

Sophia Mundi Newsletter

Term 3 Week 2, 2018

Our vision is to educate individuals who can meet the future out of a sense of inner freedom and purpose.



Dear Parents and Community,
Welcome back to another School Term. I hope Term 3 proves to be a rewarding and enjoyable time for everyone in the school community. Building the social fabric around the students is important, and over the next few months we will be holding class performances, concerts, practice exams, presentations and community lectures. I invite all parents and guardians to support your child/children by attending parent evenings and class performances.

The topic for our next Community Conversation is 'Information, Social Technology and the Human Being', presented by Dr Kathryn Colman on Tuesday 7 August at 7pm. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend this event with their families. Teachers, parents and guardians will be addressing the topic as part of the class parent meetings, and I look forward to these conscious and active social technology conversations.

During our Curriculum/PD Days over the Term break, staff discussed goals for the School Improvement Plan (SIP). We deepened our work on assessment and reporting and spent time reflecting on the School's (past), present and future. Over the past 34 years Sophia Mundi has had its ups and downs. A key ingredient for our School's success has remained unchanged – that is, our community and the relationships we have with each other, working towards a shared vision. We invite our current community and Alumni to participate in our Community Conversation (on Tuesday evening, 7 August), Open Day (on Sunday 11 November) and our Spring and Summer Festivals. If you are not able to attend any of these events, please stay in contact with us.

Together, let us build a healthy social life for our children. I share with you Rudolf Steiner's verse: *"A healthy social life is found only when, in the mirror of each soul, the whole community finds its reflection, and when, in the whole community, the virtue of each one is living."* Rudolf Steiner.

With warmth,
Fiona

Next Newsletter deadline: Wednesday, 08 August.

IMPORTANT DATES: Please see our online website calendar

UPCOMING DATES:

Sat 28 Jul School Tours, 10am, 11am, 12noon & 1pm
06 - 11 Aug Class 8 Camp: Tasmania
Tue 07 Aug School Tour, 9:30-11am
Tue 07 Aug Community Conversation, 7pm
Thu 9 Aug 2018 Open Day Planning Meeting, 7pm
Fri 24 Aug Steiner Schools VIC Curriculum Day (Prep-Cls 10 student free day)
Sat 25 Aug Saturday School Tours, 10am, 11am, midday, 1pm
Wed 05 Sep Annual Music Concert, 6pm
Wed 05 Sep IB Visual Arts Exhibition (until Thu 13 Sept)
Wed 19 Sep Prep Spring Festival & Prep last day Term 3
Thu 20 Sep Spring Festival & Last student day Term 3 (Cls 1-12)

**2018 Open Day (Spring Fair)
Planning Meeting : Thu 9 Aug, 7pm**

**Community Conversation
Information, Social Technologies
and the Human Being
Tue 7 August 7-8:30pm**

**Steiner Schools VIC Curriculum Day
Fri 24 Aug (Prep to Class 10 student free day.) Playgroup & IB Classes are still running.**

THANK YOU TOM!



For the last twelve months we have been very lucky to have Tom Eltgen volunteering with the *Friends of Waldorf Education Program*. Originally from Frankfurt, he will be returning to central Germany in late July. Soon after arriving home, Tom will be starting an International Development Management degree in Van Hall Larenstein University, in the Netherlands! We wish him all the best and thank him very much for his hard work, humour and a great year of contributing to the social fabric of the Sophia Mundi community.



Sophia Mundi Steiner School

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@sophiamundisteinerschool

Music Corner

AMEB EXAM RESULTS

During the holidays the following students sat and passed their Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB) exams in Cello, though Chien-Hsiu ONG (Sophia Mundi Instrumental Music teacher)
Cls 8 Tara-Rose KIRKPATRICK – Level 3: B Grade
Cls 11 Claudia BATES – Level 6: B Grade



SOPHIA MUNDI FAMILY VISIT ITALIAN INSTRUMENT MAKERS

While in Italy during the last holidays, our family (Violetta Capanni, Class 4 and Hector Capanni, Class 6) visited the Vettori Family, fourth generation Violin, Viola and Cello makers.

