

Sophia Mundi Newsletter

Term 1 Week 8, 2019

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



Dear families and friends of the Sophia Mundi community,
A healthy social life is found 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. Dr Rudolf Steiner

Sharing the joys and challenges of life.

This last week our community has journeyed the joys and tragedies of human life. From our compassion for our neighbours in Christchurch to our own community challenges, the week has been one requiring courage, truth and ethical responsibility.

In working through both recent and ongoing incidents, I have had the responsibility of participating in restorative conversations; shared tears, witnessed personal struggles and experienced heated emotional confusion. Then, there was the joy of farewelling the first of our Class 10 students heading off on their French Exchange Programme. I honour the challenges each has faced and know these experiences have been traumatic and freeing. We strive to work as a caring, inclusive community as we meet these experiences and together, work towards the future. If you know of students or families who need support, please encourage them reach out to our Welfare staff - Raquel McConnell and Cheryl Nekvapil.

What does it truly mean to be a *Whole Community*? A positive change can emerge out of our trials: it can act as a seed or an opportunity that awaits us. One such opportunity which I am committed to developing is a 'balcony' programme which would run alongside current classes to support students who are struggling in the classroom or the playground. In reference to Dr Steiner's quote, I hope that as a community we can explore the challenging questions that confront us and work together for a healthy, whole community where each person can find their reflection.

This past week has also been one of joy and hope. I am excited for the future in that many of our students participated in the Climate Change Rally. We encourage student voice at Sophia Mundi. While this places parents and teachers at the brunt of their activism, we are proud of our articulate young people and their courage to speak out. What a pleasure to see so many families at the Secondary Parent Teacher Interviews and hear of

Next Newsletter deadline: TERM 2 Wednesday 24 April.

IMPORTANT DATES: Please see our online website calendar

UPCOMING DATES: March & April

- Sat 23 Mar School Tours. 10:00am/ 11am/ 12noon
25 – 28 March CAMP: Class 9 Great Otway National Park
Mon 25 Mar Class 5 French Play, 10:15am & 3:30pm
Tue 26 Mar Class 7 Immunisation - HPV, 11am
School Dental Visit, 4-5:30pm
Parent Workshops - Cheryl Nekvapil, 7:30pm
Fri 20 Mar Cls 7-10 Athletics Day, 8:45am-3:30pm
Tue 2 Apr Cls 7-10 Yarra Clean-Up Day, 10am-1pm
Wed 3 Apr Prep Festival and Term 1 last day, 11am-1pm
Wed 3 Apr Cls 10 Music Concert. 5:30-7pm
Thu 4 Apr Cls 1-12 Last Student Day, Term 1. Harvest Festival, 2pm
Fri 5 April All Staff Curriculum Day
Tue 23 Apr First Student Day Term 2 (Prep-12)

the growth and achievement. Lastly, congratulations to the La Terra sisters, Lucia and Evangeline who won the Volleyball Victoria - Beach Schools Cup (Year 12 pairs) competition. Well done!

Thank you to all for sharing your joys and courageously facing our ethical responsibilities as a community. I wish you all a happy and relaxing weekend, celebrating family and each other.

