

Aurora



SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS
STEINER SCHOOL

Monday 30th November, 2015

Newsletter #13

For Your Calendar

Thursday Dec 3rd – Excursion to Moonacres Farm

Wednesday Dec 9th – Christmas Festival, 10am-1pm (End of School year)

News from James

Camp

On Friday 20th November, Aurora Primary Class had their first camp. It was a great success with students and parents experiencing adventure, connection with our natural world and the joy of each other's company. The camp ran very smoothly. Thank you to all the parents involved for helping with the needs of the whole group and thank you to Kate and Jeddah for making the experience memorable for the children. The students set up their own tents, helped with food preparation, went on a creek adventure, played spotto, went for a night walk, sang and danced around an imaginary campfire (total fire ban) and slept..... yes slept!

The camping program for Aurora is aligned with the academic curriculum. That is, from the view of the child, working from the immediate surroundings and expanding out further into the world as children become older. In the early primary years we start with camping on school grounds with parent help; later in the local area with less parent involvement. Then in the upper Primary school years, students will be venturing further afield such as central Australia or the far north coast with no parent involvement.

Working Bees

Thank you to all those families who helped in the working bees on Thursday afternoon and Saturday morning. We were able to establish garden beds, clear tracks to the creek, brush cobwebs, set up the workshop and help Annabel

with the Kindergarten classroom. It was a great opportunity for people to meet some of our newer parents who are very skilled and hard-working!

Advent Festival

We invite the whole Aurora community to celebrate Christmas, summer and the end of the 2015 school year at our Advent Festival on Wednesday, 9th December 10am-1pm

In the southern hemisphere, Christmas falls near our summer solstice when light is at its strongest. We celebrate the triumph of light at its greatest point in the yearly cycle. The spirit of the Earth breathes outwards and so do we, for this time often signifies endings in our lives; the end of the year and the tying together of significant stages in our lives.

In his *Cycle of the Year Lectures*, Rudolf Steiner spoke about the experience of the northern hemisphere in this way:

“This is like a macrocosmic activity to our human microcosm. In our hemisphere it is as if the divine, having breathed out from our hemisphere into the cosmos, draws thence the forces of the universe for the following year”

If we work with this picture we can see there is perpetual but rhythmic renewal. What the spirit of the Earth brings every year we can partake of. We invite you to celebrate the end of our school year as we breathe out together and build up our strength again in the holidays ahead.

Moonacres Farm Visit

On Thursday 3rd November, the Kindergarten and Primary classes will be visiting Moonacres farm at Fitzroy Falls. Moonacres is an organic farm which Aurora has visited previously and will be visiting on a more regular basis next year. After our farm visit we will be visiting Jeddah's place at Robertson for lunch and a walk and then returning to school. This will be our last excursion for 2015 and an enjoyable way to welcome the summer season.

Yours with heart,
James



Term 4 in the Primary Class

Looking back over the main lessons for this year I am again impressed with how the Steiner content meets the needs of the children at this stage of their development. This curriculum so beautifully offers security and support for the emergence of the primary school child's individuality.

The Fables – 'Animal Wisdom', The Celtic Stories- 'The King of Ireland's Son' and the 'Saints' main lesson to mention just a few, illustrate the progression of this theme of emerging individuality.

The primary class began this year with the fables main lesson in which we explored human foibles via the antics of the animals.

Through the Celtic stories the children experienced the highs and lows of an adventurous journey and the tenacity of the human spirit.

The class really enjoyed the 'Saints' main lesson. An atmosphere of reverence was tangible in the classroom as the children lived into the wonderful stories of remarkable people from different parts of the world and different religious backgrounds. In this main lesson the children experienced a sense of the nobility of the human spirit.

At the end of the main lesson I asked the children what sort of person is a saint? Some of the replies were: "A saint is someone who doesn't want 'things'." "A saint is someone who is brave." "A saint is someone who is kind." "A saint is someone who teaches people to care about each other."

The last main lesson for the year in the primary class is 'The Four Kingdoms'. This main lesson is perfectly suited to this time of Advent. Our wonderful world is classified into four kingdoms: mineral, plant, animal and human. Yet each kingdom is related and interlinked with the others to form the "one life" of creation.

Through this main lesson the children experience a sense of belonging, of being part of the magic of life and the family of creation. This elicits a genuine reverence for the festive season.

The progression of the main lessons throughout the year helps the primary school child's development towards individuality. Even though they have begun to experience a greater sense of their separateness, the themes of the main lessons help them to trust that they are not alone. The children develop an inner trust in the world around them to offer experiences for growth (choices and consequences) and belonging, as well as friendship, guidance and goodness.

Kate Koch

Joseph's Staff & Mother Mary's Mantle

Let us consider the Nativity and its universal resonance. In the humblest of circumstances, a child is born- a child of light who is destined to bring into the world great gifts of truth, joy and love. He is held and enfolded in the soft blue mantle of Mother Mary. By their side Joseph stands steady with his staff: the protector- fully present, sure and strong.

In this simple yet profound image, we find a picture of what the children need to grow into their potential as free, truth-telling, loving human beings. Mother Mary's mantle represents our nurturing, enfolding and health-giving boundaries. Joseph's staff speaks of groundedness, assuredness and decisive direction. Together these create a secure realm in which the child's genius can unfold and their selfhood flourish.

Among conscientious, caring adults, there is a growing tendency to maximise choices for children, and take cues and guidance from their feelings and wishes. While this approach certainly comes out of a love for the children and a deep desire to do what's best for them, unfortunately it doesn't work in their long term favour. Rather, children are often left with an underlying doubt, anxiety and needing to 'get it right'.

