

Friday, 6th March 2015

Aurora Newsletter #2

For Your Calendar:

Term 1 Wednesday January 28th - Wednesday April 1st

BBQ Lunch and Working Bee Every Thursday from 1pm

Sunday 15th March Parent Talk with Lou Harvey-Zahra

Friday 27th March Felting Workshop with Shirley 9:30am-12pm

Harvest/Easter Festival 9.45am-1pm, Wednesday April 1st (last day of term)

Dear Aurora Parents and Friends,

Aurora is Growing!

There has been encouraging growth in our school. Our Wednesday playgroup has grown to the point where we have created another one on Tuesdays. Rosalie will continue to run the Wednesday group and Annabel will start on Tuesdays with the Kindergarten children's help. The aim is, as much as possible, to move towards having the younger children (0-3) on Wednesdays and the older children (2-4) on Tuesdays. Thank you to Joanna and Jenny who have assisted Rosalie and Annabel in the establishment of a flourishing playgroup.

We have a new student in Kindergarten named Finn. Finn is settling in very well and we warmly welcome Finn and his parents Scott and Samantha. Finn has a younger brother Willow (Wills), who will be joining us in Pre- kindergarten, and a younger sister named Elke who will be coming to playgroup. Imogen Larmer had a brief visit on Wednesday and seemed to slot straight into Kindergarten. Imogen's family will be moving to Bowral from Canberra in the holidays and will start in Kindergarten in Term 2. We welcome Imogen's parents Rachel and Mark and her baby sister. We are very fortunate to be part of a friendly community. Please ensure that our new families are given a very warm welcome and are supported in their move to our school.

Newspaper Visit

We had a visit from Tori from the local newspaper on Wednesday. She took some photos of our Kindergarten students and asked all our students questions about what they ate for breakfast. She will be putting together pieces about Kindergarten students, breakfast habits and will include a piece about developments in the school and its new Principal.

Staffing

We will be employing a teacher for the rest of this term to help Kate in main lesson time to better meet the needs of the Year 1 students as well as extend the Year 2 and 3 students in their literacy and numeracy skills. Parents will be notified of the new teacher on Monday 9th March.

We will also be employing a language teacher in the near future. This will be announced as soon as it is finalised.

School Ethos

I have been speaking with several prospective parents in the last two weeks and one of the main attractions of our Steiner school is the prospect of being in a community with families with a like-minded ethos to raising children and education. Although there is a great deal of healthy diversity, key elements to this ethos include: allowing children to live in the world of childhood, allowing children to play imaginative games appropriate to their age; to be in touch with nature and not rush into the adult, intellectualised world too quickly. This takes courage and persistence in a world that is constantly putting pressure on our children to be exposed to adult concepts and commercialisation. We have noticed, as teachers, that we have several children playing games based on movie, TV and computer game characters involving shooting, combat and adult concepts. We are realistic about the fact that from time to time children may be exposed to such viewing and they may be involved in imaginative battles! However, it seems to dominate thinking for some children and limits their capacity to play. On behalf of the College of Teachers I plead with you as parents to limit exposure to screen devices. For young children to tap into the benefits of Steiner education, they need to immerse themselves in the stories and imaginative play presented to them at school. Screen devices tend to do the imaginary work for them and override the work done at school. Please support the stories, practical work and academic work at school by providing an environment at home that extends this work and allows children to play imaginatively and physically at home.

Thank you to all those parents who already support the ethos of the school with a healthy home environment. It is greatly appreciated by the teachers.

James Goodlet

Principal

Kindergarten with Annabel

Term 1 in Aurora Rose Kindergarten is all about welcoming children into our school culture, weaving a class community, and establishing the habits and routines of classroom life that will carry the children through their years here. We've had a rich start to our new mixed-age program, with nine (soon to be ten!) bright faces lighting up our lovely room each week. The children are being gently introduced to the forms and activities of school life- looking after their belongings, greeting one another, circle and story times, school rules and boundaries, social caring, making and baking, and looking after our environment. It's a delight to see them begin feeling at home in the space, at ease with our shared rhythms, and forming connections that will last for a long time to come.

