

# Sophia Mundi Newsletter

## Term 2 Week 4, 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, NAPLAN finishes for another year. While only a small number of students from the Primary school participated in the testing this year, we had significant representation

from Classes 7 and 9. Our message to parents regarding NAPLAN is different for each year level in line with our age appropriate approach which respects the stages of intellectual and emotional development. Our assessment and reporting strategies provide a holistic picture of each student's progress, and our teachers work to ensure that you as parents are fully informed on any issues that may emerge in your child's learning. If you have any questions around assessment in general, please speak with your child's Class Teacher or Class Guardian.

### Why drawing needs to be a curriculum essential

A colleague recently shared this article with me by Professor Anita Taylor, Dean of Bath School of Art and Design in the UK. Professor Taylor provides a beautifully clear rationale for the centrality of drawing in any curriculum. The short extract below gives a flavour of the whole article;

*"Drawing has creative, expressive and educational value; it remains fundamental to translating and analysing the world. Drawing has seen something of a renaissance in the last twenty years in the UK.....many inside and outside the (design) sector regard drawing as both the most sophisticated means of thinking and communicating, and as an activity for all.*

*Having collectively raised the game and placed drawing back on the agenda – in schools, universities, in teaching and research, galleries and contemporary practices – perhaps it is time to deepen, extend and further evaluate its specific function.*

*Drawing remains a central and pivotal activity to the work of many artists and designers – a touchstone and tool of creative exploration that informs visual discovery. It fundamentally enables the visualisation and development of perceptions and ideas. With a history as long and intensive as the history of our culture,*

**Next Newsletter deadline: Wednesday 29 May.**

**SOME UPCOMING DATES:** Please see our online website calendar

**Tue 21 May Parent Workshop – Cheryl Nekvapil, 7:30pm**

**Thu 23 May Lantern Festival – Primary Classes, 5:30pm**

*Fri 24 May Teacher's Report Writing Day (pupil free day)*

*Sat 25 May School Tours, 10am, 11am, 12noon*

*May 27 – Jun 2 CAMP: Class 9 Hattah-Kulkyne National Park*

**Tue 28 May Parent Workshop – Cheryl Nekvapil, 7:30pm**

**Wed 29 May AGM Sophia Mundi Limited, 6:30pm**

**May 29 – Jun 5 - Class 11 & 12 - IB Exams**

**Mon 3 June - Class 7 Parent Meeting**

**Tue 4 June School Tour, 9:30am**

**Tue 4 June - Class 3 Music Concert, 5:30pm**

**Class 4 Music Concert, 6:30pm**

**Wed 5 June - Class 5 Music Concert, 5:30pm**

**Class 6 Music Concert, 6:30pm**

**Thu 6 June - Class 7 Music Concert, 5:30pm**

*Mon 10 June - Queens' Birthday (VIC Public Holiday)*

**Wed 12 June - Class 8 Music Concert, 5:30pm**

**Wed 12 June - Class 9 Music Concert, 6:30pm**

**Wed 19 June - Prep Last day & Winter Spiral**

**Thu 20 June - Last student day & Winter Spiral**

**Fri 21 June - Primary Parent/ Teacher Interview Day**

*the act of drawing remains a fundamental means to translate, document, record and analyse the worlds we inhabit. The role of drawing in education remains critical, and not just to the creative disciplines in art and design for which it is foundational.*

*As a primary visual language, essential for communication and expression, drawing is as important as the development of written and verbal skills. The need to understand the world through visual means would seem more acute than ever; images transcend the barriers of language, and enhance communications in an increasingly globalised world.*

*Alongside a need for drawing skills for those entering employment identified by a range of industries in the creative sectors – animation, architecture, design, fashion, film, theatre, performance and the communication industries – drawing is also widely used within a range of other professions as a means to develop, document, explore, explain, interrogate and plan. This includes the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, medicine and sport.*

*Surely, this should affirm drawing to be an essential part of the curriculum at all levels for all subjects, and something for which a clear commitment needs to be made. If we really want to move the STEM to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) agenda, drawing could be the connector at the heart of it all."* **Continued overleaf..**

Taylor, A 2014 *Why drawing needs to be a curriculum essential*, The Guardian (Australia Edition), First published on Thu 29 May 2014 19.00 AEST, accessed 17 May 2019, <<https://www.theguardian.com/culture-professionals-network/culture-professionals-blog/2014/may/29/drawing-needs-to-be-curriculum-essential-education>>.

