBC with Gotthard
Class 6 - violin Wednesday	'cello Tuesday or Wednesday TBC with Gotthard
Class 7/8 - violin Friday	'cello Tuesday or Wednesday TBC with Gotthard except Drew on Thursday

Class 4 orchestra - Wednesday
Class 5 orchestra - Thursday
Class 6 orchestra - Wednesday
Class 7/8 ensembles - Monday

(In addition, 7/8 choir and guitar are on Tuesday).
Thank you from the music staff but really Julia!

PARENTS & FRIENDS

OPEN DAY

Outstanding Auction Funds

\$137.50	<i>POINT LONSDALE ACCOMMODATION</i>	MICHELLE RICHTER
\$137.50	" "	MAUREEN ENGLEFIELD
\$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 this 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 school this week.

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 this Friday 13th 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).

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES

IT'S ON AGAIN - THE MANSFIELD EQUATHON will be held on Sunday 22nd 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 19th 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

FRIENDS OF VENILALE FUNDRAISING FILM NIGHT -

'BALIBO' Friday 20th November 7.30pm Swanpool Cinema (followed by 'Samson & Delilah'). "Compelling, provocative and unashamedly political" (Jim Schembri, The Age)
"Incredibly moving and powerful" (Paul Byrnes, Sydney Morning Herald)

\$15 Including light refreshment from 7.00pm.
Supper available, music by MAD chamber ensemble,
all proceeds to Friends of Venilale.



RUDOLF STEINER 'TEACHER TRAINING' INTRODUCTORY EVENING

WEDNESDAY 8pm NOVEMBER 25TH - AN EVENING of talks with the coordinator, tutors and present students of the Seminar. There will be some examples of work on display. A question time will follow and then supper. This course offers training in Steiner education, arts, sciences and individual development. Enquiries: Sandra Paulka, Melbourne Rudolf Steiner Seminar 37A Wellington Park Drive, Warranwood Ph: 9876 5199 office@steinerseminar.com

BILLETS NEEDED

ON THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER, Caulfield Grammar School Theatre Group are performing Shakespeare at the Mansfield Performing Arts Centre. There are 17 students (ages 17/18), who need a bed for the one night. This group are about to embark on a Theatre Tour of Europe in January 2010, but are touring parts of Australia with their Shakespeare play in the lead up to their Europe Tour. All funds raised from their Australian Tour go towards expenses for their Europe trip. If you are able to help with one or more beds for one night, please contact Kim Bergmoser on 0412/579127, or send an email to: magnolia@mansfield.net.au

Your help with this wonderful group of talented young thespians, would be greatly appreciated.

BUTEYKO BREATHING METHOD

Workshop series for 2010 (February or March)
Janina is seeking expressions of interest from families in Mansfield who would be interested in taking part of these workshops, provided at reasonable cost, by experienced practitioners John and Jocelyn Wilson. The course usually runs in 3 x 2 hour group sessions and 1 individualised session. For registering interest or further details contact Janina on (H) 5778 7567 or (W) 5779 1911.

Unlike conventional asthma management, the Buteyko method gives people a natural, drug free alternative to asthma management. The method is based on the laws of physiology and comprehensive scientific research. A starting point for this method is the presumption that asthma can be considered not as a disease, but as a defence mechanism of the body against hyperventilation (over breathing). The Buteyko method has been proven to be more successful than other drug free alternative approaches to asthma management. Its effectiveness was confirmed by a clinical trial in Brisbane in 1994 which was funded by the Australian Association of Asthma Foundations.

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. 9 th Nov.	Cam	Kerstie	Kerstie	Allison	Allison
Tues. 10 th Nov.	Melinda	Kerstie	Kerstie	Allison	Allison
Wed. 11 th Nov.	Helen	Patterson	Patterson	Allison	Allison
Thurs. 12 th Nov.	Lisa	Clare Ch.	Sarah B.	Sarah B.	Jenny R
Fri. 13 th Nov.	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.

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.)**

14. What recognition is given to the special talents a child might possess?

No one should ever seek to deny a child's special gifts, or to discourage a child in the pursuit of special talents. Nonetheless, there is ample time in the young person's life for specialized concentration on a narrow field of interest, and it can be done at the appropriate time in the beneficial context of a more well-rounded individual. Thus, the teacher often strives to develop expression in those areas in which the child is weaker. In fact, the teacher should rightly be less concerned in the earliest years with emphasizing special talents than with encouraging expression of other facets of the child's being. Note, however, that producing "homogeneous" human beings is not the goal or the intention: the individuality of the person must be recognized, and it is particularly important that each child's talents be greeted, not only by the teacher, but by the class "family" as well. Waldorf children are usually quick to recognize the achievements of one another, and they take pride in a new advance made by a classmate.

15. What about the slow-learner?

As we've emphasized in the foregoing questions, Waldorf teachers are well aware of the range of talents and capabilities characterizing the children within an age group. There is nothing "abnormal" about slow-learners, and the entire foundation of the Waldorf movement is antiethical to elitism or to education for the very bright only. As with the quick child, the teacher addresses also the individual needs of the child who has more difficulty with a particular subject or learning area; tutoring may be arranged; extra instruction with the teacher may be scheduled; the parents may be called upon to work with the child at home. With respect to the mentally impaired, however, they are cared for separately where such facilities exist, and Dr Steiner also provided indications for their care and upbringing.

16. What about homework, examinations, and grades?

When homework is given to younger children, it is usually for the benefit of the parents (or the school's reputation), not because it benefits the children themselves. There is almost no "paperwork" the younger children can profitably do on their own. However, if they are receiving their school experience with enthusiasm, they will come home with a desire to show and share what they've done in class. Whatever is assigned for outside completion must be worthy of the student's time and something in which he or she may take pride.

Quizzes in arithmetic, spelling, foreign language vocabulary, and the like are given at the teacher's option. However, formal examinations and achievement tests are not needed. A Waldorf teacher is charged to know each child and the work of each child so well that frequent testing for knowledge would be superfluous - plus an intrusion on class time that could be more profitably spent otherwise. Grades are similarly of little relevance. Parent-teacher conferences and detailed written evaluations provide a much more comprehensive and insightful appraisal of the student's progress and problems - plus providing the parent with information on how to enrich the child's homelife. Grades, as well as tests, may be introduced in the upper grades, and especially in the high school, so that the students have the experience as part of their preparation for going on into higher education.