We were shown the whole creation process, and were able to touch the different woods at the different stages and see the tools required. Towards the end of the visit, Violetta and Hector played the instruments. It was a magical morning - I felt the kids were really interested in the woodwork involved and they loved the whole dynamic of playing the handmade instruments! It was wonderful for us as parents to watch the kids questioning the creative process.

The Vettori's use the same techniques and materials (right down to the same glue) for their instruments as they did in the 15th Century. Each instrument contains two different woods on each side – one is sourced from Slovenia and the other (maple wood) is sourced near the Dolomites in Italy.

For more information on the Vettori Family go to www.vettorifamily.com - Anna Foley, Sophia Mundi parent.

CLASS 9 & 10'S INSPIRATIONAL SESSION WITH WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL PLAYER

During the first week of term three, Sophia Mundi students in Class 9 and 10 were visited by a Wheelchair Basketball player called Orfeo. He came from Wheel-talk, a company who educates schools on sports for people with physical disabilities particularly.



Orfeo had no legs and told the students his life story. He lost his legs when he was 17. Due to a car accident, one of his legs was immediately amputated from half way down the femur bone. The other leg was amputated shortly afterwards after a bone graft failed.



The students helped to unload and put the wheels onto the wheelchairs and were then invited to sit in them. After a discussion, Orfeo led the students in some basketball drills as they rolled around the Rosina Hall at the convent.

The experience was eye opening and vivid for the students and they met a man who had been through a great trauma and was living a happy full life.

It was a memorable, remarkable session with Orfeo. They helped him pack up and watched him load himself into his custom-made vehicle with a hand lever accelerator and break.
- Katherine Ellis, PE Coordinator & Circus Teacher

STEINER CRAFT DISPLAYS AT LOCAL LIBRARIES



Sophia Mundi Alumni parent Kate Donovan is raising awareness of the School and Steiner Education by arranging craft displays at local libraries.

Craft made by Sophia Mundi students was on display at the Fairfield and Hawthorn libraries earlier this year. From August to November the craft display can be viewed at Northcote, Richmond, Kew and Brunswick libraries respectively.



RESILIENCE, RIGHTS & RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS CURRICULUM TRAINING

During the school holidays Sophia Mundi staff attended training on the Resilience, Rights & Respectful Relationships curriculum, facilitated by Class 8 teacher, Tanya Rao. Resilience, Rights & Respectful Relationships is part of the Respectful Relationships initiative, a Victorian Government program being incrementally rolled out across all schools in Victoria.

The training session was collaborative, activity and narrative based and delved into a range of topics in an age-appropriate way, including character strengths, problem solving, stress, conflict, relationships and gender identity.

Sophia Mundi is a Lead School of the Respectful Relationships initiative. The Resilience, Rights & Respectful Relationships curriculum sits alongside our Steiner curriculum so that, where needed, we can make explicit the implicit values we already teach through our rich storytelling and deep spiritual work.

Tanya Rao has shared her insights on the Respectful Relationships program in Sophia Mundi's 2017 Chronicle and Annual Report.

AFTERCARE ZOOS VIC FUNDRAISER: 1ST AUGUST

On Wednesday 1st August, Aftercare is raising money to help Zoos Victoria with their *Fighting Extinction* Program. Delicious ginger-bread and some cheesy flavoured biscuits - all in the shape of native animals - will be on sale for \$1-\$2. Gluten free options available.
- Jude Walker, Aftercare Coordinator

CLASS 8 PARENTS' ARTWORK ON SHOW AT ASPECT EXHIBITION



The images featured here are by Class 8 parents Bette Poulakos and Tatiana Kooraram on display at the **Aspect Exhibition** until 4 August. (For further details and to read the full story, go to our Sophia Mundi facebook page.)

IMAGE 1: "Looking Within" (8x10 silver gelatin print on fibre paper) by Tatiana Kooraram. The image is of Sophia Mundi alumni Ella Bates – one of five in the show.

IMAGE 2: Silver gelatine print by Bette Poulakos of her daughter Artemis Klerides - one in a series of four in the show. Bette used mixed medium to create colour and texture and finished with bees wax.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

dragonflytoys.com.au
keeping the magic of childhood alive...



