From the Principal’s Desk …

Welcome to the end of the school year. This is a very important time in our lives to reflect, to let go, to acknowledge and to anticipate what the future has in store.

Children always live strongly into their future and in their enthusiasm for the future often miss the significance of recognising the past and present. Ceremony is rapidly fading in a world of immediate gratification, leaving us with an ever increasing feeling of dissatisfaction. As parents we play a pivotal role in recognising the significant moments in life’s journey and bringing them to the children’s attention through some form of ceremony.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts and contributions of all members of our community for their contributions.

* The students who come every day and work hard at their lessons and their social interactions, who achieve new things every day that they hadn’t achieved before and who forgive the shortfalls of things around them.
* The parents who hold the vision for their children’s future and invest in that future with faith and trust are the backbone to the student’s security and support for their individual journeys.
* The teachers for their tireless dedication to the children and commitment to the learning process are truly what make a school great. This is the coal face and this is where the real work happens.
* The staff that work incredibly hard to lubricate the mechanics of the organisation and provide the support to all the stakeholders wherever needed.

When we stand back and look objectively at the school and what the community has achieved over the years we can be thankful to all those who have made their contributions which now support our very wellbeing.

As the festive holiday season approaches and we resolve the challenges of the past we can celebrate the achievements made and build a strong and positive vision for the future.
We farewell Margaret Skerry who retires at the end of this year and welcome Jill Casavecchia who has accepted the position as our Class One teacher for 2014. The school is delighted to welcome Jill to Melbourne and join our dynamic teaching team here at Sophia Mundi.

A Steiner – trained class teacher with eight years of experience, Jill comes with a diverse background and training not only in primary teaching but also in special education. For the past four years Jill has been a class teacher at the Samford Valley Steiner School near Brisbane and before that, a class teacher from Class 2 to Class 5 in the Mourne Grange Village School in Northern Ireland.

Enjoy the holiday season in whichever way you do it and may all the best wishes and blessings of the season be with you and your families.

Kindest regards and thank you for your continued support of the school.

Norman Sievers
Principal

SNakes lookOut
On my way out of school last week I was riding down to the river on the path and next to the carpark (the big one) on the footpath was a lovely big tiger snake. It was quite close to St Helier St so I thought that it might be worth reminding us all to be on the lookout. Also that children should keep their shoes on and that parents are diligent when walking with their children through the convent grounds, and near the carpark.

I also thought it important to let the students know that we can come across snakes in the playground from time to time and just make sure they all know what to do if they see one (class 4 up should know as we cover this on our camps).

Jennifer Gibson
Outdoor Education Department

Bee stingS
Three children have been stung by bees in the past fortnight in the grounds outside the school. Could parents please be careful when supervising children outside, especially when sitting or playing in bare feet.

FAreWell margaret Skerry
I would like to bid farewell on behalf of the school to Margaret Skerry who is retiring at the end of this year. Margaret has been part of the school for more than 18 years as a class teacher, craft teacher and support education specialist. Margaret brought with her a wealth of knowledge and wisdom from her time at Warranwood, and has been a friend, mentor and support for many teachers over the years. She is highly respected and loved by the children due to her genuine love and care for the students. We will miss Margaret’s gentle presence but her legacy will remain with us into the future. She will still be doing her evening craft course in 2014 for interested parents.

Thank you,

Robert Stemp

Interschool competition
On Monday, our Class 9 and 10 students took part in an interschool competition against Collingwood College.

In the volleyball it was a very close competition and the boys’ games in particular had some amazing rallies. The final scores were Boys: Collingwood 12 -11/ Sophia Mundi 10-8, Girls: Collingwood 11-9-5 / Sophia Mundi 8-11-4

In the basketball our girls proved too strong with a 60-20 scoreline. The boys game was far more even, but Collingwood took the win 18-10.

It was a great afternoon and played in good spirit and fun. Thanks to Nik for his support.

Dawn Hartigan
Sport & Physical Education Teacher

MorninG tea for prep and Class 1 parents
Thursday 30 January 2014, 9:30am to 11:00am
Come, meet parents for Prep and Class 1, welcome our new Prep class and celebrate with Class 1 as they begin their journey through Sophia Mundi Steiner School.

School Community welcome 2014
The Parent and Friends Association each year welcomes all new and past families, friends, teachers and students for a Community BBQ.

This is always a good night to meet new families and friends and renew friendships for the start of the 2014 year. Sausages and bread will be provided on the night.

Please bring a salad or a dessert to share. BYO drinks.

Please put the date in your diary now for next year.

Friday 7 February 2014, 6.00pm onwards

Parents and friends association (PFA)
Please put this date in your diary for the first PFA meeting for the 2014 year.

PFA meeting to be held on Thursday 13 February 2014 from 7.15pm to 9:00pm.

