

The Alice Springs Steiner School

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CORKWOOD CHRONICLES

TERM 3, WEEK 4

Wednesday 17th August, 2011

SCHOOL TERM CALENDAR

Class 2 Camp Simpsons Gap	25-27th August
Class 4/5 Camp Palm Valley	17th-19th August
Class 6 Camp Honeymoon Gap	22nd August
School Photos	23-25th August
Class 1 Camp-out on grounds	Friday 26th August
Book Week	30 Aug - 2 Sept
Jump Rope for Heart	6th September

Please note further information on festivals and other upcoming events will be posted once we have confirmation of times and details.

"May my soul bloom in love for all existence."

~ Rudolf Steiner.

Office News

Congratulations to Kyah Gillen of class 6 for winning an academic scholarship to St Philips next year. It is a daunting process, but Kyah rose to the occasion wonderfully - well done!

And also congratulations to Vanessa Prell-Smith and Ruby Farthing for making it into the Central Australian Netball Team, playing in the NT Link championships in September.

We have commenced fire drills with the whole school. These practices will assist us to refine the process to ensure all the students, staff and visitors remain safe while at our school. If you are at the school and there is a drill or a fire, please follow the directions of the teachers. The marshalling area is on the edge of the car park, in front of the Kindy. Thanks for your help with this.

Thanks to all the teachers and children of the Kindy, especially Cassia Kindy. Susanne has been quite sick and we wish her a speedy recovery. Kitty and Megan have also been unwell and we hope they are back on track soon too. The teachers and other staff have been so flexible and willing to rearrange their lives in order that the Kindy remains staffed with happy and dedicated teachers and assistants, with as little disruption to the children as possible. How lucky we are to have such a wonderful Early Childhood team.

-Annie Farthing - Acting School Manager

Fire Evacuation Procedure

We had a very successful fire drill on Tuesday. For Parent's information, the mustering point for the school is on the edge of the car park near the Kindy. A few issues were highlighted during the drill which will be modified and acted upon, but overall the children did very well.

-Annie

School Fees:

Great to see those school fees flowing in and being paid so promptly. There is one unidentified payment via the Commonwealth Bank for an amount greater than \$500 which was lodged on 4/8/2011 and labelled 'School fees'. If this is your payment please phone Karyn or Chris Gillen at the school office on 89 534 578 and let us know who you are.

Chris Gillen
- Finance Officer

Fair Reimbursements

Please remember to bring in any dockets you may have at home from the School Fair that you want reimbursed.

- Ask Elaine

Ellen Sallows Visit

Ellen Sallows visit has been cancelled for Term 3 Week 5 and is now organised for Term 4, Week 2-17/10/11 to Week 3-28/10/11.

School Holidays

School holiday dates are Monday 26/9/11 to Friday 7/10/11. Resuming school on Mon 10/10/11.

Website News

The website is under re-construction and we need your help! Looking for fantastic photos of school, students, families and activities to add to the update.

Thanking you,
Karyn

Council News

Greetings fellow Members,

Council met Tuesday 9th August for 2.5 hours. During this meeting Council resolved the following:

- School Principal - we are committed to recruiting the most best person for the job, not 'just filling the gap'; we are progressing with our considerations. In the interim Annie Farthing is Acting on a part time basis responsible for the operational issues working closely with our teachers and admin staff. HUGE THANK YOU ANNIE.
- **15 year Shilton Celebration Dinner** has been set for Saturday 3rd September at Campfire in the Heart. Cherry is coordinating this event - and looking for a caterer. This will be a paid event to cover costs for the meal and evening. Invitations will be out once costs are finalised!
- Mid Year Budget Review has not given us any reason for celebration; with extraordinary costs and not enough income we are very reluctantly going to be drawing on some of our cash reserves this year. Council considered our financial position at length, supported by the very detailed work of Chris Gillen, and agreed the costs are all an investment into our governance and an investment into the future of our School.
- Management Review - hard copies are available at the office for all members (i.e. Parents and teachers); comments or feedback can be emailed to Council via steinerCouncil@gmail.com
- Strategic Planning weekend has been set for 10 / 11 September (2 x half days); this will be professionally facilitated by John Mero. John has worked previously with the School and comes highly recommended. Participants will be Council and Teachers - if any members have a keen interest/experience in setting the direction of our school for the next 3 - 5 years and would like to express interest in being involved please contact me. The draft Strategic Plan will be circulated to ALL members for comment prior to being adopted.
- PLEASE OFFER CHILDCARE SUPPORT TO PARTICIPANTS i.e. Council and Teachers for the weekend of 10/11 Sept!

