



CAPE BYRON RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

A Rose of pure white blooms in midnight's dark hour.
The spell of the darkness is broken and torn.
In my heart there's a bursting of magical power
For the heavenly Child on earth has been born!

He is pure as the snow. With my heart's love aglow
I shall nourish this Child, and he surely shall grow!

By Michael Hedley Burton



Class 11 Drama students Iyanna, Jacob, Henry, Jake, Jasmine & Jamila (front)

CHANGE OF SCHOOL DATES

Students will return to school in Term 3 on Monday 27th July, 2009 contrary to the date advertised in the school calendar. This decision was made in recognition of the long term break prior to Term 3. The reason for the 3 week break in winter is staff in Steiner schools participate in professional development usually in the July holidays. The Staff Development Day will be held on Friday 24th July. We understand that some families may already have made arrangements for non-attendance on Monday however classes will be starting on this date.

NEW RCM DAYS

We would like to trial a new way of making RCM days more available to parents and staff. As such we will have RCM days on the last Friday & Saturday of each term break. However, the first ones in this new arrangement will be on Thursday 23rd July & Saturday 25th July, due to a Staff Development Day on the Friday. As you may be aware each family has an RCM contribution of 16 hrs or \$200 per year. This new arrangement should make it easier for parents and staff to participate in the care of this school. You can also contribute your hours at many other times of the year through your Class Teacher or Guardian or through the Site Manager or Library or Front Office. One example is that High School Guardians need help at the moment with cleaning inside and outside rooms, high school students are invited and welcome to help.

Gavin: Ph: 0427 847 400.

ACTING PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Life in the Principal's office has been very busy in the last few weeks. We are meeting together each Tuesday afternoon to weave together the work of all the Faculties, as well as discussing staffing matters, school management issues, curriculum, timetabling, and student well-being. During the rest of the week, we are balancing the demands of our teaching and learning, with being available for the management and care of the School. There is NEVER a dull moment, and we are so thankful for the help and support of everyone: many hands make LIGHTER work!

Last week, after a lot of consideration and discussion involving many people, the application for BER funding for the "Multi-Purpose Hall" was submitted to the AIS. We are happy to say that the initial plans that were submitted meet the needs for facilities for PDHPE, as well as the Performing Arts, and will accommodate our whole School for assemblies and performances. It is a very exciting development proposal, and we await the news of a successful grant application with gratitude and anticipation.



Thank you to everyone who made the Winter Festival possible this year. Especially thanks to the Festival Committee and Loani, who never fails to bring her light, and joy in the music, to every Festival occasion. It was a special celebration of the turning of the year, with the stars twinkling overhead, the crash of the waves, the smell of the sea and sand, and the flames, large and small. The warmth in our hearts from such an occasion will be an inspiration in the weeks to come.

The Term break will be a busy time for some staff who are attending the Early Childhood and Extra Lesson Conferences. Class 11 and 12 teachers will also be busy teaching classes and assisting students with their major works. As this is a long holiday for the children, which accommodates the Professional Development of staff, we will be having our staff Development Day on Friday 24th July. Lisa Romero will again be our Guest Speaker, and we look forward to continuing our work with her. In the afternoon, Faculties will be working with the question of Learning Support: How do we meet the needs of the students in this area in our School? This will lead on to further work on this topic during Term 3.

The College of Teachers has welcomed three new members this Term, and the current members are now:

Merrill Badger, Catherine Dunham, Lindel Gass, Marlis Griffiths, Lyn McCormick, Julie McVeigh, Teera Palmer, Simon Richardson, Yvonna Schlawe & Peter Schirrmeister

The Goethean conversation that has continued throughout the Term has been “The role of the College in the Steiner school of today; What is the responsibility of the College in the management structure of the School? What is meant by the relationship of the College as the “heart of the school?” Next Term we will be revisiting the study of a book entitled “School Renewal” by Torin Finser, a text which provided a springboard to discussions and recommendations for the role of leadership in the School a couple of years ago. We are looking forward to working with the School Council and the Candle group for Constitutional Change, as our study and reflections progress.

We are happy to support the School Council in finding ways to increase efficiency in the School, as well as keeping the budget "trim and terrific".

One way that we are trialing is to schedule the RC&M days on the last days of the week before school resumes each Term. Given that the Staff Development day is on the Friday this time, the RC&M days will be Thursday 23rd July, and Saturday 25th July.

Teachers are often at school on the days leading up to the student's return, so we are hoping that parents and teachers will find these days a chance to work together, and take the time to share a snack or a picnic when it's time for a break. In this way of working and socialising together, we build our community together as well as enhance and care for our beautiful school.