New members are always welcome.
**CHRISTMAS STUDENT MARKET**

*Wednesday 11 December*

*3.45pm to 5.15pm*

The Parent and Friends Association (PFA) will again be organising the Christmas Student Market for Class 1 to 12 students at Sophia Mundi. If your child is interested in participating, pick up an application form from the reception area and return it to the office by **Friday 6 December**.

There will be a fee of $10 or 10% of the takings, whichever is the smaller, for all stall holders, however the fee will be waived if the stall is to raise money for the child’s class.

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**CLASS 7 FUNDRAISING STALL**

Each Thursday after school, Class 7 will be holding a fundraising stall where you can purchase a variety of delicious homemade cakes, biscuits and slices in addition to fresh vegies straight from the garden. Come along and help to support this student initiative. All proceeds will go towards the Class 8 Camp next year.

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**EU HYTHMY PERFORMANCE**

The end of year Class 11 eurythmy performance will take place next Wednesday 11 December at 5.45pm in the courtyard, just prior to the Staff performance of the Shepherd’s Play. Featuring a ‘moving meditation’ of ‘Hallelujah’ by Rudolf Steiner and demonstration of the musical intervals to Robert Schumann’s ‘Of Foreign Lands and People’. All are welcome.

The Eurythmy department would like to wish everyone a peaceful and holy Christmas.

Rae, Kelly and Leanne

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**Melbourne Rudolf Steiner Seminar**

*Full-time and part-time courses in 2014*

Our **inspiring** courses in Rudolf Steiner Education are for **everyone**, including parents wishing to deepen their understanding of Steiner education, and also for prospective and practicing teachers.

We invite you to join us for our full-time Advanced Diploma in Rudolf Steiner Education (Monday to Thursday during school hours) or any of the part-time certificate courses which are offered each Wednesday evening. Courses begin in February 2014.

**Part-time courses** in 2014 include:

- Nourishing Early Childhood (Certificate), which explores the life of the very young child from 0-7
- Understanding Child Development and Rudolf Steiner Education (Certificate), which considers the child during the primary years.
- Rudolf Steiner High School Education (Certificate)

**Extend your knowledge of Rudolf Steiner Education.**

**Enjoy an artistic and social experience.**

**For your own inner development.**

Information: tel. 03 9876-5199  Visit our website and download an application form at www.steinerseminar.com

Email: office@steinerseminar.com  Address: The Michael Centre, 37A Wellington Park Drive, Warranwood, 3134, less than ten minutes from the Ringwood exit of the Eastern Freeway or Eastlink.

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**LITTLE SOPHIA KINDERGARTEN POSITION**

Commencing in 2014 Administrator position (full time position)

Monday to Friday 38 hour week (RDO monthly)

Expression of interest email covering letter & resume to:- littlesophiainc@bigpond.com

(Job description will be forwarded to applicants interested in the position)

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**SUMMER SING @ CLIFTON HILL YOGA STUDIO**

LED BY SUE JOHNSON (COCO’S LUNCH)

ASSISTED BY NICOLA EVELIEGH

**Clifton Hill Yoga Studio**

127 Queens Parade

Clifton Hill (upstairs)

**A WEEKEND OF GROUP SINGING**

In this beautiful yoga sanctuary to nurture your mind, body and spirit in the 2014 summer

**Songs in harmony** • **Layering of sound** • **Rhythm** • **Chants**

Fri night 17th Jan: 7pm - 8.30pm
Sat 18th Jan: 11am - 4pm (with break)
Sun 19th Jan: 11am - 4pm (with break)
Byo lunch/snacks - coffee, tea, juice provided

**Early bird** $185 (until 28.12.13) • **Full** $225 • **Concession** $185 • **Deposit** of $85 to secure a place

**Bookings essential:** [http://www.trybooking.com/5GQ1M](http://www.trybooking.com/5GQ1M)

email songs@herwork.net if unable to book online to request a direct booking • ph 0423 930 941
2014 Courses

*Based on the work of Rudolf Steiner*

**The Architecture of Universal Beauty**

*An Artistic and Esoteric Schooling in the Transformative Power of Art & Architecture*

On the basis of Rudolf Steiner’s Spiritual Science, this course looks at the notion of “Universal Beauty”, the forms of Art and Nature and the spiritual nature of the Creative Process. It is structured around Goethean observation of nature and artistic practice, united by a spiritual way of seeing the world and our place within it.

**Presenters:**
Johannes Schuster and Sue Schuster

**Venues:**
Michael Centre, Warranwood,
Sophia Mundi Steiner School Abbotsford
Christian Community, Hawthorn

See website for more details

**Bookings & Enquiries:**
04 666 789 70
Email: js@biosculpturalArchitecture.com
Website & brochure: biosculpturalArchitecture.com/courses

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Co-Creating (Y)our **WHOLE** New Story

**...... an exploration for times of transition**

How can we learn and practice the skills which are truly needed in our times?

What forms of communication enable us human beings to share our attention and perception in a way that enables rather than hinders our collective intelligence to emerge?