Thank you to members who take the time to contact me with feedback and issues.

Regards,
LIBBY PRELL

From the Teachers

There have been a number of questions from within the school community on the subject of the school embracing a new management model and appointing a school Principal. This decision has evolved out of the consultative process of the management review earlier this year.

The teachers involved in the consultative process expressed the need for an educational administrator, with the skills to manage the ever increasing weight of administrative tasks within the school. This new way of operating in Steiner schools has become popular in recent years, in Australia and overseas, and is an adjustment driven by the necessity for ever-increasing accountability, accreditation procedures, issues of liability, national curriculums, the

myriad of policy and procedures, the shortage of trained teachers, etc. The workload for teachers, council and administration is so huge and so time consuming new positions are needed to manage it. There is also the question of the need for more visible leadership in schools. This new way of operating does deviate significantly from the past in that it relieves teachers of much of the tasks now required of them by external authorities. It does not mean we will have a new way of teaching imposed upon us.

Waldorf education is the fastest growing school movement in the world with more than 1000 schools world wide and with increasing recognition as a successful education system at all levels. Oftentimes we hear about the troubles and stresses Steiner schools are under due to management and financial difficulties. Many schools, particularly those in their infancy have trouble attracting trained teachers and may be under resourced financially. Other more stable schools have difficulties when they move into high school. However, it is also important to acknowledge the tremendous work done by teachers, parents and others over the past 60 years to build these schools, many of which have maintained their core values despite the difficulties.

Waldorf schools, whose core work is education, have traditionally been managed collegially, by teachers, supported by administrators and a Board of Directors. This group strives to maintain itself as an independent cultural body. Steiner speaks about this, *“The State shall no longer determine the matter and manner of teaching. Only those who are actually teachers, engaged in practical education, shall be its administrators. In the Waldorf school the teacher should be independent of any political or economic authority as regards the subject or manner of his teaching”* (The Social Future, 1935 p:28-29). Striving for this ideal, an independence in the life of thought i.e. education driven by educators whose intention is to educate in a way that supports the child in their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual lives, is a continuous struggle against the ever-increasing requirements of external political and economic authorities. It also requires thorough knowledge of the subject matter and ongoing professional development.

Teachers in Waldorf schools strive to work together cooperatively in the service of something greater than their own individual wants and desires. As we work together in the spirit of Waldorf education we become very much aware that the struggles and difficulties we encounter are also part of our own personal and spiritual journey.

Thanks to all those wonderful people who dedicate their time and energy to our beautiful school.

Warm regards, Ann

Assembly

Assembly is held first thing on Monday morning in the class 6 room. It is hosted by class teachers in turn and is a compulsory and important part of our school curriculum. Assembly is the only time during the week when the entire Primary school get together. It provides teachers with an opportunity to pass on information, acknowledge special events, people who may be leaving, birthdays etc. and to enjoy an artistic activity together. Unfortunately, we do not have the space to host assembly for children and their parents.

Parents may be invited by their class teacher if an assembly is particularly relevant to their child or class. Parents are also invited to attend school assembly when it is hosted by their class teacher. Notification of who is hosting assembly will be in the school newsletter or check in with your class teacher. We ask parents who are attending to come on time and to take out babies and young siblings if they are upset or crying.

