

The

ESSENGER

Mansfield Rudolf Steiner
School & Kindergarten
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MONDAY 16TH NOV. 09

TERM 4 WEEK 6

*Oh, God, grant me grace for this day
Direct my thoughts and Bless them
Direct my work and Bless all my actions
Direct the things I say and give them Blessing too.
Direct and Bless everything I think, speak and do.
So that for this one day,
I have the gift of Grace that comes from your Presence.*

GREETINGS! AND WELCOME TO THIS EDITION OF THE MESSENGER.

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

Term IV Tuesday 13TH October - Wednesday 16th December

COM MEETING Monday 16th Nov. 6.30pm

'THE TEMPEST' a performance of Class 7 & 8

Matinee Wednesday Nov. 18th 12.45pm

Evening Performance on Thursday Nov 19th at the PAC 7.30pm

AMEB EXAMS Friday 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

KINDER It is caterpillar season in our garden and the children delight in these little creatures. If you have suitable containers to donate i.e. butter, yogurt or dip containers, we could use them as caterpillar homes.

THE PREP children will be going to library each week. Our library day is Tuesday. Please help them to remember their books.

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.

CLASS 1 - 8

ALL CLASSES will be attending the matinee performance of "The Tempest" this Wednesday.

The play starts at 12.45pm in the PAC and will take an estimated 3.5 hours, please make arrangements for your child if they use the state bus for travel on this afternoon, thank you.

CLASS 8

GRADUATION NIGHT Friday 4th December Each year 8 graduate needs to supply their guest list, (up to 6 people - no person younger than the graduate) to Fran no later than this Friday 20th November. Please also indicate if a vegetarian meal is required. Payment for the evening at \$30.00 per head will be required prior to the graduation.

Any queries call Sarah Lieber: 0401 016 198.

THE GRAPEVINE

LITTLE KINDER Last week we visited the Rosa Mundi children at morning circle time and listened to the verses and songs they were learning. We also had a special visitor in the garden. A friendly blue-tongued lizard came out from his home, lay in the sun and ate some of the apple the children had put out for him.

KINDERGARTEN/PREP

The children have had an exciting week as the Preps had their first visit to the school library. The kinder children had an extended session and stayed for lunch just like the big kids!

CLASS 1 & 2 Finally the Class One children have begun their first reader, which is very exciting for them. We are also rehearsing for our play and the children cannot wait to try out their costumes and new found props!

CLASS 3 & 4 We have begun making our dolls in craft, concentrating on little stitches. Not so easy for some! For Main Lesson we are revisiting fractions with the help of Idun's apples. Excitement is building as we are to begin making our Viking shields.

CLASS 5 & 6

We had a memorable day of Olympic glory and gracious sportsmanship on the fields of Little Yarra Steiner school. It was a long journey but well worth the effort to experience a fantastic sharing of both Ancient Greek and Steiner school culture.

CLASS 7 & 8

"We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep."

We are ready (or nearly) for our performances this week. We are in the PAC all week getting used to the larger space.

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

PLEASE BEAR WITH US as the renovations at front of the school are completed.

LIBRARY

READERS ARE LEADERS - The new sign in the library! Just think how we take reading for granted - shopping, driving, finding out how to do or make 'things' - living! Then there's all the enjoyment of other worlds, imagining, wondering - being absorbed!

There are two displays, "Fly into books" and "Blooming good books" for all our new books, as well as a "Spies" display for espionage novels. So good to have our lovely new library! Happy choosing and reading, Kaye

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 'frig' 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

IMMORTAL BOOKS

Coming to Mansfield

David Vickers-Shand is bringing a
great range of books

for your perusal and purchase.

Beautifully illustrated children's books.

Steiner education/ child development books

This WEDNESDAY 18th November

In the school Courtyard

Come and browse....Christmas is just around the corner
and books are a lasting gift.

*Beautiful
children's picture
books and stories
Parenting books*

*Steiner education
Child
development
books*

LITTLE KINDER-CLASS 8

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

THANKS to Janine and Cam.....BAGS of decorations are now ready to be distributed - Santa's Helper's (ALL kinder and school parents) needed to sew little felt Christmas decorations for the kinder and class children - Please come and collect a bag from the office, if Sally is not there **PLEASE write your name on the list next to the bag number you have taken.** (Also, just the right amount of decorations have been cut out - they must all be returned.) All bags to be return by FRIDAY 4TH December (Little Kinder breaks up the week before Kinder/School). Extra materials available from the office.

