



SOPHIA  
MUNDI

The Inner City Steiner School P-12

# Internal Newsletter

## Term 1, Week 1, 2012

### IMPORTANT DATES

Please remember our digital calendar:  
[www.sophiamundi.vic.edu.au](http://www.sophiamundi.vic.edu.au)

#### Term 1

|                |                                       |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Friday 10 Feb  | Community Pizza Evening               |
| Tuesday 21 Feb | Shrove Tuesday                        |
| Monday 6 Mar   | Interview Evening - Secondary Classes |
| Monday 12 Mar  | Public Holiday (Labour Day)           |
| Friday 30 Mar  | Harvest Festival                      |
|                | Last Day – Term 1                     |

#### Term 2

|                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Monday 16 Apr    | First Day, Term 2 (Classes 1 – 11) |
| Tuesday 17 Apr   | First Day, Prep                    |
| Wednesday 25 Apr | Public Holiday (Anzac Day)         |
| Monday 11 Jun    | Public Holiday (Queens B'day)      |
| Thursday 21 Jun  | Winter Spiral                      |
| Friday 22 Jun    | Lantern Festival                   |
| Monday 25 Jun    | Interview Day – no school          |
| Friday 29 Jun    | Last Day – Term 2                  |

#### Term 3

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Monday 16 Jul  | First Day, Term 3 (Classes 1 – 11)           |
| Tuesday 17 Jul | First Day, Prep                              |
| Friday 17 Aug  | School Curriculum & Planning Day – no school |
| Friday 21 Sep  | Last Day – Term 3                            |

#### Term 4

|                 |                                    |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Monday 15 Oct   | First Day, Term 4 (Classes 1 – 11) |
| Tuesday 16 Oct  | First Day, Prep                    |
| Monday 5 Nov    | Mid Term Break - no school         |
| Tuesday 6 Nov   | Public Holiday (Melbourne Cup)     |
| Sunday 11 Nov   | Spring Fair & Open Day             |
| Monday 30 Nov   | Interview Day – no school          |
| Thursday 13 Dec | Last Day – Term 4                  |

Dear Parents,

A warm and wonderful welcome to our new school year, 2012 – the year of the dragon and the year of transformations for Sophia Mundi. Wednesday was a beautiful sunny day and it was so good to see the students and lots of parents again. Yesterday we welcomed the Preps and the Class One students and their parents so we are now all back and working well. We are delighted to welcome new teachers Simon Dooner for Class 1, Kate Barker for class 6, Margaret Perversi for early years craft, Maryna Mews, the new Librarian, John Rauris for High School science and maths, Ana Ruuska for IB chemistry, Ashley Dufty for IB history, Alex Turner for Outdoor Ed, Leanne Sarah for eurythmy, Jane Edwards for Aftercare and other teaching and several new instrumental music teachers - Ben Braithwaite, percussion Jesse Martin, cello, Stephanie Dean, violin. The year 11 students began their year on Sunday with a retreat at ‘Amberley’ where they spent almost three days listening to various speakers and starting their journey with the IB. It was an inspiring time.

Last week the teachers returned for a day of first aid training followed by a day in conference with John Cunningham and Cat Gilliam who brought their work on Restorative Circles to us. This is an approach to conflict resolution that draws also on Non Violent Communication that John has spent a lot of time working with. This way of working with conflict issues is what we are working toward as it can be applied in the school situation with students. It listens to all the relevant people involved to build mutual understanding of the impact an event has had. We are developing a whole school approach and we invite parents to support and understand the language and the philosophy behind it. John and Cat will be back on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> March to offer a weekend workshop which is open to parents. You'll find their flyer attached to this email. Jim Lord is also involved and will be helping to organise the workshop.

We are hoping Dr Lakshmi will be able to give a talk for parents in the third week, around Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>, so watch for more information about this too.

