

Aurora



SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS
STEINER SCHOOL

Monday 31st August, 2015

Newsletter #9

For Your Calendar

Thursday 3rd September 2.30pm- Picnic afternoon tea in school grounds
Saturday 5th September 10am-2pm- Working Bee
Monday 7th September- Cinderella - Opera Australia- Robertson - Primary Class
Thursday 10th September 1pm- BBQ lunch
Friday 11th September 9:30-11:30 - Felting with Shirley

Farewell to Joanna, Francis and Sylvan

'From little things, big things grow' - one of Francis' favourite songs seemed fitting for the farewell evening on Friday for Joanna Panagiotopoulos and Francis Mougel. Joanna and Francis, the key founding parents for Aurora, will be greatly missed. The evening was full of emotion and fun with moving speeches and songs and hilarious skits. Thank you to Ellen Stuebe (Kai's mother) for organising it and thanks to Nadiah and Nigel Christensen (Sophie's parents) for being such warm and generous hosts.

Joanna, Francis and Sylvan will be moving to Germany at the end of September and we wish them well on their new adventure.

Student Changes

Sadly, we say goodbye, at the end of this term, to Finn and Willow Langley from Kindergarten. Along their parents, Sam and Scott, they will be moving to the Sunshine Coast.

We would like to extend a warm Aurora welcome Jude Haywood who will start in the Kindergarten on Wednesday 9th September. Please introduce yourself to Natalie and Grant, Jude's parents, when you have the chance.

Bowral Markets

We are planning to set up the 'Steiner Craft' children's tent at Bowral Markets starting 10th October. So far we have established a working group including Jenny Lloyd, Rachel Larmer and Rochelle Hairs. Please let Jenny know if you are able to support this initiative in any way.

Bus Transport

We have investigated bus travel for students with Berrima Buslines. Please pick up a blue form from the office if you are interested in your child travelling by bus to school. The bus bay at the front of the school will be available if there is a need shown by school community members.

Working Bee

There will be two opportunities to be involved in working bees in the next two weeks. One will be this Saturday 5th September from 10am - 2pm and the other will be next Thursday 10th September, after our BBQ, from 1.30pm - 4.30pm. Please contact the school to let us know which time suits you best.

Advertisement for Class Teacher Position

We are advertising on our website and on the Steiner Education Australia website for a Class Teacher position 2016. We are looking for a teacher to join Kate and Annabel to accommodate our new Class 3/4 next year.

Yours with heart,

James





Spring Picnic Afternoon Tea

Dear families,

This year in the highlands it has really felt like a proper winter, with cold mornings, frosty grass and even some snow! As the season draws to a close and we begin to awaken from this period of inner

reflection, our attention is drawn to the emergence of new life – wattles, blossoms, daffodils and soon tulips will be appearing around our local area in the warm light of spring. Mirroring this rebirth in the natural world, we as human beings will also experience a re-birth within our souls, as we breathe out in preparation for the season ahead.

New beginnings, fresh starts and the welcoming of some new faces to our community are all wonderful reasons for us to get together in the spirit of spring to share a lovely picnic afternoon tea.

Come along on Thursday 3rd September from 2:30pm for an informal gathering in the playground. Please bring a picnic rug and a plate of food to share (nut-free please) and if you or your child plays an instrument feel free to bring it for an impromptu sing-along!

Rachel & Inga (class parents)

Change of season – sun hats!

Welcome to Spring!!

With such wonderful sunny weather comes the changeover from beanies to sun hats. As per the Cancer Council recommendations, children will be required to wear a wide brimmed sun hat for outside play. If they forget their hat we do have a few spares or they will be limited to activities in the shade.

Please remember to pack a hat in your child's bag each day, or send one in to keep here at school.

News From the Primary Class

Term 3 for the Primary so far has been full and rewarding. The students have been very excited about our 'villagers' project which aims to blend numeracy and literacy skills in a realistic and engaging way. The students have worked together to create an imaginary village where they own shops, have businesses or provide services. We have our own money and are using it to buy and sell. Counting money and dispensing change is a challenging skill and the students are all improving with this. Need your piggy bank counted? Get your primary student to help! English skills such as reading, writing, speaking and listening are essential to participation in the village. Signage and price lists need to be written up and problems need to be solved as a group. We have a village mayor who listens to the citizens opinions, expressed one by one, on village issues and then makes a judicial decision. This will keep us busy each Wednesday this term and ties in with the Main Lesson 'To Market' that they have recently completed.

A couple of weeks ago during our Thursday Outdoor Classroom session we were pleased to have Joe Stammers from Wingecarribee Council come to the school and take us on an exciting adventure following the creek to the new planting at Centennial Park. The students are very enthusiastic about the local environment and Joe helped us learn more about the animals that live here - even the microscopic ones we cannot see. The students sketched the creek and drew in some of the animals that may have been hiding there. This has sparked much creative discovery in the time since with many students making their own birdwatching books during morning tea and lunch play. Thanks again to James and Joe for making this happen.

This was followed up with our Creek Care excursion with Esther from council and the Kindergarten class. As a group we collected four big garbage bags of rubbish from the creek that leads to the scout hall. Thanks Annabel for organising this great day and the adult helpers; Rene, Lisa, Ben and Jenny, for making it possible. The students are really getting to know their local waterways and we plan to keep going with these projects. A comment overheard in the playground during the wild wet weather... 'You should see the creek - it's so full'... and the subsequent gathering of students peeping under the fence shows how students are taking notice of the local creek.

