



## mini NEWSLETTER 29 May 2009

Dear Families and Friends

Well, what a week of weather we've had. Many, many thanks to the school community for the understanding and cooperation shown during the stormy time of wind, water, no phones, power or internet. We finally got all our services back on by Sunday and Gavin and Murray have done a wonderful job of getting the debris quickly cleaned up for staff and children to return to school on Monday. Our communication system appears to have worked remarkably well considering the break-down of services in many parts. Thank you to people who were able to give us feedback, some of which we have taken on board and will be helpful for next time. In future events such as this, those families who continue to have access to the internet will be able to get up-to-date information from our website, as well as the usual phone trees, text messaging, emails and radio announcements. Children and staff all returned to school on Monday with some interesting stories about their experiences during the storm.

Later in the newsletter you will see a Health Department message about Swine 'Flu. Please take the time to read it and help to protect your family and others in our community. If your child has a heavy cold or 'flu-like symptoms, please keep them at home until they are well enough to be at school. Being unwell at school is miserable for a child and not much more enjoyable for the

teacher seeing the coughing and sneezing spreading disease and needing to play nurse to a sick child.

A reminder that during the cooler terms, our dress code requires the children to wear socks and shoes, not sandals, as keeping their feet warm and dry will also help to keep the colds at bay.

**Bus Behaviour:** If your child takes a school bus, please remind them of their responsibilities during their journey. There is frequently only one adult on a school bus and that person is busy concentrating on driving and keeping your children safe. I have reprinted, in this newsletter, the excerpt from the Parent Handbook around school bus travel for your convenience.

A high school information evening for parents of the current Class Six children was held at school on Tuesday evening. Thank you to those parents who were able to hear our talented, enthusiastic, caring and dedicated high school teachers speak about how they meet the needs of the adolescent through the curriculum they deliver. Also spoken of is how the high school curriculum completes the journey of Waldorf education by reflecting and complimenting the development through the kindergarten and primary classes. Two senior high school students kindly spoke of their experiences of finishing off their education in our high school.

Further opportunities for gaining information about the high school will be available and advertised as they arise.

This week Steiner schools all over the world will be celebrating what represents the end of the Easter season, with Whitsun. At Whitsun the Spirit of Community is celebrated: that which enables human beings to meet; true to their own individuality while acknowledging and respecting the individuality of the other, and recognising what it is that binds us as humanity. After the descent of the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire, the Disciples could speak in many languages symbolizing our differences and our universality. At a time when religious and ideological differences are so heightened and divisive, remembering this presents us with a powerful image of communal-ity that celebrates diversity.

Wishing you a wonderful week. Keep warm and dry

Warm regards  
Janet Molloy, Principal

### **Class 7, 2010**

**Class 7, 2010, students and their parents are warmly invited to attend a High School Information Session. This will include a tour of facilities and a chance to meet the teachers from 9.15am to 11am on Friday 12 June.**

### **URGENT: Swine Influenza Information & NSW Dept of Health advice**

In light of the recent increase in people being diagnosed with swine flu, it is important that if anyone living with you, and/or your children, has been overseas to quarantine your household for seven days and to seek treatment.

This will limit the potential exposure of others in the community.

For advice and information about Swine Influenza please contact your local Public Health Unit - for location details of Public Health Units go to <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/infectious/phus.asp>

More information, including Fact Sheets, can be obtained from the NSW Department of Health website at [http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/swine\\_flu.asp](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/swine_flu.asp)

## **Travel and Bus Safety**

Most of our children travel to school and from school by bus. The state in which they arrive at school after this journey has a great impact on their day at school. The bus companies have a code of conduct (see below) to ensure children's safety and the comfort of all passengers and the school supports this fully. Any infringements of this code are dealt with by the bus driver, who gives a warning and then may suspend the child from bus use for a certain period of time. The bus company informs the school and the parent of this.

### **Bus Code of Conduct:**

The following Code of Conduct is taken from School Student Transport Scheme - a manual for schools published by Transport NSW in November 2002:

- behave safely at all times
- respect the needs and comfort of other passengers
- behave appropriately at all times (eg no use of offensive language, fighting, spitting, placing feet on seats or throwing things in or from the bus)
- protect bus property and report any vandalism
- show their travel passes or tickets to the driver on boarding and when requested
- only use the travel pass for its intended purpose
- maintain possession of the travel pass at all times
- follow the driver's instructions about safety on the bus (eg instructions on where to sit)
- adhere to the law that bans smoking on buses
- only eat or drink (other than water) on the bus with the written permission of the bus operator
- keep arms, legs and other parts of their bodies inside the bus
- only attract the attention of the driver in the case of an emergency

### **ADDITIONAL BUS SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS**

In addition to the above, or by way of additional explanation, the school also recommends the following practices for students:

- Stand well back from the curb while waiting for the bus (at least 1 metre)

- Smaller children get on and off last.
- No ball games, chasing etc. while waiting for the bus.
- Sit down in the bus and no changing seats while the bus is moving.
- Talk quietly to those close by, loud noises distract the driver.
- Stay seated until bus has stopped, don't rush to get off.
- Walk - do not run, when disembarking from the bus.
- When off the bus, stand well back until bus departs and all approaching cars can be seen.
- When crossing the road, look to the right, left, then right again. Remember cars come closer from the right.

Please go over the above lists with your child to ensure that appropriate bus behaviour is understood.

### **BUS SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS**

For Parents and Guardians, we offer the following guidance for safe practice associated with bus travel by your children:

Go through the code of conduct with your child to ensure they understand what is required of them.

Never beckon your child from the opposite side of the road. Cross over and get them.

Wait at the bus stop with your child. A responsible adult can make all the difference.

Give your child a note for the bus driver if he or she is to set your child down at other than their normal bus stop.

Please encourage your child to be courteous to the bus driver and other passengers. Don't hesitate to speak to the driver or the office staff if the need arises. The safety of all children is the driver's concern.

The bus companies are bound by their own requirements to provide notification in writing of changes in set down points for children. For a more complete understanding of the school bus management protocols you may refer to the document *Guidelines for Managing School Students' Behaviour on Buses (A Code of Conduct for students and procedures for bus drivers, operators, school principals and parents/carers)* which is available from the School Office.