What moves us from Illness to Wellness?

End the year with more clarity about your unique contribution to the **WHOLE** new story.

**LEARN** about The Art and Science of Transformation .... about "The Journey of the Universe" (Film: Brian Swimme)

**PRACTICE** Meditation, Mindfulness and (Self) Compassion

**CO-CREATE** in Conversation, Music and Poetry

**ENJOY** good company and good vegetarian food

On Sunday 29th December 2013 10.00 to 16.00pm in Hurstbridge

**Cost:** $50

To book (before 23rd December) and for more details: ring or email Brigitte 0426 505 920 almaarte@gmail.com

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**'The Great Adventure'**

Children’s Summer Camp from the 5th till the 11th of January 2014

At the Hollyburton Farm, Clarkefield, Victoria.

For children aged 9 to 13

Come and be our travelling companion as we befriend story-tellers, discover what lay hidden and challenge what stands before us on our great adventure through the unknown lands of fantasy. Feeding the pigs, milking the goats and looking after the horses will be but a few of our daily tasks.

The Camp is organised through the Christian Community and is based on the Steiner philosophy of education.

**Costs per child:** $285, $250 for each subsequent sibling.

For more information please call Veronika on 03 9029 7812

Email: veronika.plantener@gmail.com

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**Step into Womanhood**

Mother & Daughter Retreat: Ubud, Bali

Becoming a woman is a special & challenging time. Join us to create an inspiring and fun adventure for both you and your 11-14 year old daughter.

This remarkable program, run by experienced facilitators, includes:
- white water rafting and Balinese cultural experiences
- art therapies, drama and dance, daily yoga
- practical & empowering sessions on our cycle, body & relationships
- time out to slow down, delicious food and day-spa

**Dates:** 6-11 July 2014

For more info contact us: Janne Liddy 0408 664 919 contact.janne@gmail.com | www. steptowomanhood.com

“This experience really deepened our bond with our daughters – it is incredible how nurturing that aspect of the retreat is, and every mother wants that with her teenage daughter” Beth

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**Co-Creating (Y)our WHOL...**
THE INNER WORK PATH
AND ANTHROPOSOPHY

Courses For Establishing Or
Deepening Meditative Practice
with Lisa Romero

FOUNDATION COURSES 2014

Rudolf Steiner gave many exercises and meditations to strengthen the human being through its journey of developing consciousness. Together we will explore the inner work, the birth of the higher self, the spiritual year and how exercises can bring us closer to our own experience of these processes. This will enable us to both hold and further our daily practices. Those wishing to establish a meditative life and long-term meditants have found this work invaluable in deepening their relationship to the path.

BYRON SHIRE  7th – 9th FEBRUARY
TIME   FRIDAY 6 PM-8 PM  SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 9.30-2.30 PM
VENUE  MULLUMBIMBY  NSW

MELBOURNE  7th – 9th MARCH
TIME   FRIDAY 7 PM-9 PM  SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 9.30-2.30 PM
VENUE  THE MICHAEL CENTRE 37A WELLINGTON PARK RD WARRANWOOD  VIC

COST  FOR 3 DAYS $300 (INCLUDES LUNCH)

TO DISCUSS THE COURSE PLEASE CONTACT
Lisa Romero  (02) 6684 1636

FOR BOOKING ENQUIRIES AND DIRECT ENROLMENTS
innerworkpath@gmail.com  or  Katharina Kiss  (02) 6684 6147

Good Shepherd Chapel
1 St Heifers St. Abbotsford.  Enquiries 9417 2909

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
Thursday 19 December
7.30 for 8pm start

All welcome for a Christmas sing-a-long in the Chapel

Entry via donation  Electronic candles $3

Please turn over for information on Lisa Romero and conditions of Esoteric Training

ADVENT FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN

December 1
Children please bring a gift from the mineral kingdom

December 8
Children bring a gift from the plant kingdom

December 15
Children bring a gift that represents the animal kingdom

December 22
Children bring a gift like a home made angel, star …

Parents please bring a plate of food to share for lunch if possible

11.15am Sunday service for children age 7-14
11.30am Festival
12am shared Lunch

Where:
The Christian Community, Movement for Religious Renewal
839 Auburn Road, Hawthorn
For further details please phone Martin Samson
0488 279 786

On Christmas Eve:
Tuesday December 24, at 5.00 pm

THE CHRISTMAS PLAY
A re-enactment in song and story of the journey of Joseph and Mary.
The Shepherds’ Play

WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER
6:00 to 7:30pm

St Mary’s - Abbotsford Convent

Join with us in laughter and celebration . . .

And be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas.

Directed by: Geraldine Devas
with Renuka Potter
featuring -
The Good Shepherds
Gallus
Huckle
Muckle
Cripsin

SOPHIA MUNDI Steiner School, 1 St. Heliers Street, Abbotsford, 3067 Ph: 9419 9229