Thank you from Ann Poulsen on behalf of the teachers

Kindy News

A HUGE THANKYOU

We would like to thank all those who were involved in the meal roster for the past couple of weeks. The meals were sensational and the time and effort put into making and delivering them in your already busy family lives was greatly appreciated. A big heartfelt thanks to Nic for coordinating the roster, it made welcoming our precious little girl, Seraya a whole lot easier - so THANKYOU!

Marc, Nieta, Tahlia, Kaelah & Seraya Woods

Kindy Team

Thank you to all the wonderful people who have been keeping the the Cassia class going while Susanne and now Kitty have both been sick. Especially thank you to Megan, Tobie, Lisa, Kylie and Lenley who are keeping the boat afloat with such good cheer. While no-one can replace the Susanne/Kitty team it has been good that the children have always had familiar faces around them during this time.

We also received news that Ellen Sallows is unwell and is undergoing surgery at this time. She has arranged to visit next term instead of this term and we will keep you updated as to when her engaging evening talk will take place. She is one wise educator and her work with troubled teenagers is truly inspirational.

Billy Button Kindy

Thank you to all the parents who were able to come to our gatherings last week. It was good to share what we are doing in Billy Button this term and some of our general goals and aspirations. A couple of key things for those who weren't able to make it -

- We are going to go on walks most mornings this term while the weather is lovely. This short window between the end of winter and summer beginning in earnest is always a precious time and it will be wonderful to be out and in it!! So many discoveries to be had! Not only will we be fostering a connection with nature but we are laying the foundations for science and a scientific way of thinking through our curiosity, enquiry, discovery, enthusiasm and most importantly our sense of wonder.
- We will go walking first thing while our shoes are still on! So if your child could take their lunch box and piece of fruit into Skye as usual, and when everyone arrives we will head off. If you are going to be late, don't worry, you can either catch us up (we will only ever be walking in the school grounds so we won't be hard to find) or wait for us to return. We will be back by approx 9.00am.
- Don't forget to check the growing pile of clothes in the lost property basket. They will go to the op shop at the end of term if not claimed!
- I handed out "Looking Forward" sheets at the meeting for parents to fill out. Please fill out and return to M'Lis as soon as possible. If you didn't get one please see M'Lis.

With thanks,
M'Lis and Skye

Ruby Saltbush

While warm spring breezes have taken the chill right out of the air, we are aware of smoke and fires as part of this season. Especially so now that we have had a fire drill. Wide eyed and wondering the children saw the whole school gather in between the Kindy fence and the carpark. Afterward we noticed the children playing sirens in their play and we knew the loudness of the siren had really left an impression. Play is so restorative to children's equilibrium at this age allowing them to regain control of things.

Next week we will have school photographs taken which will be another exciting event for the class.

Meanwhile we have moved from stories of Winnie the Pooh during rest time to tales of the Muddleheaded Wombat. The children are so taken with their new finger knitting skills they have taken to finger knitting on their sleeping mats while they listen!

Many thanks,
Katy and Holly

Cassia Kindy News

School News

Class 1

We are back to our journey with numbers. Our Twelve Dancing Princesses have one pair of shoes each evening. Percy Plus counts them by adding $2+2+2$ etc and gets 24 shoes in the pile all with holes in their soles. When the Princesses secretly return to their bedroom chamber. Max multiply on the other hand takes one special shoe from each pair making up 12 twice and this also gives us 24. They have all had a chance to try on my special dancing shoes, and walk around in them. Moses' special Venetian eye mask from overseas also added a magical touch to our imagination of all the wonderful dancing!

The children are really joining in with their play around mud. The warm weather gives water that added attraction. We will have a mud playing day Friday week on August 26th. This will allow you to take them home and spruce them up for their overnight camp later that evening.

Please return to school around 6pm with a swag; warm sleeping bag or doona, pillow, face cloth, toothbrush and cutlery. Could the children be dressed in a tracksuit or similar so they can go to bed in these clothes. We will share a meal around the campfire, have a hot choc and good bedtime story. Beforehand we may play a game or two and collect some wood for the fire.

