

Tuesday, 11th August 2015

Aurora Newsletter #8

For Your Calendar

Term 3 Wednesday 15th July - Friday 18th September

Term 4 Wednesday 7th October - Wednesday 9th December

Creek Day with Esther from Council- K-3- Friday 14th August

Working Bee Saturday 5th September

Primary class excursion to the Opera 7th Monday September

Spring Festival and Open Day Friday 18th September

Dear Aurora Parents and Friends,

Our vision and direction

Throughout 2015 we have been developing a vision for Aurora that will enable growth in the school and set up a community with an ethos of which we are proud. This process has included professional development of staff and a focus on teaching and learning for children. Also part of this visioning process, the parents, staff and the school board have contributed in various ways. After the parent meeting at the start of Term 2, parents very quickly responded to the ideas inspired by five basic elements of Steiner education outlined by Dr Steve Sagarin at the Governance Leadership and Management conference that Melissa Savill and I attended in March. Rachel Larmer put together a very workable statement based on this meeting and, after working on this statement myself, as well as visioning activities with the staff and the board, we have come up with the draft statement below.

Aurora's Quest/Vision/Mission/Approach/Values/Raison d'etre/Statement of Purpose.....

Aurora is a small school offering a big-hearted education full of nourishment for the whole child. It is one of over 1000 Steiner/Waldorf schools throughout the world.

Our approach, inspired by the indications of Dr Rudolf Steiner, actively engages the senses with real life experience, learning through the head, heart and hands.

We are a school that upholds a respect and reverence for the natural world. We celebrate the Australian seasons, grow food in our garden and explore the beauty of our local area.

We are a school of spirit, welcoming families into our community with open arms and open hearts. We value kindness and compassion and we seek to create an environment that fosters healthy social relationships.

An education at Aurora builds a strong academic foundation. We provide a rich, engaging environment where students learn concepts and skills at a time that is developmentally appropriate. The attributes of curiosity, creativity and capacity are nurtured, ensuring our children are equipped for today's world as morally responsible global citizens.

In Term 3 we would like to communicate this direction and work collaboratively with parents and friends of the school as we are all important, co-creators of this school in its infancy. What we do now will have a long lasting and profound effect on our future. It would be very helpful if we reflected on the draft vision statement above, discuss it with other school community members and give feedback.

I look forward to your responses.

Practical ways to support our vision

Healthy eating

Please ensure that your child is bringing healthy food to school. As a general rule, the less packaged and processed the food, the better. Please provide food that is fresh, with a high vegetable content and low in refined carbohydrates and sugar. The staff and I are keen to promote the 'nude food' ideal and would appreciate your help with this.

Toys

We are keen for children to work imaginatively with natural, hand crafted materials as much as possible so please do not send plastic, commercially produced toys to school. If students would like to bring something to school from home, we encourage students to share something they have made. If you are not sure of the appropriateness of your child's offering, please check with your class teacher.

Clothing

Please send your children to school in appropriate clothing including natural fibres and excluding, as much as possible, brand names, commercial logos or large pictures of media figures. We, as teachers, are interested in seeing and meeting the whole child, not seeing them defined by the logo or picture on their clothing.

James



Messages from staff

Playgroup

From little things, big things grow! And Playgroups, as many parents know, are where the journey of Steiner education truly begins for so many families. Playgroups are an opportunity to welcome new people into our school community, share with them the gifts of the Steiner perspective, and send them back home nurtured with a dose of goodness to last the whole week through. Playgroups are magic!

In addition to Rosalie Englebrecht's Wednesday Playgroup session for children aged 2-and-a half to 4, we now have a Jenny Lloyd's Tuesday group which is tailored especially to the needs of younger children- 12 months to 2-and-a-half. Between the groups, we now have ten families regularly attending- but there's space for more, so please help to spread the word!

Since Ebba Bodame's in-depth Playgroup Facilitator Training workshop early in the term, we have formed a Playgroup Committee to help to promote and grow this aspect of school life, and to continue deepening the quality and value we offer to families week by week. Congratulations and thanks to Jenny Lloyd, Rosalie Englebrecht, Annabel Brown, Nadiah Christensen, Rachel Larmer and Rochelle Hairs for pioneering this initiative- and the more the merrier, so please contact the committee if you too would like to be involved.

The following items are still needed to enrich the Playgroup environment- can you help?

- A comfy lounge
- Playcloths in silk or cotton
- Wooden trucks, wheelbarrows and boxes
- Pots and pans for indoor and outdoor play
- A toy stove and kitchen cupboards
- Baskets of all shapes and sizes
- Small tables
- Buckets and spades
- Handmade soft toys
- Wooden blocks
- Steiner dolls
- Rugs, beanbags and cushions
- Oven trays

Donations can be left on the bench at the entrance of the Playgroup room. And finally, a huge thank you to all those who've helped to make the space so cosy over the past months - we're well on our way!

Cooking Supply Call-out!

Going through your kitchen cupboards? The primary class needs you!

More cooking is on the books for the primary class and we would like to improve our kitchen resources. We are looking for:

- Wooden chopping boards
- Peelers
- Kitchen scales
- Measuring equipment such as measuring jugs, spoons, etc
- Electric frypan (2)
- Kitchen timer
- Mixing bowls (prefer stainless steel so they can't break)
- Wooden spoons, spatulas, flippers etc
- Oven trays/dishes/cupcake trays etc
- Large plastic storage container to keep it all in
- Tea towels

We are not after people to go out especially to buy these things, just putting the call out for those who may be needing to offload a few things we can use.

We are also in need of a couple of wooden venetian blind slats for a mystery project coming up if you, by any rare chance, come across some of these!

Thank you very much and we are looking forward to cooking more food.

Jeddah.

The Little Shop

Got birthdays coming up? Or just in need of a few nice things for home??

Come and check out the little store for gift ideas, beeswax, crayons and pencils, candles and books! The Little Shop is open every Tuesday-Thursday during school hours.

Melissa