Autumn Festival – 22 March

**Why is so much emphasis put on festivals & ceremonies?**

Seasonal festivals serve to connect humanity with the rhythms of nature and of the cosmos. The festivals originated in ancient cultures, yet have been adapted over time. To join the seasonal moods of the year, in a festive way, benefits the inner life of the soul. Celebrating is an art. There is joy in the anticipation, the preparation, the celebration itself, and the memories.

Throughout the world, in all civilizations, there are celebrations reflecting nature's rhythms, and important seasonal transitions in the life of the culture. These festivals are celebrated as a means to sustain and renew ourselves. For many people today, whose increasingly busy lives can make them unaware of the changing of the seasons, festivals provide an opportunity to reconnect with the cycles of the earth and the soul nurturing they provide. In Waldorf schools, the rhythm of the seasons and the wonder of the natural world are celebrated as the class teacher prepares songs and activities for the classroom.

As the harvest is gathered and stored, the days grow shorter and chill comes into the air. At this time, children settle into the routines of school and focus on the inner life of learning. The dragon theme invites the children to face the challenges of a new year with courage, confidence and a desire to do what is right.

For adults there can be deeper meaning in this festival, which is tied to the change of the seasons.

"Autumn and winter call on us to withdraw into our own human nature and oppose the death and decay of nature with the resurrection of forces of soul and spirit. Spring and summer are the time of the soul’s nature consciousness; in autumn and winter, we must experience our self-aware human consciousness... In summer we are received lovingly into nature; but if we would not be deprived of our own centre and balance, we must not lose ourselves in her but be able to rise up in autumn to strengthen the spiritual nature of our own being."

- Rudolf Steiner

Children and adults alike may feel inspired to have the courage to face the coming winter and to give thanks for the gifts of the earth.

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**Steiner Stream News**

**Wool Donations**

Our busy hands are ploughing through the wool stocks in the Steiner craft room. If you have any pure wool or natural fibre skeins (with bamboo, cotton, silk combinations) to donate for the children’s craft it would be greatly appreciated. Our Class 4s and 5s will be moving on to their stitched pictures, as the months turn cooler and will require a range of sizes and textures of pure fibres to create their beautiful stitched scenes of the Norse and Greek mythologies. Our Class 6s will be moving on to begin knitting their dolls bodies before forming and stitching their dolls heads, so we will also be grateful for any wool/natural fibre skeins that could used as hair. All donations can be given to Leanne or Ursula. Thank you.

**Class Rooms Snippets**

**Prep**

In the Steiner Prep classroom the children are singing harvest songs as we say farewell to Summer and the end of Term 1. The roster for Treasure Time is on the Prep noticeboard and children are asked to bring something from nature or something they have made at home to share with the class. All the prep children love treasure time and their speaking and listening improves and lengthens as they listen to the stories from their friends. We have completed our Harvest activities and the children enjoyed making their corn dollsies, eating corn and baking bread. We now move into celebrating Easter and the end of summer.

**Calendar of the Soul ... Rudolf Steiner**

**Steiner Sub Committee Meetings**

**MPSS Autumn Festival**

Our annual autumn Festival will be held on the afternoon of the equinox, Friday, March 22. We look forward to seeing you there.

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"Receive the children in Reverence; Educate them in Love; Let them go forth in Freedom” ...Rudolf Steiner
concrete even from such a small distance. Please be vigilant.

As ever please contact either of us after school if you have any concerns.

Blessings Johanna and Lizzy.

Class 1/2

Firstly, I must begin our little update about the goings on in our busy little classroom, with an enormous Thank You! I would like to wholeheartedly thank each and every individual (whether they be parents, staff, students or friends of 1/2s) who have welcomed me with open arms into this warm and extraordinary community. I feel blessed and overwhelmed by every gesture, from all of the parents who came to help me beautify the classroom, to the support of an amazing class carer, to the warm smiles I receive daily in the corridor, to the supportive and wonderful conversation I have every day with the parents, students and teachers, right down to a sneaky parent/fairy who leaves us amazing, nourishing food in our fridge for lunch - which the teachers and I gratefully gobble down over a quick cuppa.

These individuals have helped to ensure that the children receive a rich and engaging curriculum that meets the needs of the children. These wonderful additions have helped to provide a beautiful environment for the children in our class and have made for such a positive and encouraging start to 2013 for our lovely class!

So, let’s talk about what we have been up to! We have been exploring the “Golden Letters” of the alphabet, through the faraway (and at times perilous) adventures of Crispin and Cecelia. The children have been thoroughly engaged, hanging at the close of the story, to find out which far off land our friends will take us to tomorrow! They have absorbed these stories and have used movement, song and modelling to make a connection to the letters firstly with their body and then in a more abstract way, in their books. They have worked steadily to produce some gorgeous work in their Main Lesson books, with the Class 2s showing real progress from last year. Their task had been an extension of their reading and writing skills through drawing, writing and reading short re-tells of the fairy tales with which they have been engaging.