If you have been to the school you will have noticed many changes – the library is now back in its old home where eurythmy was last year and the teachers once again have a (small) staffroom where the library was. Classes have moved rooms and we are squeezing into our current space minus a eurythmy room, with those classes mostly happening over in Rosina in the Convent Precinct. The swimming pool is well on the way to becoming a playground space and the climbing frame will be back by the end of March. The new building area is fenced off ready for work to start in a few weeks and a new sandpit has been built.

There will be information coming through soon about how you may support the funding of the science wing which will be fitted out once the new classrooms are built. It is particularly heartwarming to know that we can manage to achieve these new facilities with the fundraising that is required to accompany the grant money to show our contribution to the overall costs. We may be small but we are a strong community. Go to: <http://www.sophiamundi.vic.edu.au/community/new-facilities/> for an update on our new facilities.

With all these things happening there is much we have to manage with regard to student play areas and directing movement within the school, but the students have been very adaptable and understanding of the need for these things. We are mindful of monitoring this and we have an extra teacher on duty to help ensure the children's safety. We will be opening the garden area as another space during break times.

To add to these changes, the challenge of traffic movement around the Convent area is a big concern for Yarra Council and they are working with the Convent who in turn are working with the tenants to look at ways to relieve some of the congestion in St Heliers St. One problem that is clearly to do with the school is that drivers still can rush at times, and there have been one or two near misses with our parents. The speed humps are not only to slow down traffic, they are also pedestrian crossings, as you might notice with the 'shared zone' signs to indicate this. Another issue is that people are overstaying in the 15 min short term parking and this has an impact on other tenants and visitors.

In order to try to address this congestion, we ask that parents who drive their children to school start or continue to use the Clarke St entrance. This of course means you need to leave early enough to negotiate the traffic coming along Nicholson St to get into Abbotsford St! We would like to start this from Week 3 and we will have either a teacher or senior students to accompany children at specified times through the Convent gardens before and after school. Watch for more information. Please contact me if you need to talk about this.

As a reminder, if you do have issues you need to raise with the school, if they concern your child the person to see first is the Class Teacher or teacher involved. If that is not sorted out at that level, the next person is the Faculty Head – Mary for Early Childhood, Linda for Primary, Richard for Middle School, (Classes 7 to 10) and Fiona for the Senior School. Then if the issue is still not resolved it is appropriate to speak to me.

Another change coming up will be in Admin with Michele leaving us mid-February to begin her teacher training. We will miss her cheerful smile and lovely manner and wish her well for her studies. We may see her back for one of her placements.

**Jennifer West**

## From Primary Faculty

Here is to a wonderful new year. A warm welcome to new families at Sophia Mundi, and all the Class One children who begin their journey with Simon Dooner as their teacher. As is our custom, the new little ones each have an experienced and caring buddy from Class Five to guide them and be there whenever needed throughout the years. Our welcoming ceremony happened on Thursday at the start of the day. Class Two parents provided morning tea for the new parents.

A warm welcome also to our new Class 6 teacher, Kate Barker, who is keen to engage with her beautiful class in their fresh classroom upstairs. With Kate's warmth and experience to guide our new student leaders of the primary school, we will be looking up to their striving together to show us the way.

We also welcome Margaret Perversi as the craft teacher for Prep and Classes 1, 2 & 3. Margaret comes with a breadth of experience from Tarremah in Tasmania.

As you are aware we have lots of action around the school with building taking place. This has led the management group to make some necessary changes to play areas for the time being due to availability of space. We are asking to delay the inclusion of Class 3 children to the courts until the new playground is ready. However the garden will be open for play for all Class 3 and above, with extra teacher supervision. Katina has allowed extra time for her class to play on the courts during class time so they can stretch their growing legs!

Blessings  
Linda Mayer

## WORKING BEES - help needed!

With the exciting changes going on around the grounds at the moment, we need quite a bit of help at working bees this term and next term. We are also after some design/ ideas/ creativity assistance. If you have not joined us at a working bee in the past - come along! The coffee, support and encouragement are great and there is no particular skill needed - just enthusiasm.

