To all of the Parents, Students and Community of Sophia Mundi Steiner School

Welcome to the 2014 school year! I sincerely hope that everyone had a relaxing and refreshing holiday break and that you all found your own meaning and peace in the festive season.

2014 is recognised as the Chinese Year of the Horse and I trust that everyone will be ready to saddle up and take hold of the reins. As I am also born in the Year of the Horse I look forward to a fruitful and rewarding year. A year where positive things get done!

Over the holidays we have been working hard to improve the function and efficiency of the school:

- Ella has joined the office staff as our new Receptionist (Welcome Ella to our community).
- I have a new office in the foyer behind the new reception area which is strategically positioned for full visibility and access for parents and students. So if you want to stop and chat, my door is always open.
- We have employed a new cleaning crew who will implement a more extensive cleaning program to help maintain and improve our school. This should alleviate parent cleaning rosters. We thank Kyle for all his work over the past years.
- The Prep room, Classrooms 1 & 2 and the Seniors room have been fitted with air conditioning. This was essential for the creation of a comfortable working environment for these classes.
- The ground floor corridors of St Mary’s have been freshly painted (thank you Christian).
- New desks for Class 7 will arrive soon and we will gradually replace all of the older style desks.
- New lockers will be built under the windows in the bottom corridor of St Mary’s for all middle school students.
- We have been, and will continue to, clean out areas in the school to get rid of unused and unwanted stuff. Schools are notorious for accumulating ‘stuff’ and it tends to build up very quickly. We are adopting a more minimalist approach as space is so precious.
- During the last weeks of the holidays some of the teachers attended the Glenaeon Intensive in Sydney. This is a gathering of Steiner teachers from all over Australia to further develop their understanding of the curriculum.

IMPORTANT DATES

Please remember the online calendar for Parent Teacher Meetings and Class Plays

[www.sophiamundi.vic.edu.au](http://www.sophiamundi.vic.edu.au)

**TERM 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 4 Feb</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 7 Feb</td>
<td>Community Evening, 6–9pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 13 Feb</td>
<td>Parents and Friends Meeting 7.15-9pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 17 Feb</td>
<td>IB Awards Evening 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 4 Mar</td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday / Pancake Day School Tour, 9.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2 Apr</td>
<td>End Term Ensembles Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4 April</td>
<td>Harvest Festival &amp; Last Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Term 1

School Community BBQ Evening

To celebrate the beginning of 2014

We welcome all new families, teachers and students and look forward to seeing those we already know.

The Parent and Friends Association invite everyone to a School Community BBQ Evening

**Friday 7 February 6–9pm**

Please bring along a salad or dessert to share, meat for the BBQ will be provided. **BYO Drinks**

Sophia Mundi Steiner School
St Mary’s, Abbotsford Convent
1 St Heliers Street, Abbotsford
Here at school we also held our own two day conference centred on the development of teachers in light of the unknowns of the future. We called it ‘On the Wings of Courage’ and our focus was developing our understanding of the individual and meeting their needs in a creative and engaging way.

I have developed a new Extreme Weather policy which you should become familiar with. It is very important that we are very conscious of the effects of extreme weather on our children, particularly during those times after school when children are waiting to be collected.

We are currently working on rebuilding our school website which will include video footage and more photos. There are some requirements regarding ‘permissions’ if students are to appear in footage or photos and I will follow all the necessary protocols in relation to obtaining these.

I am really looking forward to a creative and energetic year, with an overall theme of ‘developing the performing arts’. With this in mind we have a goal to improve our performance space with a stage, curtains and lighting. Performing arts is such a valuable and essential tool in developing the human spirit in both students and teachers.

We warmly welcome our new Class 1 teacher, Jill Casavecchia to our teaching staff and wish her and the class all the very best for the beginning of their educational journey.

A very warm welcome to all the new children in the school and their families. On Friday afternoon, 7 Feb from 6.00pm - 9.00pm, we will hold our Community Evening to welcome our new parents. Everyone is welcome to come along and share in the festivities. We hope you feel the embrace of our wonderful community.

Huge congratulations to the graduating Year 12 class of 2013 for their IB results. I am sure that Fiona will be sharing the results in more detail along with their future intentions and placements. A great result for the students and the school.

On a not so positive note; during the school holidays one of our colleagues in the Steiner Education movement, Peter Glasby, passed away. Peter worked tirelessly in developing the teaching of Goethean Science in Steiner high schools. He spent most of his teaching career at Mt Barker Waldorf School and more recently he moved to the Samford Valley Steiner School near Brisbane. Peter will be dearly missed.

Please remember that as I now have my own office I welcome you to come in for a chat or a meeting.