Many hands make light work

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

PONDERING STEINER

FOR NEXT TUESDAY ONLY we will meet at the home of David McEwan, 31 Hunter Street, Mansfield at 7.30pm. Contact Janina 57791911.

THE EXTRA LESSON CHRISTMAS PARTY

ALL EXTRA LESSON CHILDREN who attend Threefold Educational Support currently, or have done so in the past, are invited to come along with their family to the Sporting complex Playground on Monday 14th December, from approximately 3.30 - 5.00pm.

Please bring a small plate of food to share and folding chair or rug, if you wish.

Contact Janina for further details (ph: 57791911), interested friends are also welcome.

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. 16 th Nov.	Cam	Kerstie	Kerstie	Allison	Allison
Tues. 17 th Nov.	Melinda	Kerstie	Kerstie	Allison	Allison
Wed. 18 th Nov.	Helen	Patterson	Patterson	Allison	Allison
Thurs. 19 th Nov.	Lisa	Clare Ch.	Sarah B.	Sarah B.	Jenny R
Fri. 20 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.

CHILDREN OF NEPAL

TASHI STEINER SCHOOL

3 WEEKS AGO ON OUR TRIP TO NEPAL, we, Steve, Lise, Danielle and Marcus (former family of Mansfield Steiner school) called in on the Tashi Rudolf Steiner school in Katmandu. We dropped off a much needed class set of Lyra pencils for class 2, and was shown around by Doma, the very lovely and competent fundraising coordinator there.



Danielle and Marcus were fascinated by how similar the Katmandu school was to theirs, down to the colours on the walls, the muslin cloths, the form dolls, the beautiful paintings the teachers drew on the black boards, the wooden toys and the activities, like knitting, that the children did.

All the teachers speak good English. Doma has been living in the USA, so speaks English perfectly. The children mostly come from families who stem from villages. When we visited, it was in between Dasain and Diwali, 2 big festivals – only 3 days of school in between, and half of the children were visiting their relatives in the villages.

Education in Nepal is a lot about rote learning, and so Steiner education is very different to mainstream education there. The school has children from little kinder through to grade 3, with about 15 children in each grade. A lot of the education at Tashi is in English, which is normal in Nepal. Most educational books are in English.

In class 2 and 3 the children all learn to play the recorder and a string instrument called the sarangi, a bit between a violin and a cello, and with 4 strings. The children and the teachers were fascinated by Danielle trying to play the sarangi. You have to be very flexible to play the sarangi, as you sit cross legged on the floor with one foot on top, place the butt of the sarangi on your toe, a bit like a cello, but harder. We had an impromptu concert of recorder and sarangi playing by the class 2 children, we felt very privileged.

In the playground is a replica of a traditional mud hut. It gets used to store garden tools etc. It is tradition for the Diwali Festival that you make your abode inviting for the goddess of wealth, Lakshmi, so she will feel like going into your house to bless it. This gets done by 'washing' the mud hut, i.e. mixing up mud and water and covering the walls with it, and the house looks beautiful and clean. The two



maintenance men were 'washing' the walls, when we were there, and the hut looked beautiful. We later saw the clean mud walls everywhere we went in Nepal, even in the middle of touristy Thamel in Katmandu we saw some people 'washing' their clay ovens. Down south near Chitwan national Park, where most people are subsistence farmers, it looked like the whole area had had a wash.

In the Everest region, the Sir Edmund Hillary Fund has set up a number of schools and we spoke to several people who had got an excellent education for free through these schools, but if families can afford it, they still prefer to send their children to private school in Katmandu.

Like here, true to Steiner philosophy, no child is turned away for financial reasons, and the school relies enormously on financial support from people in the rest of the world. The same day we visited, there came a German family, who sponsors 2 children at the school. Their children were Montessori educated, but they chose to support these children as a present to their own children. Only 60% of boys and 30% of girls go to school at all, so it is really important we continue to help out as much as we can.

