

*From Calendar of the Soul
by Rudolf Steiner*

Within this dusk of winter
Soul's robust impulse strives
To show the strength that is its own:
To guide it into darkness,
And feel ahead divining,
Through warmth of heart,
Sense-revelations coming.



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Over the term break, I attended the 2017 Steiner Education Australia's Teachers' Conference, which this year celebrated 60 years of Steiner Education in Australia. There were inspiring talks, workshops and activities running over four days which were enjoyed by 180 people from around Australia and Asia. There were many highlights as speakers

demonstrated the relevance of our education in an increasingly challenging world.

The keynote speaker was international lecturer Christof Wiechert. He reminded us of the work of futurologist Alvin Toffler and his observations of the revolutions which have shaped our world:

- The Industrial Revolution of the 18th Century brought humanity machines which replaced our will;
- The electronic revolution beginning in the 19th Century brought a total change in how we communicate;
- The digital revolution of information technology of the late 20th Century promises to take over our intellectual/ thinking powers via A.I.

Christof stated we are now facing the fourth great revolution: the robotics and stem cell revolution which challenges the very nature of human life. Even education is not exempt. Christof described a covert experiment in a regional area of the Netherlands where a robot was trialled as a Kindergarten Assistant: frighteningly the children "liked" their new staff member as she was always "nice"! In this context, our work to educate children to realise their full humanity and potential as thinking and feeling individuals takes on even greater urgency. In this world of fragmentation and uncertainty, Christof reminded us that our task as educators is to help each student to integrate their faculties of mind, soul and body and build robust, balanced characters that will enable them to face this future. It was an inspiring call to action.

Looking further into the Term, I invite you to be involved with the following School activities:

- **Whole School meeting (Wednesday, 6 September)** where we will share teacher, student and parent goals for the 2017-2018 School Improvement Plan
- **Annual Music Concert (Wednesday, 13 September)** this year, there will be two smaller concerts on the same evening. Bookings will be essential.
- **Open Day and Spring Fair (Sunday, 12 November)**. The Class 4 community are about to embark on coordinating this celebration. Please support your Class activity and get behind the carers with your participation.

School Newsletter

Next Newsletter deadline: Wednesday, 09 August.

IMPORTANT DATES Please also see our online website calendar

- Tues 01 Aug *Tuesday School Tours, 9:30am*
- Tues 01 Aug **Parent Training Workshop, 7-8:30pm**
practicing perception - developing understanding - enabling decision making
- Thu 03 Aug **Class 1 Parent Meeting, 7pm**
Class 4 Parent Meeting, 7pm
Class 9 Parent Meeting, 7pm
- 07-11 Aug *Class 8 Camp*
- Tues 08 Aug **Parent Training Workshop, 7-8:30pm**
practicing perception - developing understanding - enabling decision making
- Mon 14 Aug **Class 8 Parent Meeting, 7pm**
- 21 Aug - 01 Sep *Class 9 Camp - Nungatta*
- Mon 21 Aug *Class 10 Play, 7pm*
- Tues 22 Aug **Parent Training Workshop, 7-8:30pm**
practicing perception - developing understanding - enabling decision making
- Fri 25 Aug **Curriculum Day (Student free day)**
VIC & TAS Steiner PD, 8am-4pm
- Sat 26 Aug *Principal School Tours, from 10am*
- Wed 6 Sep **Whole School meeting**
- Wed 13 Sep **Annual Music Concert/s, 5pm & 7pm**
- Sun 12 Nov **Spring Fair & Open Day**

Finally, I have been attending several briefing sessions regarding the Federal Government education funding changes. These changes are looking positive for us. Over the next month we will finalise our census analysis. This analysis of data is from student learning goals, teacher observations, support education (support and extension groups), our internal formal assessments, Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) and differentiation strategies. These will be collated and then shared with relevant authorities.

We are also looking at programme changes and new initiatives for 2018. Some of these changes may have impact on our budget, and we are working to keep any possible fee increase to less than the educational CPI. Further information will be announced during Term 4. Once again thank you for all your feedback and comments in our recent School Satisfaction Survey.

Peace and good wishes,
Fiona Cock - Principal



SEA National Teacher's conference: *Katherine Connolly: IB EngLit & Theatre, Tanya Rao: Class 7, Fiona Cock: Principal. (Karen Learner: Secondary & IB Science also attended)*



Sophia Mundi Steiner School

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@sophiamundisteinerschool

A MESSAGE FROM
THE SOPHIA MUNDI BOARD

How does the Board manage Conflicts of Interest?