Kindest Regards,

Norman Sievers
Principal
School Photo Day – Tuesday 4 February
Aussie now takes multiple images of each student on the day.
Parents can choose a standard package in preferred graphic design and return order in permanent sealed plastic bag with payment, to a photographer on the day Or Choose to wait for 48 hours to go online to view the images taken, choose the image preferred and create own package to suit personal needs for content and price.
The photographer will give each student a unique online log-on code on photo day.
www.schoolphoto.com.au
To ensure photos are included in the bulk delivery to the school, online orders should be made within 14 days of photo day.
There is no need to return the pre-payment order envelope on photo day if ordering online.
ANY QUERIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO AUSSIE CUSTOMER SERVICE
TEL: 03 97076653
Sibling photos
All sibling groups will be photographed on the day if presented to the photographer.
Please note: Sibling photos are taken on a ‘proof” system. No pre-payment is required on the day.
Proof copies of photo taken together with order form and pack choices sent via the school with delivery of student photo orders.

Community Notices

Does Your Relationship Need Help?
Often holiday breaks can show us how much we need to work on our relationships.
Skills to improve your ability to hear and be heard by your partner are a great start.
A safe, accepting environment and skills to foster empathy could turn things around.
Janie has worked with families and individuals for 14 years and brings her Anthroposophical awareness to all her work.
Janie Bailey is a Psychotherapist who is now focusing her practice on Relationship Counselling under the mentorship of Fay Lehmann in Kew Junction.

All enquiries and bookings to Janie on 0412 864 741

Janie Bailey

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: little sophiainc@bigpond.com
(Job description will be forward to applicants interested in the position)

ZUMBA starting on Monday 10 February 9am-10am in the Rosina Auditorium.
Everyone welcome. Contact Irina 0432 712 984.

Melbourne Rudolf Steiner Seminar
Enrol now in courses commencing Feb 2014
With the return to school, many of us start thinking about what we might do for ourselves in the coming year. It’s not too late to enrol in any of our inspiring part-time evening courses in Rudolf Steiner Education which begin on Wednesday 12th February!

These courses are for everyone, including parents, and prospective and practicing teachers seeking to develop their understanding of Rudolf Steiner Education. Each evening we have a movement or artistic activity, supper and then a lecture/discussion. The evening also offers an enjoyable social experience.

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)
- Biodynamics (Note: this is offered on a Thursday evening).

Full-time course: the Advanced Diploma in Rudolf Steiner Education (Monday to Thursday during school hours) begins on Tuesday 11th February. Many students complete this course and go on to complete further tertiary study to become teachers, or undertake it for their own development and interest, or incorporate what they have learned to their own field of work in a range of settings. This is an accredited course, offering a rich and comprehensive grounding in the picture of the human being given by Rudolf Steiner in the first year, with a focus on the pedagogy and curriculum given in Steiner schools in the second year. VET Fee Help and Austudy are available for eligible students. This course offers a pathway to a Bachelor of Education at Deakin and Charles Darwin universities.

Information: tel. 03 9876-5199 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.

Then there will be a talk and presentation by John Davidson at The Christian Community in Melbourne. He will talk about an initiative he has started here in Melbourne about offering care for elderly and people who need help in any way. He has a team of helpers ready to offer care out of an Anthroposophical model of care. any one interested in hearing about this or considering taking up such help should come along or send someone who can listen for you. Sunday March 2nd at 11.30am.
319 Auburn Road, Hawthorn, Vic 3122
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

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 meditators have found this work invaluable in deepening their relationship to the path.

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

MELBOURNE 7th – 9th MARCH
TIME 7PM-9PM 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 Katherine Kiss (02) 6684 6147

Please Turn Over for Information on Lisa Romero and Conditions of Esoteric Training

WANT TO LEARN STOP MOTION ANIMATION?
- Make an animated movie in just 8 weeks!
- Fun, creative, and hands on!
- Small group classes

- Classes taught by experienced animator and filmmaker

PRINCES HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE
8 WEEK COURSE:
JUNIOR CLASS, GRADES 3-6
MONDAYS FROM 3rd FEB
4PM TO 5:30PM
$230

RICHMOND
8 WEEK COURSE, GRADES 3-6
FINBAR NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE
WEDNESDAYS FROM 12th FEB
4PM TO 5:30PM
$230

ALBERT PARK
8 WEEK COURSE, GRADES 3-6
GASWORKS ARTS PARK
THURSDAYS FROM 13th FEB
4PM TO 5:30PM
$230

Classes are limited to 10 places. Call or Email to make a booking:
www.animachin.com
Ph: 0400 058 604 - alex@animachin.com

Open Day
Sunday February 2nd, 2014
2 - 5pm
Diploma of Shiatsu & Oriental Therapies
Short course in Zen Shiatsu

Come to our amazing renovated warehouse in Brunswick at the top of Lygon St, enjoy the atmosphere, chat to staff & students and have a great Shiatsu treatment

Government funded training!

Free Shiatsu Treatments & refreshments available

Australian Shiatsu College
103 Brunswick St
Brunswick, Vic 3056

www.australianshiatsucollege.com.au

Tel: 03 9387 1161