

Sophia Mundi Newsletter

Term 2 Week 6, 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,
Positive Education Conference (2019) and Steiner Education

Many of us have experienced mental health and wellbeing issues, whether personally or with someone we know. This is a subject that I am personally passionate about and I am committed to continuing and more deeply developing our understanding and work in this area to support the students at our school.

To further explore this, I attended and presented at the Positive Education Conference here in Melbourne. It was extremely validating as a Steiner Educator listening to presenters talk about positive school culture hinging on various factors that are already in practice at Sophia Mundi: spirituality, developmentally appropriate curriculum and language, sense of self, kindness and individuality, teacher student relationships and the banning mobile phones in schools.

Dr Tom Brunzell was a standout for me as he spoke about the importance of rhythm, attachment, developmentally appropriate curriculum, celebration of festivals and holistic education. These pillars were seen as important for fostering healthy relationships in adult life.

It was disturbing to hear a deeper picture of the crisis in smartphone usage in schools from Dr Michael Carr-Gregg (<http://michaelcarrgregg.com/>), followed by an urgent yet inspirational and powerful delivery by Susan McLean (<http://www.cybersafetysolutions.com.au/>). Susan is Australia's leading expert in the area of cyber safety. I will certainly be sharing her presentation with colleagues and senior students and as a result, will introduce slight changes to our own Cyber Safety Programme. Susan's recounting of the daily realities and issues facing children/teenagers are too shocking to mention in this

Next Newsletter deadline: Wednesday 5 June.

SOME UPCOMING DATES: Please see our online website calendar

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

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

Tue 18 June – InterSchool Cross Country – LYSS, 10:30am–3:30pm

Wed 19 June – Prep Last day & Winter Spiral

Thu 20 June – Last student day & Winter Spiral

Fri 21 June – Primary Parent/ Teacher Interview Day

medium. I strongly encourage you to read her recommendations about managing and introducing the cyber world to teenagers. While at Sophia Mundi we manage our Mobile Phone/Electronic Devices Policy well, we have identified the need for further training in mental health and the implications of cyber associated addictions and bullying. During the Term 2 break, staff will undertake a two-day certificate in 'Mental Health First Aid'.

Following a minutes silence for all children whose lives have been lost due to mental health, the presenters shifted focus to learning challenges for students: school pressure management, view of self, spirituality, fulfillment at school, sense of belonging and teacher/student relationships. The correlation between student well-being and academic outcomes is clearly very strong.

Continued overleaf..

PLEASE NOTE

In the coming week, Sophia Mundi will be undertaking an evacuation drill.

This is part of our usual practice of the School's safety procedures. The School will be sending a text to all parents and guardians to say:

"Sophia Mundi - evacuation drill completed."

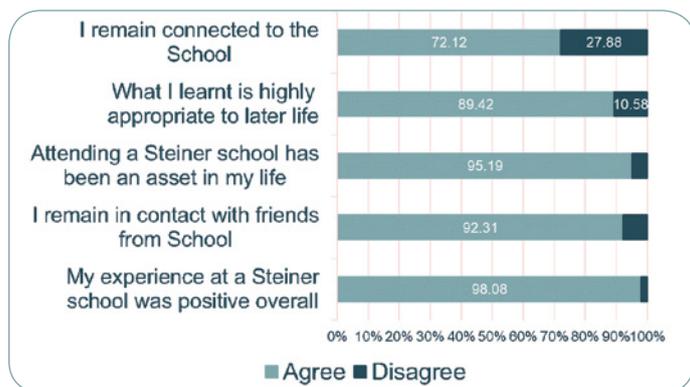
Please advise us if you do not receive a message.

As part of my own presentation at the conference, I shared the recent 2018 survey results from Steiner Education Australia (SEA). These survey figures are significant and validate the commitment and work that Steiner educators across the nation deliver towards education for life. These are outstanding results for the future health of our youth.