Warmly, Fiona Cock – Principal



Class 8 Camp: Glenelg National Park



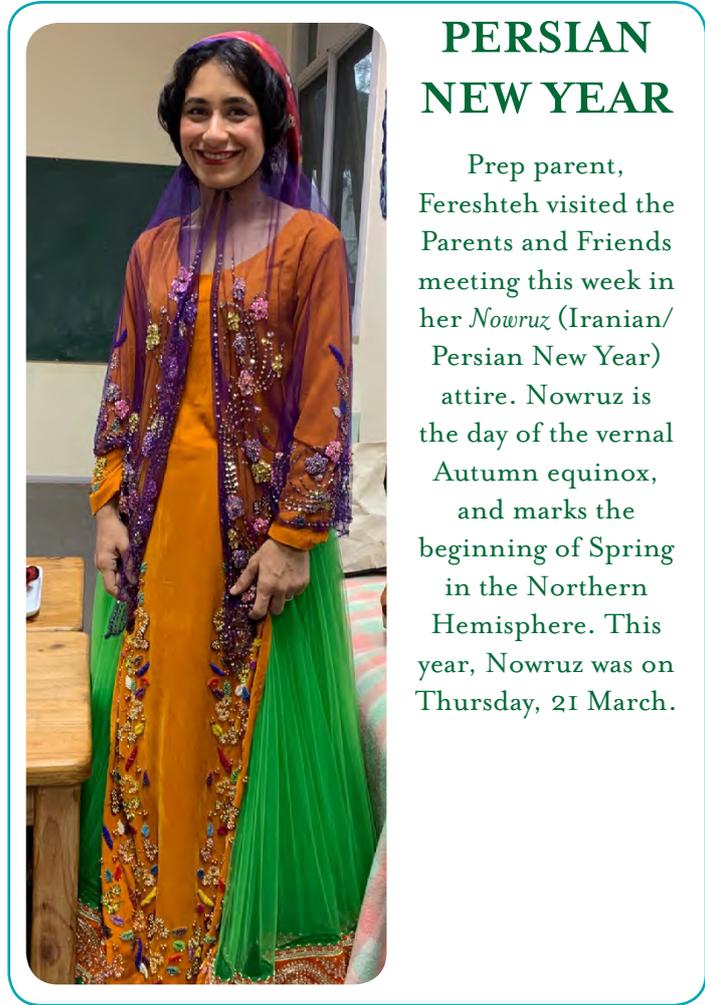


The Justice Collective, Sophia Mundi's student action group, are organising a **Clean Up Day** on Tuesday 2nd April.

The Middle School will be learning about the significance of the river ecosystem, and the impact of

waste on the environment. The whole school will be part of an Indigenous Welcome to Country, to honour the spiritual value of this beautiful land.

Class 7-10 students will be cleaning up various sites around the Convent carpark and Dights Falls. The primary students will clean up around the school grounds. We will be doing a waste audit, to categorise and identify patterns and common sources of waste.



PERSIAN NEW YEAR

Prep parent, Fereshteh visited the Parents and Friends meeting this week in her *Nowruz* (Iranian/Persian New Year) attire. Nowruz is the day of the vernal Autumn equinox, and marks the beginning of Spring in the Northern Hemisphere. This year, Nowruz was on Thursday, 21 March.

SOPHIA MUNDI'S FRONT MOSAIC HITS THE NEWS!

Un mosaico italiano alla scuola Sophia Mundi



Il mosaicista Pierpaolo Boccuzzi all'entrata della scuola dell'Abbotsford Convent

È di Pierpaolo Boccuzzi il nuovo mosaico installato all'entrata della scuola steineriana Sophia Mundi, situata all'interno dell'Abbotsford Convent. L'opera è stata resa pubblica durante un'inaugurazione ufficiale il 5 febbraio scorso e si inserisce nelle più ampie celebrazioni per i cento anni della pedagogia Steiner-Waldorf.

Il progetto, nato da un'idea iniziale della coordinatrice artistica della scuola, Teresa Martin, era rimasto per molto tempo in attesa di un esecutore che possedesse la tecnica adatta.

Poi, un anno e mezzo fa, da Conversano, Bari, arriva Pierpaolo Boccuzzi, piastrellista di professione e mosaicista autodidatta.

Pierpaolo comincia ad appassionarsi di mosaici quando scopre la meravigliosa collezione di ceramiche del padre, anch'egli piastrellista, e in seguito, mette a punto una tecnica che prevede l'uso delle tessere di ceramica da inserire all'interno di uno strato di resina. Si tratta di un

materiale con la stessa resistenza della ceramica, ma che dona un effetto di leggerezza all'intera composizione.

Per la produzione del mosaico all'entrata della Sophia Mundi sono stati coinvolti anche gli studenti, i quali hanno partecipato alle varie fasi di lavorazione, cottura e decorazione delle ceramiche nei laboratori della scuola, con il vantaggio aggiunto di ottenere dei toni di colore uniformi. Tra l'altro, hanno trovato una loro nuova collocazione anche alcuni mattoni originali risalenti alla costruzione dell'ex convento, negli anni a cavallo tra il XIX e il XX secolo.

Il disegno definitivo del mosaico, che Pierpaolo ha realizzato con l'aiuto del graphic designer Giacomo Sorresso, vuole comunicare "un'idea di armonia e di apertura attraverso l'utilizzo delle linee curve" e riprende motivi artistici e cromatici che caratterizzano l'intera struttura dell'Abbotsford Convent.



The opening of Sophia Mundi's front mosaic (and profile on creator Pierpaolo Boccuzzi (Vimalkirti Design) was featured in this article by Italian newspaper, *Il Globo*.

As a bonus, *Il Globo* also published a close-up of the mosaic artwork on its new 'In Classe' supplement on 7 March, also pictured here. Well done to all those involved in the creation of the mosaic!

BROOKE VARACALLI joins Sophia Mundi's Outdoor Education Team

Meet Brooke Varacalli, who joins Sophia Mundi this year as an Outdoor Education Teacher.

Brooke says she has always had a love and passion for the outdoors, which lead to her undertaking Bachelor of Outdoor Education studies at La Trobe University in Bendigo.



"During my degree, I was lucky enough to travel to the most beautiful locations around Victoria, and I'm very excited to take Sophia Mundi students to some of these locations over the coming year," says Brooke.

She went on to study for a Master of Applied Learning and Teaching Degree at Deakin University, majoring in Outdoor Education and sub-majoring in Geography and Studio Art.

During 2018 Brooke worked on an array of different programs as a sessional staff member at Little Yarra Steiner School as well as Lauriston Girls School.