Alongside this, has been story of the Wishing Chair, that the children have been listening to daily with bated breath, as well as anticipated engaging weekly French lessons with Madame Annable. Wet-on-wet Watercolour Painting has been a weekly experience, in which the children have been able to joyfully encounter the play of colour. Music is a favourite on a Tuesday, with Paula, where they are exposed to rich musical experiences, through the learning and recitation of seasonal songs and movements as well as exploring a range of instruments. A library session with Jaki has been a fixture on a Wednesday afternoon, where the children are able to browse and borrow; this has been a highlight in our week, the children love it! Then there is a Physical Education (Movement) session on Thursday where the children are able to get in touch with their bodies through movement and development of ball skills. PMP is a fixture on Fridays, where we team up with Prep S and complete a fun and challenging obstacle course that allows them to refine a range of movement based skills. Not to mention last, but not least, taking part in a fabulous craft program that they participate in two afternoons per week. We have the privilege of having a dynamic craft program, facilitated by the incredible Ursula, who brings the craft to the children in such an alive and imaginative way. The Class 1s are busy as we speak with their fabulous treasure bags, while the Class 2s are hard at work stitching their handsome chair pillows.

Here are some of the wonderful paintings that the children in Class 1/2S have done:

I think we will be sad to come to the end of this Main Lesson, as it draws to a close next week. This Main Lesson has engaged the students in many ways, firstly in an imaginative way, through story, secondly in an active way, through movement and modelling (wax modelling) and thirdly by applying what they have learnt by writing the golden letters (or re-telling a story based on that letter for Class 2) that they have discovered, into their Main Lesson books.

We are very much looking forward to exploring number in our next Main Lesson, where we will look at the quality of each of the numbers and the magic that lives within them.

Blessings on everyone,
Ella
The Adventures of Class 5/6

The students have settled into the year well, with our Class 5/6s entering their new space and enthusiastically embracing the Main Lessons on offer. The 5/6s have completed some lovely form drawings, line and perspective drawings, oil pastels and diagrams to complement their studies of mountain building, volcanoes, earthquakes and the rock cycle. We have experimented with various forms of modelling this term, from Butternut Pumpkin Islands using contours.....to paper mache volcanoes which were erupted before a keen audience of Preps to Class 4s. Please venture into the corridor and look at our lovely stories and art work on display. The students are always keen to share their bookwork with you. Measurements using all sorts of body parts have been explored, along with decimal fractions, maths poems, sudoku grids and the clapping of the times tables. It is lovely to get our bodies into our maths practise. While the weather resists the change of seasons, we continue with our rounds of "It's dry, so dry. Smoke and fire are everywhere. 'We long with the earth for the sweet touch of rain." This is balanced by Mango's exploration of 'St Michael's Song' in preparation for the autumn festival on Friday 22 March. Let us see where the clouds lie for our eagerly awaited surf camp to Angelsea next week!

Thank you to the many parents who attended the Meet the Teacher Night. It was a wonderful sharing of thoughts and visions for our class and our stream. Mango and Leanne are inspired by the rich community in which they are blessed to be a part. Love and blessings to all for your transition into autumn and the Easter festivals.

How is reading taught in a Steiner School?

Rudolf Steiner education is deeply bound up with the oral tradition, typically beginning with the teacher telling the children fairy tales or stories throughout Kindergarten and class 1. The oral approach is used all through Steiner education: mastery of oral communication is seen as being integral to all learning.

During the first year when writing is taught the children experience how our alphabet came about, discovering, as the ancients did, how each letter's form evolved out of a pictograph. Writing evolves out of the children's artistic representations of the letters derived from the pictures that are given. The sounds and the names of the letters are introduced to the students who then have a picture link to each of the letters. Through combining the letters and sounds, words arise and from reading their own writing, students begin on a journey of spiralling literary discovery.

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Join our Facebook page:
Mornington Park Steiner Stream Parents
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Anthroposophic Health Care Saturday Talks

led by Irmhild Kleinhenz
(Anthroposophic Health Care Consultant)

Where: Melbourne Therapy Centre, 221 Wonga Rd, Warrnambool. Phone 9876 3011
Time: 2-4pm
Bookings: Irmhild 0408 655 985
Cost: $15.00

Sat 4 May - Diagnosis from a Spiritual perspective
The diagnostic method of Anthroposophic Medicine out of the faculties of Imagination, Inspiration and Intuition. How these faculties are trained in order to allow for the patient to unfold healing processes.

Sat 1 June – Health Biography
The meaning and significance of different illnesses during different stages of one's life. How to gain an overview in which to survey these milestones and develop the appropriate sensitivity towards the manifestation of symptoms.

Women’s Health
The three stages of a woman’s life and the getting of wisdom.

Sat 6 July – Case management and Referral work
What is the role of each specialist in providing a vessel of care for the patient. How does the patient experience this care? How do the practitioners develop healthy communication between themselves? Participation between patient, family, caregivers and community services.

Sat 6 July – Health Biography
Case management and Referral work

Sat 3 August – Chronic Illnesses
How to live with an illness that is life threatening or debilitating. What support networks are there for the patient? What does the patient need from the practitioner in terms of physical, mental and spiritual help?

Steiner News – Help Needed

Urgent help needed in editing our Steiner News for terms 2 and 3. Is there someone in our community who can help put together our newsletter whilst I take a break for these two terms? Please contact me (Doriana) either via email: doriana1304@yahoo.com.au or phone: 5998 3001/0406 598 330.