We have received some questions about how the Board of Directors manages conflicts of interest. The most common conflict of interest for the Directors of Sophia Mundi Ltd is that a child of the Director attends the School as a student. Other common examples are:

- Contract with a company in which a Board member is involved or has a pecuniary interest;
- Employment or contract of a family member;
- A decision reached by the Board will result in financial or other specific benefit for a particular Director.

As a Director, we act in a voluntary capacity, and many will have at least some conflicts of interest. Directors must:

- Declare any conflicts; (At the beginning of each board meeting, we establish if there are any new conflicts of interest, as well as those already recorded in the previous meeting minutes).
- Not use membership for direct or indirect personal gain (without informed consent); and
- Not use membership to gain an advantage (or to cause detriment to the organisation).

Where there is a 'Material Personal Interest', the Director must:

- Disclose any interest to other Directors as soon as practicable, giving details;
- Ensure details of disclosure are recorded in Minutes of Board meeting; and
- Be absent from the meeting while the matter is being considered and refrain from voting.

These principals are encapsulated in the Sophia Mundi BOARD GOVERNANCE CHARTER.

In the meantime let us know if you have any further questions via email: board@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au

The Sophia Mundi Board

*Robin Power, Eleni Kondos, Darren Scotti,
Emrys Nekvapil, and Nicholas Conigrave.*

WEBSITE UPDATE

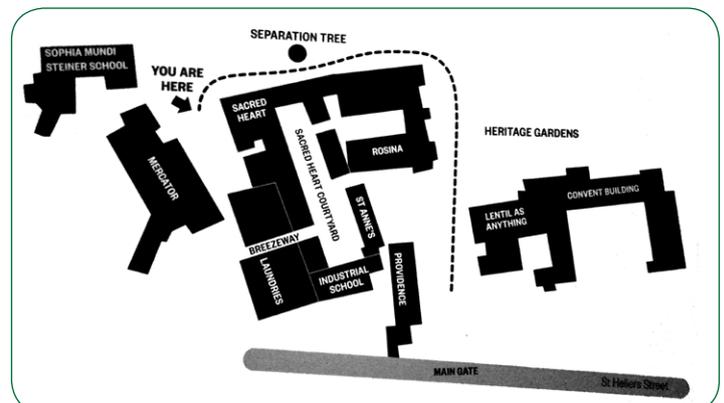
We have launched an update to the School's website and hope you enjoy this new, improved version. We'd really like to hear your feedback – please contact Dilys: admin@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au with comments or suggestions. Unfortunately the School Calendar is not yet working as it should, however we expect these issues to be fixed shortly. School events are noted in the Newsletters and Teachers will inform you of any dates or meetings important for your child's particular Class.

Abbotsford Convent

Abbotsford Convent: Sacred Heart Restoration – Term 3: Access to the Sophia Mundi via Gate I only.

The Abbotsford Convent Foundation (ACF) has informed Sophia Mundi Steiner School that the restoration of the Convent's Sacred Heart building, commenced in the first week of July 2017 with construction already commenced.

Following safety advice from the project's builders, as of Term 3, students and families will no longer be able to access the School via Gate 2. **Therefore, for safety reasons, all students entering via St Heliers Street must access the School via Gate I, then follow the path past the Heritage Gardens, behind the Rosina building, curving around to Sophia Mundi.**



We will provide updates in our future newsletters. More information can be found on the Abbotsford Convent's website. Any families with questions or concerns are encouraged to contact the School Reception or the Abbotsford Convent Office on 03 9415 3600 or via email: info@abbotsfordconvent.com.au.



BASKETBALL FUN!

This Wednesday morning (26 July) Sophia Mundi Class 5 students were fortunate to be offered a game of basketball with the Fitzroy Community School. The Fitzroy Community School brought 15 Class 3&4 children and we quickly realised our opponents were going to be shorter than expected. Originally it was their class 5/6 students scheduled to come.

Our class 5 students were very excited to play another team who put up a good defence regardless of being younger and shorter. The Class 5's have been training at lunch time all week to prepare for the momentous occasion.

Both teams rotated substitutes throughout the game so everybody had some time on the court.

The Class 5's were sensitive to the younger group, didn't tower over their opponents giving them a fair game and we saw the some healthy competition at the same time. It was a fun match - WELL DONE EVERYONE!

Katherine Ellis - Sport Coordinator

EVENING PARENT WORKSHOPS

TUESDAYS 7:30-9:30pm

PARENT TRAINING WORKSHOP

Tuesday August 1, 8, 15 & 22

7.30pm to 9.30pm - Sophia Mundi Hall.

- Practicing perception
- Developing understanding
- Enabling decision making

Cost \$15 per session plus \$10 for the course manual.