Are you passionate about children and education? We are. Dragonfly Toys is looking for part time and casual staff to join our team. School hours and Saturdays. Interested? Please email your resume to Joanne via shop@dragonflytoys.com.au to find our more.

www.dragonflytoys.com.au

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 7th August 2018 7.30p.m.- 9.00p.m.

Please email us to confirm your attendance:
Office@steinerseminar.com - 03 9876-5199

www.steinerseminar.com

The Gabriel Talks- 2018 program

'Wholistic Family Life: eight workshops.'



The Gabriel Trust

Monday evenings from 7.30-9.00 pm.

Term 3: 30 July, 6 August, 13 August, 20 August.

Term 4: 8 October, 15 October, 22 October, 29 October

The Gabriel Talks enter their 14th year with the presentation of a Parent Education Program offered in Terms 3 and 4. There is no charge to join this program, however interested participants are asked to commit to the entire course.

The program of talks offers an opportunity to explore the life of the young child, and the great joys and challenges of parenting in the context of the picture of the human being given by Rudolf Steiner. Cheryl Nekvapil will offer workshops, titled "Wholistic Family Life" based upon the Parent Training Programme developed by Kirsten Schreiber* and Christoph Meinecke**, which are inspired by Rudolf Steiner's work, and are congruent with contemporary studies and research.

Each session consists of social exercises and games, reflection on the experiences, information on aspects of parenting focussing on early childhood, stepping forward into parenting our children today and tomorrow. These workshops all build upon each other. A manual translated into English, from the German edition, will be available at a cost of \$10 (to cover printing and translating).

* Social worker and manager, Partner-and family therapist, music therapist at Familienforum Havelhohe (Berlin).
** Medical doctor for children and youth, Psychotherapist, Anthroposophical medicine (GAED), Founder of the Familienforum Havelhohe (Berlin), School doctor in Stuttgart and Berlin.

We will address topics including:

What does a human being need:

- the four homes
- what unsettles me, what unsettles the child, what security does my child need.
- what can we do to enjoy parenting, to be less troubled; questions and reflections.

How do I become human:

- the development of the child in the first three years (walking, talking, thinking) and how does this influence later life.
- the development of the will and the inner disposition of the educator.
- The senses: how can we care for the senses and protect them from over stimulation.
- How do the senses influence our behaviour.
- My own biography, the child in me, the influence this has on being a parent.

Location: St Kilda Steiner Kindergarten,
435 Inkerman Street, St Kilda East (behind the church)

To register: please email your name and phone number to: info@gabrielcentre.com.au

Gabriel Trust contact Tiffany: 9876 1092 or 0413 120 345
St Kilda Steiner Kindergarten contact Petra: 0417163490.

Sophia Mundi Steiner School

Community Conversation

Information, Social Technologies and the Human Being

Talk and discussion with Dr Kathryn Coleman – Negotiating and navigating digital participatory practices. A greater insight into the use of computer technology.

Dr Kathryn Coleman is an artist, researcher and teacher based in Melbourne. She is the Australasian representative on the Board of Directors of Association of Authentic, Experiential and Evidence Based Learning (AAEEBL) and World Council Representative for the South-East Asia Pacific Region for the International Society for Education through Art (InSEA). Her work focuses on the integration of digital pedagogies and digital portfolios for sustained creative practice and assessment.

Kathryn's praxis includes taking aspects of her theoretical and practical work as a writer/tographer to consider how practitioners, teachers and students use site to create place in the digital and physical. Kathryn is a lecturer in Visual Arts and Design Teacher Secondary Education at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education - University of Melbourne.

7-8:30pm

Tuesday 7 August



Sophia Mundi Steiner School | www.sophiamundi.vic.edu.au
St Mary's, Abbotsford Convent - 1 St Heliers Street, Abbotsford



Sophia Mundi Steiner School

OPEN DAY

Sunday 11 November 10am - 4pm

We are establishing our Open Day Committee to plan and coordinate this vibrant annual celebration. We encourage class parents and carers to get involved! The Sophia Mundi Steiner School Open Day would not exist without the kind assistance we received in past years.

Expressions of Interest 2018 Open Day Committee

Parents and Carers please email:
openday@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au
to confirm your interest by 31 July 2018.

Our first Open Day Planning Meeting
will be held at 7pm, Thursday 9 August.