Another way to contribute is to donate to our Building Fund. Your donation is Tax-deductable, (END OF FINANCIAL YEAR TOMORROW) and will help to hasten our plans to enhance the learning environment and facilities at the School.

The resignation of the Principal, Janet Molloy, earlier in the month was surprising, and upsetting, to many people; there followed a time of confusion and unease. At times like this, people often want to talk to one another, asking questions and expressing their feelings. However, it is worth remembering that we all have the right to be treated respectfully, whatever our thoughts and opinions might be. Not everyone shares our perspective on a certain event, or our sympathies or antipathies towards another person. We can seldom be aware of all the information that pertains to a situation, especially if it does not directly involve us.

Speaking negatively about the School, or the members of the school community, harms all of us, and the harm can be felt on a subtle level in every part of the School.

We have policies and procedures which guide us towards appropriate channels of communication, accessible conflict resolution and strategies for anti-bullying, which are applicable equally to the children, students and the adults in our community.

If we want a community that is respectful, harmonious, and peaceful, then it is up to each individual to consciously take responsibility for their part in the whole. Let's move forward in the spirit of peace-making, and gratitude for all that we have been given to work with.

We hope that you have a restful and happy holiday,

Lyn, Katie, Rachel, and Julie

CLASS 5

C5 - creative writing
Text type - Procedure

GOAL

To make a compass

YOU WILL NEED

- A bowl of water
- A magnet
- A cork
- And a pin (or a thin needle)

STEPS

Hold the pin by one end and rub it up (or down) the magnet – in one direction only, until it's fully magnetised.
Then put the magnetised pin in side the cork.
Gently put the cork in the bowl of water.
The cork will spin around then it will point North.

BY HANNAH

CLASS 8 FUNDRAISER

LUNCH IS SERVED!

BYRON GOURMET PIES (all varieties)	\$4.00
HOT HOMEMADE SOUP	\$1.50
CAKES & TREATS	50c - \$2

Available each Monday & Wednesday outside the Movement Room. Sorry no orders taken.

Malikai

Mystical moose magically mixing mysterious marshmallows.

Jasmine

Terrifying tadpoles telling tales of typical tigers.

Seven squiggling swans swam swiftly so as to not swallow slimy sardines.

Neesha

Horrible humongous hungry hats hopping heads of the horrific headland.

Matilda

One hundred horrific Hannah's hilariously hunting hogs of hunch backed horses.

HELP WANTED!

Can anyone help 2 class 8 girls with their Tobias Projects?

We need another good sewer who can help us put together our costumes for presentation in Term 4.

Sewing machines and all equipment supplied.

Times: Thursdays 1.45 – 2.45 and/or Fridays 9.30 – 11.00. Please contact Yvonna at school.

Beginners Eurythmy

We will learn to move together harmoniously using gestures and movements which connect us to the healing forces of the cosmos. Don't be shy, everyone is welcome.

Starting Monday 3rd August (term 3)

Time: 9.00 - 9.45

Place: Movement room

Cost: Free

"In dreaming man is half asleep, in eurythmy he is more awake than he is in ordinary life."

Rudolf Steiner

If you need more information or some encouragement phone Marilyn Myers on 6685 9909 or 0431 274 247.

FEDERAL MATTERS

National Curriculum Update

The National Curriculum Board met for the last time at the end of May and the new entity, the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is now in place.

In October 2008, the Council of Australian Governments agreed that the new authority would be responsible for the management of curriculum, assessment and reporting at the national level. It will also enable the realisation of key commitments in the Melbourne Declaration of Educational Goals for Young Australians.

In essence, the role of ACARA is as follows:

- Developing and administering a national curriculum;
- Developing and administering national assessments;
- Collecting, managing and analyzing student assessment data and other data relating to schools and comparative school performance;
- Facilitating information sharing arrangements between Australian and state and territory government bodies;
- Publishing information relating to school education, including comparative school performance;
- Providing school curriculum resource services, educational research services and other related services;
- Providing information, resources, support and guidance to the teaching profession.

On June 3, 2009, the Ministers for Education – national and state – announced the membership of the new 13 member of the Board of Directors of ACARA. The Board will be chaired by Professor Barry McGaw, the ex-Chair of the National Curriculum Board. The Deputy Chair will be Tony Mackay, the ex- Deputy Chair of the NCB. There will be one member from each State and Territory and one member each from the Independent Sector and one from the Catholic Education Commission. Garry Le Duff will continue on as the representative of the Independent Sector and Dr. Brian Croke as the representative of the National Catholic Education Sector.