To register please call 0458 124 088 or email cherylnekvapil@yahoo.com

Cheryl Nekvapil and Jennifer West will facilitate these Workshops, following on from the sessions held in Term 1 & 2. The aim of the course (developed by Meineke and Schreiber from Havelhohe in Berlin) is to encourage parents to find confidence and joy in wholistic parenting.

This Term the workshops will explore the topics of:

- What makes one sick and what fosters good health from an early age on? *Finding the balance of challenge vs overtaxing or too demanding.*
- Can one educate towards health? *Rules, rituals, boundaries. The idea of Family: I, you, he, she, the child/children. How do you meet everyone's needs?*

New comers most welcome and encouraged.

“WILIP-GIN BIRRARUN” EXCURSION

On Wednesday 19 July, Class 7 was invited by fellow Convent tenants the Wurundjeri Land and Cultural Heritage Council, to celebrate the launch of the Wilip-gin Birrarung (the Yarra Protection Bill). The new Bill understands the Yarra River and surrounding land as a living natural entity.

The new Bill also incorporates the Woi Wurrung language for the first time in Victoria and combines the wisdom of traditional owners with modern land management.

We were honoured to meet Wurundjeri elder Alan Wandin, great nephew of William Barak.

Tom Redwood - Secondary English Teacher



ALLIANCE FRANCAISE FINALISTS 2017

Félicitations aux finalists de l'Alliance Française 2017!

We wish to congratulate Morgan Yeatman (Class 4), Reif Cassidy (Class 5), Amelia Kokkinos and Matilda Deeble (Class 6) on being finalists in the Alliance Française poetry competition.

They all learnt and spoke their poems beautifully!

Teresa Martin - French Coordinator

THURSDAY CRAFT MORNINGS



Each Thursday morning a group of Prep parents have been meeting in

the Cottage/ Aftercare to catch up over a cup of tea and make little craft items for the Children's Tent at the Spring Fair and Open Day.

The Prep Class Carers (Kirsten and Blanka) are coordinating the Craft Stall this year and looking for all levels of playful crafters! Anyone is welcome - especially those who are keen to learn some craft skills (sewing/ felting). You too can join in making some lovely handmade items to sell at the Spring Fair. Come along on Thursday mornings after 8:45am and join them for a chat, a cup of tea and some relaxed crafting.

The group have lots of patterns, ideas and materials for things to make and would love to hear new ideas too!

PRE-TERM WORKING BEE WEEKEND (15-16 JULY)

We held a big working bee last weekend to prepare the grounds ready for school and to progress work on the ground's master plan that we prepared a couple of years ago.

It was lovely to walk into the School grounds on the first day of Term 3 and find the School tidy, clean and the new projects done.

While our numbers were fairly small - our effort & the results were huge! Thank you to everyone who came along and helped out.

Our tasks and results included:

- **Prep Garden** - repairing the climbing frame, putting a beam above the cubbie to help Rene keep it upright and renewing the softfall under the swing and climbing frame
- **Heart Courtyard** - thoroughly cleaning up the "river", creating a new cascade - note the beautifully carved limestone - under the pump outlet, fixing up the rope balustrade over the tunnel and

renewing the softfall around the platforms - lots of digging up of softfall which had accidentally had soil mixed with it when we installed the river

- **Courtyard, Courts, School Entrance** - big cleanup of lots of autumn leaves and bits and pieces. Cleaning up the sandpit too
- Repairing our tables and chairs
- Gardening, particularly in the senior area
- Renewing the softfall (main climbing frame)
- Constructing the new garden bed and seating area around the old diving board platform at the Western end of the swimming pool.

Huge thanks from all of the School Community to the working bee teams and their families who gave up much of their weekend. George, Max, Alex and Eleni, Andrea; Neil; Robin; John and Noah; Xavier, Paul and Amanda; Fiona and Rowan;

Jean-Paul; Chloe and Glen; Rick, Sam and Sharon; Brendan.

Particular thanks to John, Rowan, Brendan and Robin who spent nearly the whole weekend working, and Eleni who kept us all beautifully fed, watered and caffeinated and to the small organising team.

Some ore targeted working bees - particularly to finish off the new seating/ garden area at the Western end of the pool and to plant that out. Further works around the "Heart" Courtyard include installation of climbing mesh on the back of the main platform.

Organisers, planers and all handy people: Are you able to help at a working bee? All families (old & new) are welcome to joins us - even for an hour! Please email Rowan Doyle(rowandoyle@me.com) to register your interest.

Thank you all!

Fiona Cock - Principal

CLASS 8 PNEUMATICS

Inspired by their previous Main Lesson on hydraulics and pneumatics, the properties of water and air under pressure, Tobi and Aksel designed and created a “pressure cannon”. The Class 8 students were also motivated by the YouTube channel ‘Night Hawk in Light’ which demonstrated inventions and science experiments.