"I am extremely passionate about Outdoor Education and strongly believe that it can provide benefits to students' confidence, self-esteem and overall mental and physical wellbeing. I was attracted to Sophia Mundi and Steiner education because outdoor education is embedded in the curriculum and seen as an important part of student's development," she adds. When not at school, Brooke is likely to be found outdoors – in particular, hiking, white-water rafting, kayaking and skiing.



COMPOST BIN CALL-OUT

Class 3 are embarking upon a farming and gardening Main Lesson, and would really appreciate some compost bins.

Does anyone have any compost bins (that are open to the ground with a lid) that you would like to donate to the School (even for a short term loan)?

Please let us know via email to Katina or Ben as soon as possible! katina.kondos@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au or ben.darby@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au

HARVEST FESTIVAL THURSDAY 4 APRIL - 2PM

Class Teachers and students have prepared a beautiful Harvest Festival to celebrate the end of Term 1 and change of season. **The Festival will be a whole school affair starting at 2pm, with Classes 1-4 as players in the Dragon Play and Classes 5-10 contributing music and other performances.** The Harvest Festival (a part of Michaelmas) is also a time to celebrate the change in our spiritual lives when we move from a joyful engagement with nature to a time of inward reflection. The image of the fight with the Dragon is an image of humanity's need to balance our connection with both nature and the spiritual world. **Please join our community for this celebration.**



FOOD COLLECTION

Leading up to the Harvest Festival on the last day of Term, we will be collecting food for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC). The ASRC is a community lead movement that seeks to support and empower people seeking asylum. The ASRC run a Foodbank – a free grocery store that provides food to people seeking asylum. People seeking asylum have little or no access to work, income or government support. The Foodbank feed over 600 people a week who would be otherwise going without, one third of whom are children.

Please start to bring in food donations, and keep in the classroom. **Donations of food items will be gathered on the last day of Term, Thu 4 April. All food donations are accepted, some urgent essentials are:**

- Basmati rice
- Biscuits, sweet & savoury
- Breakfast cereals
- Honey
- Jam & peanut butter
- Long life (UHT) milk
- Tahini
- Tinned fish/tuna in oil
- Tinned tomatoes/corn/peas & tinned fruit
- Tinned legumes (lentils, chickpeas, kidney beans) without sauce
- Nappies (all sizes)
- Body wash
- Deodorant
- Dishwashing liquid
- Laundry powder
- Toothbrushes
- Razors
- Shaving cream
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Shopping bags (cloth or tote)

CRAFT SUPPLY STALL

THURSDAY,
4 APRIL, 2PM



The Parents and Friends association and our resident teacher craft queen Nikki Fletcher warmly invite you to our end of Term

craft supply stall. Held on the last day of Term I (before and after the Harvest Festival)

This is your chance to stock up on all your crafting needs and art supplies before the holidays! Look forward to seeing you all there!

For all enquires contact Judy Darmanin 0422 505 743



OPEN DAY 2019 – NEW CRAFT AND PRODUCE STALL

ATTENTION ALL CREATIVE COOKS!

We are planning to include a Craft and Produce Stall for the Sophia Mundi Open Day (to be held on 10 November 2019) and appreciate your donations.

We will be gathering produce throughout the year. So keep our school in mind next time you make your next batch of:

- Preserves – fruit or otherwise
- Marmalade Chutney Relish
- Passata Pickled vegetables
- Sauerkraut Kombucha
- Scoby/kits (closer to the open day)

For all enquires contact Judy Darmanin 0422 505 743

Music Corner

CLASS 10 MUSIC CONCERT

Wednesday, 3 April

5:30-7:00PM

SCHOOL HALL

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC: Student Absence

If your child is unable to attend their lesson; contact your Instrumental Music Tutor (IMT) directly via text message and/or email by 8pm the previous night. A maximum of two lessons per term can be rescheduled. If insufficient notification is given, no replacement lesson will be scheduled. IMT contact details are in the student's home play diary.

VOLUNTARY IMMUNISATIONS - HPV

CLASS 7: Tuesday 26 March, 11am

Class 7 Parents and Guardians, Yarra City Council is offering free Human papillomavirus (HPV) immunisations for Class 7 students. Natasha Macleod, the Immunisation Nurse for Yarra City Council will be at Sophia Mundi on Tuesday 26 March at 11am (Morning Tea) to administer this vaccination.

Immunisations are voluntary and only students being immunised need to complete and return the forms. E-forms are available from: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/publications/formsandtemplates/2019-secondary-school-vaccine-program-information-consent-forms>. Paper forms available from Reception.

Completed forms must be returned by Monday 25 March.



Dear Families - Are you interested in the School Dental Program for your child? This is

for Prep to Year 12 students. The *School Dental* can visit the school in Term 2.

You may be eligible for a free dental examination, clean and follow-up. Or there is an opportunity for a private examination and clean for \$65. (<http://schooldental.com.au>) **If you are interested please email Rene McKay (Prep Teacher) rene.mckay@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au**