We have been lucky enough to have a rope tying expert, Phil Brierley, come and teach us some basic knots. So far we have learnt a sheet bend and a square (reef) knot. The students are looking forward to continue to work on our knot tying skills over the next couple of weeks. It's nice to join the class as an amateur during these times, sharing frustrations and successes as a group. A big thankyou to Phil for his enthusiasm with this project.

We hope to finish our 'friend skis' over the next couple of weeks. These are wooden planks worn as skis with shoe holds for three children who have to work together to walk the 'friend skis'. This is our first attempt at a class wood work project together and we hope they will be a novelty addition to the school's outdoor play equipment. And then it will nearly be spring and time to think about getting the gardens ramped up again....

Cooking is firmly on the weekly agenda this term. I hope you have been enjoying the recipes and samples we have been sending home. It has been great for the primary class to have something to offer the kindergarten children during our peer support time on a Friday afternoon - we all like to share yummy food with our friends! The primary class has been working very well reading the recipes, following the directions, working in groups and cleaning up afterwards. We plan to mix it up a bit and do some messy science experiments instead of cooking some weeks. So far this has meant Oblek (cornflour and water).

And yes we have been doing regular literacy and numeracy book work as well!

With thanks,

Jeddah Teasdale

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or queries. I'm at the gate Thursday and Friday afternoons or email jeddah@aurorasteiner.nsw.edu.au

Term 3 in the Primary Class

At the beginning of this term the primary class completed the literacy main lesson: 'The King of Irelands Son'. Earlier this year the class studied the Animal Fables, in which the foibles of human nature were depicted by the various animals' antics. In the fables, the animals provide imagery for the less conscious parts of ourselves. 'The King of Irelands Son' explores the journey of becoming a conscious human being. The King of Irelands Son meets the consequences of his choices. Although his virtue and purpose are tested along the way he does meet with companions who help him. The story provides imagery of an individual who is striving to develop. This resonates with the growing child who feels that development is worth striving for even though it requires struggle. The children thoroughly enjoyed this main lesson and we continue to have weekly instalments of the story on Mondays before painting.



Our second main lesson was 'To Market', was a maths main lesson focusing on money. We have previously been learning about place value this supported the introduction of the decimal system. The four gnomes, Plus, Minus, Times and Share helped with the counting of the money. As well as the core subject this main lesson was also a history lesson and a lesson in morality and ethics, taught of course, through story. We had stories such as; King Midas, Philamon and Baccauis, The Pied Piper of Hamelin and Star Money, stories that are about greed and generosity, about reward and kindness. We even had a class bank consisting

of \$22.50 in mostly silver with a few gold coins. After each lesson of various counting activities the money was returned to the 'bank', which was a desk at the front of the class. I was fully expecting some of the coins to 'disappear', at this age the desire body of the child will sometimes just reach out for the object of their desire. I was anticipating a good discussion about the implications of less money in the bank. I was surprised and gratified that right up to the end of the main lesson and our final shop the bank had \$22.50! After the end of lesson shop we donated the money to the Seeing Eye Dogs Australia.



We have just begun our third main lesson of the term, which is a literacy, HSIE study of Aboriginal culture and stories. This main lesson is called 'Dreaming'. We are focusing on Aboriginal astronomy through story. Can you see the Emu in the night sky?

Newspaper Article

In case you missed it – this article was submitted to the Highlands Post and ran in its edition last Friday, 28th August. If anyone has a copy of the paper with this article in it, it would be greatly appreciated if we could grab a photocopy of it!

Early Childhood at Aurora Southern Highlands Steiner School – Playgroup to Kindergarten

At Aurora we provide for 1-3 year olds in our Playgroups on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings where children are accompanied by their mothers, fathers, grandparents and friends and guided with expertise by our Playgroup leaders. 4 and 5 year old children enter Pre-kindergarten, usually on a part-time basis, in the same class as our full time Kindergarten students.

Aurora Playgroup

Aurora Playgroup is an opportunity to celebrate and re-discovering the treasures of childhood in a nurturing, safe and supportive environment.

It is an enriching and nourishing program based upon the natural rhythms and activities of a slow home life and the seasonal cycles of the year. Stories, songs, rhymes, bread baking and simple crafts are all a part of this joyful and gentle experience.

Central to Playgroup is children's play, which develops creativity, imagination and social skills. We aim to provide a balanced structure that encircles the child leaving them free to unfold naturally as they explore and discover through imitation and self directed play.

By providing a beautiful environment with simple handcrafted natural toys and growing foods we encourage a child 's interest in the world inviting a sense of wonder and awe.

Through a coming together we offer connection, fun, sharing and support, also expressed through stories songs and festivals.

Playgroup provides a gentle introduction that has the potential to grow into a wonderful and rewarding journey for parents and children. It is a way to experience a wholesome and balancing Steiner education and for families to become a part of a growing, nourishing educational community.



Aurora Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten

At the age of 4, Pre-kindergarten children have the opportunity to join our Kindergarten class for full school days from 1-5 days per week. The older Kindergarten children help the younger children and a family atmosphere is created with all the children involved, at their own level, in activities such as drawing, painting, cooking, creative play, gardening, storytelling, bushwalking, festivals, music, poetry, craft, puppetry and festivals. Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten children have regular opportunities to interact with the Primary school children and become part of the whole school community.

Craft Mornings with Jenny

There are two Friday craft mornings left before the Spring Celebration. The idea is to prepare some spring time DIY kits for our little shop. Meet us in the playgroup space from 9:30-11:30am.

On Friday 11th September, we will be doing felting with Shirley which is sure to be a real treat!

All are welcome!! Hope to see as many of you there as possible.