The curious students researched, designed and constructed the pressure system in three hours, with locally sourced materials. Using the optimum pressure of 80psi, the “pressure cannon” will launch a rocket up to 100m!



CLASS 7 QUEST!

As part of our English Studies in Class 7s we are expected to perform 9 Good Deeds for Knighthood - 3 for home, 3 for the School and 3 for the World!

One of my good deeds is to photograph students in the School performing their good deeds. As you can see in the picture below, some of the students have chosen to sweep parts of the School. Some of the other students went to Class 2 and helped out with reading.

Some of my other good deeds are to make Mum and Dad a surprise breakfast. One of my good deeds for the World is to bake and fundraise for under privileged children in Viet Nam.

There is no real time limit for all 9 of the Good Deeds to be completed, as some projects are more involved and require more time to achieve. I

am enjoying this project because it is important to give back.

Artemis Klerides -
Class 7 Student



REQUEST FOR A HOST FAMILY

SOPHIA MUNDI'S NEXT VOLUNTEER

Tom Eltgen is Sophia Mundi's next German Volunteer who arrives in late July.

We are currently seeking a host family for Tom for Term 3 or Term 4 (or both!)

For more information please contact

Brendan Martin brendan.martin@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au OR

John Bradshaw john.bradshaw@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au





You are warmly invited to a special event:
The Sophia Mundi Community Concert with

Shane Rohde & Friends

Thursday 17th August, 7pm
Sophia Mundi Eurythmy Hall

DONATIONS AT THE DOOR WELCOME.
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE SOPHIA MUNDI MUSIC DEPARTMENT



Including works by:
Gershwin, Part, Rachmaninoff, Liszt, Messiaen and Massenet.

Featuring eurythmy performance by Kelly Papas.

SOPHIA MUNDI STEINER SCHOOL
St Mary's, Abbotsford Convent, 1 St Heliers Street, Abbotsford Victoria 3067 Australia
03 9419 9229 | reception@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au | www.sophiamundi.vic.edu.au

SEEKING A LOVELY HOME

(long term rental)

Dear SMSS community,
We are excited to have joined the School at the start of this term (with Waratah in Prep, & two younger siblings who will join the School in the coming years). We moved back to Melbourne into temporary accommodation, and are now looking for a lovely long-term rental within cooee of School.

If you have such a home that you'd like to fill with great tenants (who are also handy and can improve the property), or if you know of one, (or if you'd just like to have a chat over a cuppa!)

Please get in touch with

Paul and Amy

isitchina@gmail.com

0402 358 098.

Melbourne Rudolf Steiner Seminar Teacher Training in Rudolf Steiner Education.

What is Steiner education?
Do you want to become a Steiner teacher?

Information evening for enrolling in 2018
Tuesday 1st August 2017
7.30 - 9.00p.m.

Full time study in 2018

Join us on Tuesday 1st August 2017 at the Melbourne Rudolf Steiner Seminar from 7:30-9:00 p.m. to learn about our full-time accredited course, the Advanced Diploma of Rudolf Steiner Education (course code 1052YNAT CRICOS 071548J).

Hear from graduates about their experiences, meet staff, get a feel for the beautiful campus, and find out about the rewarding career and ample employment options that await - there is a great demand for professionally trained Steiner teachers in Australia and overseas.

Our full time course, based upon the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner is aimed at:

- individuals seeking to become a qualified registered teacher, in order to work in both Steiner schools and/or the mainstream sector;
- practising teachers wanting to shift their career, to work in a Steiner school.

This course offers a pathway to a Bachelor of Education at Australian Catholic, Deakin and Charles Darwin Universities and the University of Technology in Sydney.

This is an accredited two year full-time course. VET Student Loans and Austudy are available for eligible students.

Where: The Melbourne Rudolf Steiner Seminar

37A Wellington Park Drive, Warranwood, 3134, less than 10 minutes from the Ringwood exit of the Eastern Freeway and EastLink.

Please email us to confirm your attendance:

Email: office@steinerseminar.com

Phone: 03 9876-5199

Further information: www.steinerseminar.com



2017

Annual Music Concert

Wednesday 13 September



Concert 1
5-6pm

Concert 2
7-8:30pm



An intimate evening of music featuring Secondary School Music Ensembles, Solos, & Duos

Bakehouse Studios

25 little Hoddle Street, Richmond

Bookings essential: trybooking.com/297366

No ticket sales at the door or venue



SOPHIA MUNDI
Steiner Education and IB World School

www.sophiamundi.vic.edu.au