If you have not already signed a permission form please do so. Please check in with me if you have any concerns. I will be telling the children next week what to bring.

Pickup time: Friday morning 9am
Please bring NO torches, or toys.

It will be a wonderful opportunity to really appreciate the mood and rhythm of the day including the night sky.

Swimming continues and a big thank you to all for your support.

Unfortunately Mr Wind took my roster off the table and I require people to recommit or touch base so I know where we are all at! Pick up from the pool must be before 2.40pm as we need to return the children to school by 2.50pm. Our swimming lessons are in 2 x blocks and the groups alternate. First group at 1.20pm to 1.50pm and the second group 1.50pm to 2.20pm. This leaves us only 20 mins to get out and dressed.

Much of our parent discussion centred around a significant observation of change in the children's behaviour. If you haven't had a chance to yet read the article Margi sent around online please do so. It is very apt with what our experiences and concerns have been to date: [Your Super Seven Year Old: Traditional and Anthroposophical viewpoints, Part One.](#)

The other article was in relation to a Waldorf Kindergarten teacher's book ["You are not the boss of me!" - Understanding the Six/Seven year old Transformation.](#) Thank you to all those who attended.

This Friday we will still keep our house surrounding nature walk up however it will be a short explore and then visit to campfire of the Heart due to our scheduled show in the afternoon at 1pm for [Grandma from Gooligulch.](#) Thank you to Margi for getting on to this. We will have an ice-cream afterwards for afternoon tea in the park and pickup will be 3pm from here.

It has been wonderful to enjoy the growth around us in the veggie garden and bush behind school. Our next walk shall be to a higher knoll opposite the shady. Good closed in footwear, a backpack, and a delicious snack helps the children to enjoy the challenge of the day.

Here's hoping the term doesn't get any busier. It is feeling manageable and exciting.

~Vivienne

Class 2

Thanks to all who attended the class meeting last Tuesday. It's always great to touch base.

After some discussion about the Ecofair as a potential fundraiser, the overwhelming majority of parents were in favour of making a monetary donation to the Language and Culture program instead.

Our time and energy is so precious and as much as we love to fundraise through these types of events some times it's just not possible. Please speak with Megan if you would like to donate funds to this very worthy cause. Warren H kindly volunteered to do a fundraising concert and would like to include some of the strings players as well. Will keep everyone posted about that one.

Something I forgot to mention at the meeting was the taking home of readers by children. Please support your child's reading by listening to them read at their own level with the readers provided. These do need to come back to school please after 1 week.

Please note our camp is now the 25th - 27th August.

With thanks, Ann

Class 3

Monday Morning 8.30 Assembly

There have been some discussions around opening our assemblies to parents. Please see the section titled "Assembly" for further information.

Hot Weather Clothing Reminder

Please ensure your children are suitably attired for the prevention of sunburn again this season.

Homework

1. Dolche words are on again by popular request with tests on Fridays.
2. Script reading and finishing off work not completed in class.
3. Many children have lost pencils, usually unnamed. Could you send them with money for new packets or pencils from home please.

Next main lesson will be music notation followed by a family tree lesson which will need your support of photos and stories. This would be a good time to have the children present their homemade books as part of their oral presentation focus this term. The children are reciting a birthday verse each morning which needs to be memorised. Before bedtime is a good rhythm to get into.

Thanks all,
Pam

Class 4/5

Dear parents and friends,

We are trying to build up our collection of dictionaries for the upper school's use, and are wondering how many homes have spare or old dictionaries, that they would like to donate to the school. Put your name inside the front cover, and state that this is a donation to the school, and you will always be remembered for your generosity.

Could these be handed into Noel please, so that they can be collated and coordinated for use in the upper classes.

Thanking you.

Shalom,

Noel (for the teachers).

Class 6

Hi everyone,

Thanks for the turnout at the parent meeting last week. We had lots of discussion about the proposed drama camp at Honeymoon Gap later in September, as well as about our excursions for this week. The first of these is with Megan, who's been teaching language to the younger classes, some residents of Topsy Smith and some of Megan's students from Yirara.