> **Rebuilt and extended climbing frame:** The main climbing frame needs to be re-designed, then constructed. We would like a small team (3-4 people) to take this on: to design and to construct the parts. This could include scrambling nets ... platforms ... it depends on your imagination! Please contact Rowan if you are able to help. Timing: to be designed and constructed during February, with the working bee on 25 February for much of the build. A couple of people with carpentry skills and someone with design ideas would be great.

## > Working Bee This Sunday 5 February

We now have the finishing touches to do to the sandpit. These will involve a small number of people doing Stonemasonry & Carpentry. We will also need two people to install the new timber seats along the back walls of the sandpit.

> **Working Bee Saturday 25 February.** Please put in your diaries. We will be constructing the new pathway down to the new playground adjacent to the tennis courts, laying out parts of the new prep garden, constructing parts of the new/updated climbing frame and doing plenty of gardening.

> **Working Bee Saturday 17 March** (likely, but it might shift by a week either way). Again a date for your diaries. We will be completing the climbing frame construction on the swimming pool playground as well as gardening around this area and working further on the new Prep garden.

> **Materials needed.** Rough cypress for the climbing frame and mature plants are two things we're looking for at present.

> **Working bee organisation.** We'd love a couple of people to help organise and supervise on the days of the working bees. Ensuring that our willing workers are supported, coffee-ed, have the right materials and tools at the right time and are doing their jobs safely is a critical task.

The [working bee website](http://www.sophiamundi.vic.edu.au/community/working-bees/). <http://www.sophiamundi.vic.edu.au/community/working-bees/> has up to date information about working bees and some great photos of what we've been up to. Please contact Rowan Doyle at [rowan.doyle@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au](mailto:rowan.doyle@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au) if you can help out with any of the above.

## **New Music Staff**

We're pleased to welcome Jesse Martin, cello teacher and Ben Braithwaite, percussion teacher to Sophia Mundi this year.

Jesse Martin is a graduate from Little Yarra Steiner School and studied cello in a Bachelor of Music (Performance) at the VCA. He has taught at LYSS, Billanook College, Sienna Girls College and has coordinated junior string programs. Jesse has performed with the Little Yarra Ensemble in Australia and New Zealand, hip-hop group True Live nationally and performed a solo show at the Adelaide Fringe Festival in 2005.

Ben Braithwaite has a Bachelor of Music from ANU and a Dip Ed from Monash Uni. He has taught percussion and led successful ensembles at McClelland College, Boronia Heights College, Mount Eliza Secondary College and has been involved with the Young Musicians Society Summer Music School in Canberra since 2009. He has performed and toured with Reflejos, D2Drumline, Andrew Nolte Jazz Orchestra, Conch among others.

Stephanie Dean is our new violin teacher. Stephanie has a Bachelor of Performance from the University of Western Australia. She has been a recipient of the Edith Cowen and Vose Memorial prizes. Stephanie recently relocated to Melbourne from Perth where she taught at Presbyterian Ladies College, St Mary's Anglican Girls School and Wesley College. She has performed with the Western Australian, Tasmanian and Singaporean Symphony Orchestra's and numerous chamber groups. Stephanie will take on Matthew Arnold's Class 5 & 6 students.

## **Instrument Register**

There are a number of string instruments for sale within the school community on the Instrument Register. Please see Instrument Register attached.

## **Music Program Resources**

The Music Program is seeking donations of the following items:

- CD players (preferably with ipod docs)
- Music stands (preferably Manhasset)
- Computer speakers (One ½ size and one ¾ size cello)

If you are able to help out with any of these items that would be most appreciated. Please contact Myf.

## **After School Care**

Kia Ora. I am Jane Edwards from New Zealand. I have recently completed my Bachelor of Education specialising in Steiner Education. My final practicum was held at Sophia Mundi with Linda Mayer in Class 4 in 2011 and this year I am excited to return and begin as Sophia Mundi's After School Care Coordinator.

The After School Care will provide educational and engaging activities in a safe and homely environment. The programme will include a nutritious afternoon snack. I will be taking new enrolments this year for both casual and permanent positions. There may be small changes throughout the year. I will keep everyone well informed.