Other school activity over the next few weeks includes the Class Music Concerts and the IB students commencing their internal examinations. Meanwhile the teachers are engaged in report writing. School Management and Administration are preparing for government reviews of Aftercare, School Registration (5-year review) and our student exchange programme. These reviews focus primarily on Governance, Child Safe Standards, Behaviour Management and our Steiner Curriculum. I look forward to sharing with Lynne Glover, CEO of Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) and her team in early Term 3 how Sophia Mundi has flourished and grown.

The reminder for this week is that **bikes should not be ridden inside the Convent precinct, which is a pedestrian only zone.** We have many young children walking into school, so please observe this. Also, the concrete tank outside the school gate is out of bounds. Please ask your children not to play on or inside this structure.

Warmly, Fiona Cock – Principal

**Community Celebration**

**Lantern Walk Festival**



**Thursday 23 May**  
**5:30 - 7:00pm**

**Join a sing-a-long every morning next week in the courtyard from 8.30am.**

Come and learn the songs and be a part of building our community through singing together.

**No prior experience needed!**

## AFTERCARE UPDATES

Aftercare Term 1 2019 Report – The end of Summer has seen us harvest an awesome bucket and a half of potatoes, broad beans, spring onions, garlic, leeks, basil, zucchinis and tomatoes from the Aftercare veggie patch. We are now fertilizing, mulching and seed-raising for the next seasonal planting. I am signed up for a weekend course at CERES in organic and biodynamic gardening in a couple of weeks to increase my skills and knowledge.

Cooking is still a favourite activity and Moritz is introducing us to some of his family's recipes and we are asking our families for some of their favourites.

We have been producing artwork throughout the Term: dyeing the seats of our IKEA chairs, creating clay Maori



style masks and making wire fish and starfish (inspired by the Calder exhibition now on at the NGV).

We have started an Aftercare magazine full of the children's pictures, stories, poems, recipes and cartoons and have so far published two editions.

By making and selling gingerbread possums last Term, we raised \$100 for *Friends of the Leadbeaters Possum*: to help protect our State fauna emblem. We have also starting work on *Threatened Species* artwork for a state-wide competition.



The favourite outdoor activities have been stilts, tug-of-war, forest fire, hide and seek and off ground tigg.

Thanks to Lila Mann for her fabulous work and thoughtful contributions and Moritz for his playfulness and excellent cooking skills. Both these great people make Aftercare a happier and safer place.

This year we started with quite a few new students and our days filled quickly. The Department has, as of Term 2, extended our numbers to 15 so there is more Aftercare availability for permanent and casual places.

**An important reminder: Please fill out the new application form if you are hoping to use the aftercare service. These are available from the office and the Aftercare Coordinator.**

Jude Walker – Aftercare Coordinator



## PROMOTIONAL BOARDS

We are planning some widespread promotional campaigns for the School throughout the year and need your help! 2019 Promotional boards and posters will be erected to highlight:

- Enrolment Campaign in June & November
- Open Day in November

If you are willing to have a board (with a promotional poster) erected on your property in the lead up to these events, please email: [marketing@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au](mailto:marketing@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au)

## PFA News

### OPEN DAY 2019 – NEW CRAFT AND PRODUCE STALL

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                            \*Kombucha                      \* Sauerkraut
- Pickled vegetables            \*Scoby/kits (closer to day)

For all enquires contact Judy Darmanin 0422 405 743



## Class Music Concerts

**Tuesday, 4 June**

**Class 3    Class 4**  
5:30-6:30pm    6:30-7:30pm

*School Hall*

**Thursday, 6 June**

**Class 7**  
5:30-6:30pm

*School Hall*

**Wednesday, 5 June**

**Class 5    Class 6**  
5:30-6:30pm    6:30-7:30pm

*School Hall*

**Wednesday, 12 June**

**Class 8    Class 9**  
5:30-6:30pm    6:30-8:00pm

*School Hall*



### LIGHT PICKERS by Polyglot Theatre Tuesday 25 – Saturday 29 June 2019 Free, check booking link for times

Tailored for children aged 5 and under. Small children are irresistibly drawn to sources of light. Young ones can explore this natural fascination in the ever-changing, glowing scenery of