Marcus the Camel Man has kindly lent us his troopie and we'll be heading out along the Titjikala Road looking for a nice stand of mulga from which to make some clapsticks. Thanks so much, Megan, for organising this for us....it should be a fantastic day and we really appreciate your efforts in getting it happening. On Friday we're off to the Eco Fair, a destination I'm sure many of you will be heading for on the weekend.

Class 6 has been measuring up the Old Library, which has become the new home of the Learning Support Program, as part of our Maths Revision main lesson. We're awaiting the final decision on the colour scheme, then we'll get stuck into some painting and decorating.....walls, carpet,

curtains, a new outside garden....if anyone has a chunk of old but decent carpet they could donate we'd really appreciate it.

Plants, whether potplants or things we could put in the ground could also be used. And cushions. We can sew new covers if they're a bit scraggy. Material too I guess! Drop anything you think may be of use into class 6.

Thankyou.

Warm regards,
Katrina

Library News

Marita was very happy to see that many books have been returned and the library is looking much tidier - great work everybody! There was one issue mentioned to the office though that the library was found wide open one morning. **Please be aware to lock the door if you were the one to unlock it, or the last one to leave.** This is everyone's responsibility. We oftentimes have cattle, horses, dogs and all manner of creatures wandering around our schoolyard and the last thing we would want is for someone to get into the Library and mess up all of Marita's hardwork!

All articles in the Community Notices are not necessarily the views of the Alice Springs Steiner School

@ Community Notices @

Caterer Wanted

Preparation of 2 wet dishes, (1 vegetarian and meat curry) and rice or baked potato.

For up to 100 people for the 15th year Shilton dinner on 3rd September

Interested or ideas - please contact Cherry (redsand@internode.on.net) or 0419 823640

Position Vacant

Birth and Beyond is looking for a new **Parent Support / Admin Person to work 4 hours (\$25 per hour) on a Tuesday** covering the hours of 10-1 to help with our growing workload here! This position will start ASAP and continue until mid December 2011.

Are you passionate about supporting parents in Central Australia, do you have great communication skills and enjoy working in a busy office environment? If you would like more information please contact the office on 89520916 or Anna, our Convenor on 0402 424 780, email: wildish.1@bigpond.com. If you are interested in this temporary position please send a brief expression of interest via email to birthandbeyondprc@gmail.com.

Buy, Swap, Sell

Wanted to borrow from 9-23 August, one high chair. Call Marianne 8955 5254.

Seeking Accommodation?

Accommodation available: 1 bedroom fully furnished unit on rural block, 15 minutes from CBD, suit one person or couple. For information please ring 0401471479 or leave message on 89535020.

House Sit Available, Adelaide Hills

House in small town of Nairne available for reliable, trustworthy person for all or part of a couple of months.

Would suit a single person, couple or small family; 2 of the 3 bedrooms would be available for use. Well-behaved pets welcome.

Nairne is 10 minutes from Mt Barker and 45 minutes from Adelaide by car, 1 hour by bus. Contact Sandy on 0431 608 015 for more information.

House for sale

Looking for a lovely home? Our home is up for sale!

It is a real family home with a 'good feel' through out in perfect condition, located on a large block in Bokhara street. It is a fully renovated 3 bedroom house with open plan living. Beautiful wooden floors and cork tile living areas, carpeted bedrooms; practical new kitchen, bathroom and laundry. Spacious master bedroom with walk-in-robe and 2 smaller bedrooms built in robes.

Private sale Please call John on 0447296252 or Katrien on 8955 0155

Annual General Meeting

The Alice Community Garden is having its AGM and BBQ Saturday 27th August from 10am on site at Frances Smith Park, Eastside. All interested members of the public are welcome to come and meet our nominated committee members, enjoy a camel burger BBQ and talk up big about the community garden.

Astronomy Night At Desert Park ~ Free Event, All Welcome!