I look forward to becoming part of the Sophia Mundi community and welcome any enquiries. I will be contactable on 9419 9229 (extension 4) during the hours of 2.30pm until 6pm, please feel welcome to leave a message at any other time and I will return your call as soon as possible.

As a new year begins for After School Care I would also like to extend a welcome to all donations that we could use as resources for the children. This is not limited to but could include sewing materials, books, dress-up clothing of all sizes.

Jane Edwards

## **Playgroup**

Jaine Bailey would like to notify all playgroup parents and client that she will be lecturing in Southern China until Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

## **Organic Vegetable Boxes**

Shelley will commence her delivery of veggie boxes to Sophia Mundi on the 2 February (next Thursday) and this will continue for the rest of the Term. She has lots of yummy produce at the moment, including - tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, sweet corn, green beans, zucchini, lettuce, salad mix, celery, broccoli, carrots, potatoes, spring onions, fennel, beetroot and silverbeet.

## **Lawnmowers Wanted**

As part of their physics classes with John Rauris, Class 9 will be learning to pull down and reassemble motors. For this we need some unwanted mower engines that will still work. If you have any surplus motors in your shed, could you please contact the school and let us know.

# Community Notice Page

## For Sale – 2 violins

Atelier  $\frac{3}{4}$  size with hard case and 2 bows.  
Made in 2007 at Arts Music, Abbotsford Convent. Includes Kun adjustable shoulder rest. All for **\$150**. This violin was only used for one year but the zip on the case is slightly damaged and one of the bows has been damaged by mites.

Suzuki Nagoya  $\frac{1}{2}$  size, in excellent condition, made in 1998 with hard case, bow, and shoulder rest, priced at **\$350**.

If interested please contact Kate or Brendan mob: 0401 410 337 or 9481 3409

## **Behold Beloved Becoming**

Forging Confident Communities by Embracing Conflict in (Metamorphic) Restorative Circles

### Two Weekend Working Sessions

Saturday-Sunday 9-5pm 3-4 March

St Mary's – Abbotsford Convent

St Heliers Street in Abbotsford

Presented by

John & Cat Gilliam Cunningham

To Register:

Jim Lord m: 0412 382 085

e: [jimlord@eftel.com.au](mailto:jimlord@eftel.com.au)

w: [www.bbbsmrc.eventbrite.com](http://www.bbbsmrc.eventbrite.com)

Fees: Sat/Sun \$240 (\$200 concession by 24 Feb)

Enquire regarding staff & parent discounts; space is limited to forty participants.

## **Philosophy of Art & Architecture 2012 Evening Courses**

Introductory Course 7 evenings per term

Wed. 7:30 – 9:30pm

Sophia Mundi, St Mary's Convent, Abbotsford

Cost: \$175 per term (Concession \$125)

No background in Anthroposophy required.

Enquiries / Bookings call 04 666 786 70 or

Email Johannes

[JS@biosculpturalArchitecture.com](mailto:JS@biosculpturalArchitecture.com)

For more information go to the website and click on 2012 courses  
[www.biosculpturalArchitecture.com](http://www.biosculpturalArchitecture.com)

## **EXCHANGE OFFER TO THE USA**

Washington Waldorf School in Bethesda, Maryland,

*(just outside of Washington DC)* have an two

Year 11 male students who wish to exchange with two students from Sophia Mundi.

If anyone is interested in an Exchange in Term 3 this year, can you please contact -

Suzanne Byron, Registrar

e: [suzanne.byron@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au](mailto:suzanne.byron@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au)

## **Healthy Lunchboxes**

Lovely prepared lunchboxes are a powerful reminder of family love – no packaged food or canteen meal can achieve the same.

The Clever Packed Lunch offers a complete solution; written by a

Steiner parent, edited by a Nutritionist – time- saving system, menus and recipes.

**eBook** - \$9.95 see more and

**Printed book** - \$24.95 from Hazel m:0412 840 765 e:[hazel@lunchideasforschool.com](mailto:hazel@lunchideasforschool.com)

w:[www.lunchideasforschool.com](http://www.lunchideasforschool.com)