Light Pickers, an immersive and interactive installation for children aged 5 and under. <https://abbotsfordconvent.com.au/whats-on/events-exhibitions/convent-kids-presents-light-pickers-by-polyglot-theatre>

### SAPLING SCHOOL

**24 & 25 May, 9.30am & 11.30am**

**\$5/person (adult/child), \$15/family (four people)**

**Tailored for children aged 3 – 5 years**

Join an outdoor expedition for curious kids and their adults led by play specialist Catherine Sewell and gardener Matthew Henry. Through singing, storytelling and



hands-on activities, kids will learn about the seasons, ecosystems, organic gardening and the custodians of the land and water where the classes take place – the Wurundjeri people. <https://abbotsfordconvent.com.au/whats-on/events-exhibitions/convent-kids-presents-sapling-school>

### EGG CARTON COLLECTION

The Convent is on the hunt for empty egg cartons to use in our Sapling School. If you have any egg cartons please bring them in to the Convent Office. They will be given a new life housing seeds planted by children, Lentil As Anything garden.

Thanks in advance! Contact- 9415 3600/  
[info@abbotsfordconvent.com.au](mailto:info@abbotsfordconvent.com.au)

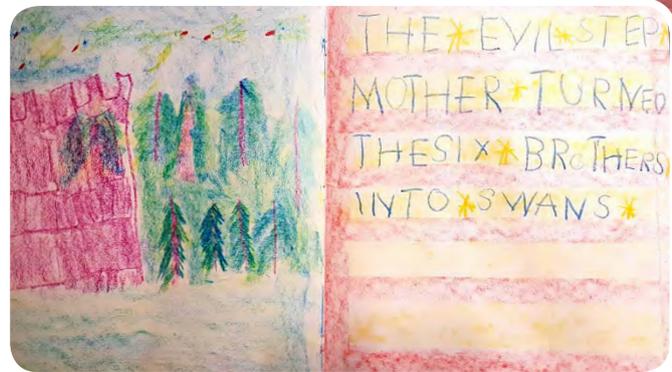
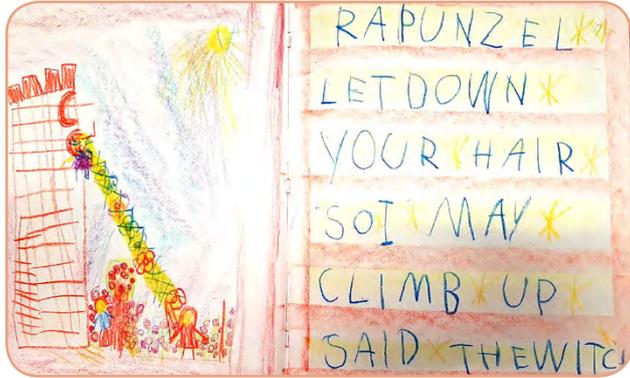
## CLASS 1 READERS

Class I have been busily making their first readers through the magical Grimm's Fairytales.

Working with the three day rhythm they listen to the story the first day, illustrate their tale the second day then write about it on the third day.

Little readers are popping up like blossoms.

*Christina Kakaris - Class 1 Teacher.*



## CLASS 9 MT KOOYOORA

Mt Kooyoora, is also known as the "Mountain of Light"...for when it rains the water running across the exposed granite stone reflects the sunlight and radiates a rather majestic atmosphere...

Two weeks ago, Class 9 had and a great camp in the Kooyoora State Park. We had some pretty colourful weather come through that gave us both amazing sunsets and dark gloomy clouds that shot lightning and sang thunder.

The class came together, as they always do in testing weather, and so we cooked together, we camped together, we laughed together, we cried together and we sang (Happy Birthday) together.

*Nicolas Andreatta - Outdoor Education Teacher*

## PREP MARTINMAS FESTIVAL

We chopped and chopped until the soup filled our pots... Next morning we prepared the fire for our gathering. Father Sun gave us a spark and then we were ready for our families to join in the Festival.

St Martin d'Tours cared for those in need especially during the cold winter months. Thank you St Martin for all your deeds.

The fire and the soup warmed our bodies and hearts as we shared this special afternoon together.

*Rene McKay - Prep Teacher & Milly Wolski - Prep Assistant*