The Executive spent some time at its last meeting perusing and assessing the five summary feedback papers published on the NCB website. In response to feedback given overall, there have been some shifts and/or development—notably the following stated general principles:

- Whilst the National Curriculum will be organised by years of schooling, this approach does not preclude schools aggregating content across years to facilitate a stage of schooling (contrary to what we were originally led to believe);
- The national curriculum will take into account the characteristics of the learner and learning within four overlapping age bands – 5-8, 8-12, 12-15, 16-18;
- The curriculum should connect with and build on the Early years Learning Framework (0-7) currently being developed. (As you may remember the RSSA put in a submission for this based on our definition of “creative play” and its importance in these years) Creative play is an element of the Early Years Learning Framework;
- The curriculum should allow jurisdictions, systems and schools to implement the national curriculum in a way that values teachers’ professional knowledge and that reflects the needs and interests evident in the local context ... it is the teachers who decide how best to organise learning for students;
- K-12 curriculum will provide the settings in which students can develop increasingly deep knowledge and skills (constant feedback point).
- National curriculum will specify some contexts and related knowledge regarded as essential for all students... in other cases, teachers will be able to choose how best to introduce and develop increasingly deep understandings of concepts and processes.

In the above general principles, there would seem to be some response to the feedback for a less crowded curriculum, more emphasis on depth, and more acceptance of a broader time-frame for introduction of content and skills.

Under the heading Pedagogy, there is acknowledgment that pedagogy and curriculum content and processes are interwoven. While

on the one hand the national curriculum will make clear what is to be taught and learnt, it also recognises that classroom teachers will make the decisions about the pedagogical approach that will give the best learning outcomes for the students in their care.

As to achievement standards:

- Achievement standards will provide an expectation of the quality of learning that students should typically demonstrate by a particular point in their schooling (ie depth of knowledge and sophistication of skills);
- K-10, achievement standards will be described for each year of schooling which represents a standard deemed as adequate to enable the student to progress. (C grade);
- Teachers will continue to use formative assessment ...
- Curriculum content and achievement standards will also be used to inform the development of national assessment programmes.

Questions still to be worked on (of particular relevance to us) include:

- Relationship of National Curriculum to State/territory curriculum;
- Recognition of “well-established alternative curriculum”;
- Staged implementation;
- Students with disabilities;
- Curriculum- Assessment – Reporting links.

Of particular importance to us is the working party which has been set up to find a “national identification process for ‘well-established alternative curricula’”. This party has not yet met. It consists of Garry Le Duff (independent schools sector representative), Brian Croke (Catholic Sector), Tony McKay (deputy chair ACARA), Rob

Randall (Secretariat) and one or two State and Territory representatives. The group has to present a draft process to the Board in October. We have been advised that there will be a consultation process including ourselves, Montessori etc at points along this pathway.

The National Curriculum draft documents are to be ready by the end of this year – for feedback and consultation in the early part of 2010. Final documents will be prepared midway through the year.

On both fronts, the optimum time for pressure – media, legal or political – will be towards the end of the year and early into next year – when we can see concretely exactly what we are dealing with and what the impact will be. Our staged strategy for now therefore remains the same as we agreed at our March delegates’ meeting – positive engagement with the process as far as it will take us –working towards a national sign-off that the Steiner curriculum is accepted as “equivalent” to the National Curriculum in terms of educational objectives and outcomes. We should remind ourselves that we have it on record from the Deputy Prime Minister that an identification process will be established for alternative curricula.

At a later stage of course, it may become necessary to operate differently. In the meantime we ask all member schools to continue to support the current agreement – the RSSA will formally distance itself from any other strategy at this time.

We suggest that all member schools place this article in their School Newsletters so that their parent community remains well-informed. For more information go to: www.acara.edu.au.
Rosemary Gentle

SITE NEWS

SAFETY NOTICE

Please be aware of the safety of your children, in our car park areas, when you drop off and pick up children. Parents should always accompany their children to the school grounds to avoid unsafe interactions between buses, cars and children.

We have a new sealed car park for 50 cars planned for the HS paddock later this year. From then on all drop off and pick up of children will happen from that car park. The top car park will then be only for staff. This will alleviate the interaction between children & buses in the top car park.

HAZARD FORMS

As part of our OHS System we have Hazard Forms available in the Front Office for the purpose of parents and visitors to report any issue that they believe possess a Hazard or risk to people. Please help us to maintain a safe site by using the Hazard Forms.

OTHER THAN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Wollongbar TAFE's free 'Preparation for Work and Study' course is what you're looking for. The course has a welfare industry skills focus, but is also a valuable preparation for any work and study area. You will boost your confidence, and gain essential welfare industry skills, job seeking skills and study skills. The course also includes computer training and work experience.