Children need to feel our trust in our own decisions, our knowing what is good and nourishing for them, and our quiet confidence in the path we choose. We can think of this as Joseph's staff. They need to feel our 'yes', and also our 'no'- they want to push against our edges and limits, and when they find a strong boundary that we have absolute clarity with, they can finally relax. This is the security of Mother Mary's mantle- the enfolding of the child with soft, strong boundaries in a way that creates a realm of safety in which they can take their next developmental steps.

Held and nourished in this way, as adults, these children will be able to follow their own inner authority. Just as they have trusted in worthy adults through childhood, so in later years will they be able to trust in themselves: to be guided by their own inner authority, to follow through on their decisions, to have confidence in their choices, and to accomplish what they set out to. They will be able to declare what they want to create, knowing in full confidence that it shall be so. And we need human beings who can act in such accord with their own destiny, for surely they shall bring great gifts unto the world.

Annabel Brown

Mobile Muster

Well done to the Aurora community members who have searched in the back of their drawers to dig out old mobile phones for recycling. This week I will be arranging to send off these old phones so this is the last call for any unused mobile phones or mobile phone chargers. Thanks, Jeddah.

Sun Safe

We have had some very sunny days here at Aurora! Broad brimmed hats and covered sleeves are essential. Please ensure your child has this essential equipment every day.

Healthy Lunch Ideas

Primary class was asked the question 'what is your favourite healthy lunch?'

These were their responses:

Sophie: Sandwich with ham and cheese and cucumber. Sushi.

Amy: Rice with fried vegetables.

Abbey: Spaghetti bolognese with rice served separately.

Charlie: Ham sandwich and carrots.

Alessandro: Chinese chicken curry.

Kaitlyn: Spaghetti with pasta sauce.

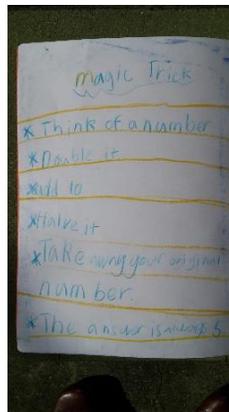
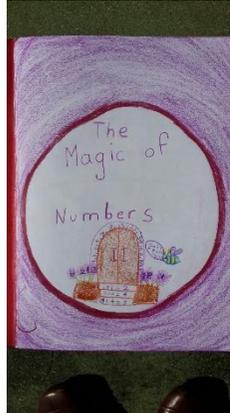
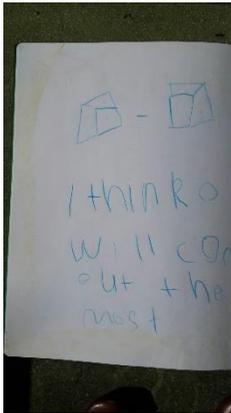
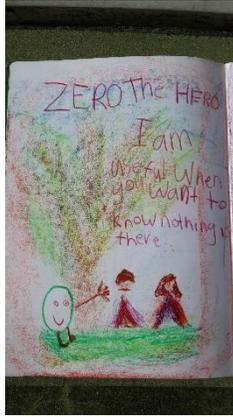
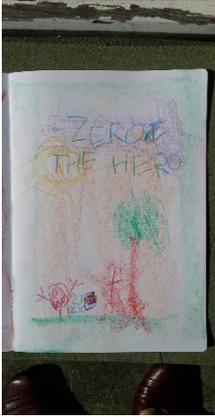
Sally: Spaghetti bolognese.

Maths Main Lesson

Have your primary children been coming home and counting in patterns? Perhaps they have had an unusual attraction to dice? Well, that may be due to the maths Main Lesson that we have just finished. Welcome to 'The Magic of Numbers' where maths and magic meet. We have learnt about the importance of Zero and why Zero is a Hero. We have rolled dice over 500 times to answer important questions such as 'What is the most common sum of two dice?' and 'What is the most common difference between two dice?' We have danced over number lines and performed amazing maths number tricks. We have a group of talented maths minds who enjoy working with numbers. Here is a sample of some of the work that has been done over the last two weeks.

Enjoy, Jeddah.

Work samples from Maths main lesson



The image is a poster for the Aurora Advent Festival. It features a background of light blue fabric with several gold stars scattered across it. In the foreground, there is a circular wreath made of brown sticks. Inside the wreath, a small yellow candle is lit, casting a warm glow. To the left of the wreath, there is a small branch of a green pine tree and a white cloth. Three tall, unlit yellow candles are positioned around the wreath. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

Aurora Advent Festival

Wednesday 9th December 2015,
from 10.00am - 1:00pm

Please join us for our end of year Advent Festival

What to bring:

A stone or flower for the festival table

A plate of finger food to share at our picnic lunch (no peanuts please).

Playgroup

Both playgroups are continuing to have moments of shared delight and wonder. This week will see our last week of Playgroup with the Advent celebration.

Craft Mornings with Jenny

A Huge Thank You! To Jenny and Nadiah for the wonderful Advent Morning Tea which was held last Friday morning. There was a fabulous turn-out, thank you to all who came and made it such a success! The wreaths you all made were stunning 😊

The parent craft group meeting every Friday morning with the joyous task of making beautiful items for the school shop (and of course a good chat over a nice cuppa!). Meet us in the playgroup space from 9:30am.

All are welcome!!

Noticeboard

Steiner Dolls by Shirley

We still have a small collection of handmade Steiner dolls, all sizes and forms, on display in the Little Shop. Please make time to drop in for a look while you still can!

Fees reminder

All 2015 fees need to be finalised prior to the last day of Term 4. Please see Mel in the office if you have outstanding fees and wish to make arrangements. Remember – we now offer eftpos and credit card facilities in the office.

Don't forget... those whose accounts are paid in full by the end of term will go into the raffle to win a prize! The prize is valued at over \$200.