Join local astronomers and discover the stars, constellations and galaxies found in the Central Australian skies. **Friday 19th August**

See and hear about the science behind stars.

Enjoy short films on the big screen from the Scinema 2011 Travelling Film Festival.

Dinner, snacks and drinks available during the evening.

Bring along a chair or picnic rug to enjoy the night.

Explore the mystery and adventure of the night on a Nocturnal Tour.

Spotlight rare and endangered animals with an expert guide.

Departing at 6.45pm and 8pm. Adult \$20 and Children \$10. Numbers limited.

Bookings can be made on the evening or prior by phoning (08) 8951 8788.

Larapinta Drive, Alice Springs • Open 7.30am to 6pm daily
Telephone 8951 8788 • www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au

desertSMART EcoFair Update

This year sees the EcoFair take a quantum leap into festival proportions.

From Friday - Sunday there are events and activities for everyone.

The highlights for the weekend are displayed at <http://ecofair.org.au/>.

It's a huge program!

However, [we're still in need of volunteers](#) to help the event run smoothly.

Please call visit the website or call ALEC to find out how you can get involved.

The EcoFair website is the main source of information and

coordination for the event, it is fully integrated into

social media with [Facebook](#) pages and [Twitter](#).

This will be our means of communicating updates and event highlights this week.

www.ecofair.org.au

Keep up to date with the happenings at the EcoFair by checking into the website regularly.

The full program is being finalised and will be online soon.

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Entry by Bike/Walk?
Gold coin donation
Fossil fuelled?
\$5 donation
Kids under 16 - Free

Pay once and access all weekend and be in the running to win great door prizes.

Olive Pink Botanic Garden - Mparntwe Alice Springs

19 - 21 August 2011

visit www.ecofair.org.au to find out more..



Friday (DAY)

Friday (from 7pm)

Saturday (DAY)

Saturday (6:45pm)

Sunday (DAY)



Schools day

A range of activities including:
Energy - Power Down Alice
Biodiversity - Backyard Bioblitz
Ecology - Be a Bush Detective
Water - The Alice Springs Story
Ecology - Chains of Life
Food Security - Food miles:
Think local, Eat local
Waste - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
For more information about Friday's schools participation program visit:
www.ecofair.org.au/schools



Big night of Music!

Tijana Cartel
Dr Strangeways
Treason Coalition
book your tickets at Araleun
Box Office (08) 8951 1122
Tickets are \$25 pre-sale & \$35 at the door.



Full Day of Activities

Fashion on the Boardwalk -
Wearable Arts in the Gardens
Olive Pink Tree Planting
Multi-instrumentalist Jay Hoad
on the Mainstage from 2pm
CSIRO Discussion 'Science on
Trial - Science in the Community'
...and market stalls, workshops, art
& craft, all day live music and more..
see www.ecofair.org.au/program



Looking at the Big Issues!

Centralian Q&A
with live streaming & twitter
..followed by two thought
provoking films mainstage:
Film 1: The Shifting Dreaming (60mins)
Film 2: Inside Pine Gap (45mins)

*Free Entry to Centralian Q&A and films..
To ask panelists a question via Twitter
tweet: [#hec_fair](https://twitter.com/hec_fair) [#halfcesprings](https://twitter.com/halfcesprings)



Full Day of Activities

Wild BushFoods Recipe
competition & Iron Chef
IAD PRESS "Seven Sisters"
Jukurrpa Journal Launch
The Not Real Cowboys on
the Mainstage from 2pm
"Alice Springs: nt.au coming soon?" -
A Common Territory discussion..
..and market stalls, workshops, art
& craft, all day live music and more..
see www.ecofair.org.au/program

Panelists for the Centralian Q & A:

- Karl Hampton (Minister for Central Australia & the Environment)
- Peter Chandler (Shadow Minister for the Environment)
- Barbara Shaw (Green's candidate and human rights activist)
- Aid John Rawnsley (Alice Springs Town Council & DKA Desert Leadership Program)
- Dr. Peter Tait (General Practitioner, long-time peace and climate action advocate)