Supportive and friendly, within school hours, 3 days a week. Semester 2, 2009.
Contact Wollongbar Campus on 66204700.

Reading and Writing for Adults is a free course which will run one morning per week at Wollongbar TAFE in Semester 2, 2009. It will help you become more confident by improving your reading and writing skills for work, life and study. The class is small, very friendly and supportive. You'll follow an individual program, and work on the areas you most want to improve. These may include: reading more quickly, filling out forms, doing job applications, and writing letters and emails.

You'll also learn some basic computer skills.

Phone Wollongbar Campus on 66204700 for more information.

Tribal Belly Dance Workshops with Hilary Cinis from Sydney Saturday 4 July \$30

Suitable for beginners & teenagers over 15

Tribal is a modern fusion of flamenco, classical Indian, belly dance, hip hop & Turkish folkloric dance forms. Ph Belinda on 6685 1316 to make a booking. See Hilary Cinis & other guests perform from 7pm that night at the yurt at Temple Byron!

HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS WITH NORPA

Become part of the action

Lismore City Hall - July 13th to July 17th

Byron Bay YAC - July 20th to July 24th

for a week of workshops for ages 8 years up!

Acting Intensive - \$190 - 17+

Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm

A week long workshop aimed to older students who have already developed some skills and a passion for the theatre space.

Acting Intensive - \$190 - 13yrs - 16yrs

Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm

This workshop is designed for acting students who want to extend their skills and capacity for performing for theatre. The week will focus on scene works, improving physical presence while teaching new skills in physical theatre.

Bonus skills - physical theatre and stage combat

Acting Big - \$165 - 8yrs - 12yrs

Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm

This week will be about storytelling and play. This course will introduce participants to acting and building theatre. A practical start to creativity and performance. **For more info consult the NORPA website www.norpa.org.au or call (02) 6622 0300**



Winter Festival

BEAT BULLYING PROGRAM is a fun course aimed at empowering participants with positive and non aggressive strategies that they can implement immediately to help deal with bullying. Commencing 11 July 2009 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm (3 Saturdays) Cost \$70 per session 66286522

CLASSIFIEDS

*****Students all ages with American and/or British accents wanted*****
for paid audio work for local business www.fracasenglish.com.au.

*****Please call Phil on 6680 7683*****

TO LET

Ocean Shores - half house (2 bdrm) to let for 3 months 6th July to 6th October. Either fully self contained or empty. Neat and clean in garden setting \$250.00 per week Phone: 0411583376.

ALSO Ocean Shores Granny Flat to let, two bedroom, in garden setting, neat and clean, permanent long term rental for single working person \$200.00 per week Phone 0411583376

TO LET - Ewingsdale

3 bedrooms on 2 acres, peaceful, available immediately - \$600 per week including lawns, please call Yumi 0421 428 520

Houseminding wanted

Ex Mt Barker Waldorf School parents , semi-retired, looking for house sitting anytime from July 14 to Dec 10 2009.

Linda and I will look after your pets, your home and garden. Also mail collection, rubbish removal etc. We have completed a house-minding in Skennars Head , and are minding in Miami, Gold Coast for these Queensland school holidays.

We are compassionate and experienced with animals, quiet, and clean, and responsible. References will be supplied on request. Please phone us on 0438 391 345, or email jystusgardiners2@yahoo.com

Michael and Linda Gardiner

Education Tax Refund – Don't forget to claim

How do I claim the Education Tax Refund?

- In your tax return.
- If you don't lodge a tax return, claim on a separate form or over the phone.
- If you use a tax agent, make sure you ask them to claim for you.

The Education Tax Refund lets you claim up to 50% of eligible education expenses for school children. If you are eligible, you can get back up to \$375 for each primary student and up to \$750 for each secondary student.

You can claim things like text books, stationery and even internet costs.

If you receive Family Tax Benefit Part A for a child at primary or secondary school, you will be eligible. Some other people are eligible too, to find out more about this and other information such as what you can and can't claim go to australia.gov.au/educationtaxrefund or call the Tax Office on **13 28 61**.

📌 Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim.

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

EVERY WOMAN EVERY CHOICE

The federal government is introducing reforms to maternity services in Australia. From next year women will be able to claim Medicare rebates for maternity care provided by a privately practising midwife. However, as from July 2010 there will be no option to birth at home under the care of a registered midwife.

Unite to support all choices being available in birth in a procession next Saturday 4 July 11am Byron Bay. Meet carpark near railway crossing for procession, music, face painting and sausage sizzle.

www.maternitycoalition.org.au