At home, there are some simple things you can do to support your child in this time of transition. Plenty of rest and a regular bedtime, arriving at school bright and early so that they can experience the start of our day, setting up some regular chores such as setting the table or drying dishes, creating a nature table, saying a simple blessing on family meals- these are some of the ways that you can help create that sense of congruence that's so important for a child's wellbeing and security.

A big thank you to those who supported the Vietnam Children's Project Fundraiser held last Sunday- it was a successful and vibrant afternoon of wonderful performances and much warmth, raising close to \$1000 to support Dieu Giac Orphanage and Steiner early childhood programs for disadvantaged children in Ho Chi Minh City. Back in 2006 I spent three eye-opening months assisting at Dieu Giac. This was a very special experience- so foreign and yet so familiar- as the Dieu Giac Kindergarten was founded by my own Kindergarten teacher and now mentor, Thanh Cherry. Thanh will be visiting us here at Aurora Rose later this month, and together we're looking at ways we can strengthen links between our school and the Vietnamese kindergartens- stay tuned!

Annabel Brown

Kindergarten Teacher

School Shop

The School Shop is open for business! We have some great stock in place already with more on the way. The shop is open during school hours Tuesday-Thursday as well as by arrangement before/after school on other days. Feel free to wander in and check out the goodies. If what you are after isn't there please let us know and we can order it in for you.

Slippers

The slippers have been ordered – thank you to everyone who has placed an order, I'll be in touch regarding payments shortly. I am expecting them to be here in 3 weeks. We have ordered extra as stock for the Little Shop so if you missed out never fear – there are spares 😊

Nits

As you heard through the week we have had our little hair friends around the place. We'd just like to remind everyone to thoroughly check your child's hair regularly over the coming weeks so that we can combat them once and for all. If your child is found to have active nits while here at school it is a department of health ruling that they must be sent home. Once the hair has been treated children are then able to return to school.

Lunch and Outdoor Classroom on Thursdays

We will be continuing with our school community BBQ and Outdoor Classroom sessions each Thursday from 1pm-2.55pm. Please contact the school if you are able to help with set up and running the BBQ and helping with some outdoor work afterwards.

Parent Education workshop with Lou Harvey-Zahra

Just a quick reminder about the Parent Education workshop with Lou in the 15th March. This is a wonderful chance to get some real-life strategies to use at home from a Steiner teacher, parent and author. Find ways to keep your household harmonious while supporting the ethos that we all strive to live by. Bookings are necessary for the workshop as numbers are limited, and are appreciated for the talk for catering. Refer to the flyer in the Kindergarten window or ask Mel for more info.

Felting Workshop

Join us on Friday 27th March from 9:30am in the playgroup space for a felting workshop with Jenny and Shirley. We will cover basic wet felt making, felting around a stone and also making a picture. There will be a needle felting demonstration as well. All welcome!

School Contact Information

Kate Koch Class 1-3 teacher kate@aurorasteiner.nsw.edu.au

Annabel Brown Kindergarten teacher annabel@aurorasteiner.nsw.edu.au

Joanna P - Movement/Eurythmy/Speech teacher (Tuesdays)

joanna@aurorasteiner.nsw.edu.au

Jenny - Craft (Mondays) jenny@aurorasteiner.nsw.edu.au

Melissa Savill- Administration (Tuesdays and Thursdays) admin@aurorasteiner.nsw.edu.au

James Goodlet- Principal (Wednesdays and Thursdays)

principal@aurorasteiner.nsw.edu.au

For matters concerning individual students please contact your child's class teacher.

For administration matters, please contact Mel on admin@aurorasteiner.nsw.edu.au or 4862 2300.

For whole school matter please contact me (James) on principal@aurorasteiner.nsw.edu.au or 0432212586