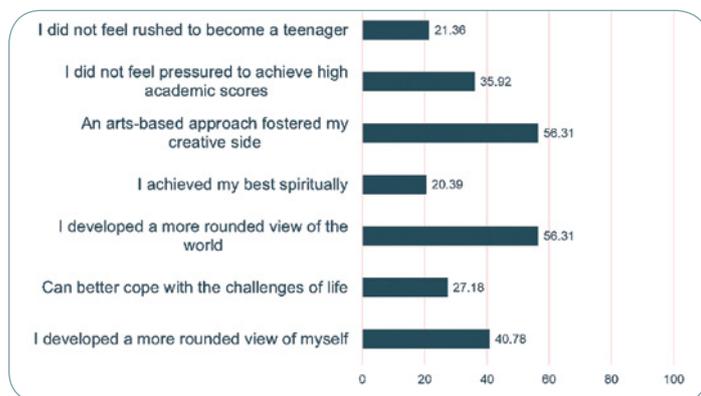
The current data on students from Australian Steiner Schools (Year 9-12) is:

- 88% strongly agreed or agreed that 'their teachers know me'
- Nearly 80% are happy and fulfilled at School
- 90% of students have good relationships with teachers
- 87% have good relationships with one another

Lastly, Australian Steiner graduates were surveyed and responded to the benefits of their Steiner Education:



Graduates were also asked to select from two of the following statements:



While I can always find statistics that highlight the wonderful work of Steiner Educators, we also need to continue to explore and develop new ways of working with the students of today, and into the future. I ask that each of us receives the children in our community with reverence and kindness.

Sophia Mundi's Child Safe Personnel

Staff at Sophia Mundi are trained in Mandatory Reporting and wellbeing management. Our current Child Safe Personnel are:



Madonna Holmes



Raquel McConnel



Dianne Paull



Fiona Cock

Please contact them if you are concerned about any child in our community. Research shows us that discussing these issues, together with education has led to more disclosures which in turn, translates to people receiving appropriate support.

The reminder for this week is that mobile phones are not to be used on campus. Please remember to greet one another, invite another parent to join your group/conversation and introduce yourself to other parents. These are the skills we ask of your children, so it is important that we as adults, guide their education with healthy role modeling. I acknowledge and understand that for some of us, this is challenging. Building community takes courage, but it creates a community of trust.

Warmly,

Fiona Cock – Principal

Class Music Concerts

Tuesday, 4 June

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

School Hall

Thursday, 6 June

Class 7
5:30-6:30pm

School Hall

Wednesday, 5 June

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

School Hall

Wednesday, 12 June

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

School Hall

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



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

Parent / Teacher Interviews

Primary: Class 1 - 6

Friday, 21 June 8:30am - 4:30pm

Interview times can be booked directly with the Class Teachers.

Middle School: Class 7 - 10

Tuesday, 13 August 2:30-8pm.

Senior School (IB): Class 11 - 12

Wednesday, 24 July 2:30-8pm.

These interviews are an opportunity to discuss the Semester I Reports and general progress with Guardians and subject teachers. The booking process will be communicated early next Term.

Semester One Report Information

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to inform you of some adjustments to the reporting format and process. This year, we will be reporting to specific achievement standards (Indicators) directly related to the Steiner Curriculum Framework. Furthermore, across the school we will mainly be reporting on the below Key Learning Areas of the curriculum:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities
- The Arts
- Physical Education
- Languages
- Technologies

Our hope is to give parents and carers a broad perspective of their child's progress in the Key Learning Area, with specific reference to their abilities within that specific learning area.

A few key points to understand which will become more comprehensible on reception of the reports are below:

Achievement standards (Indicators) represent a 'snapshot' of specific aspects of the Key Learning Area and do not represent the entirety of the content delivered in the Key Learning Area this semester.

Some achievement standards (Indicators) may be the same across Key Learning Areas and year levels, as this is how the Steiner Curriculum is structured.

Key Learning Areas (and/or specific subjects) not included in the Semester One Report will be reported on in Semester Two.

We hope parents and carers find the reporting format and information enlightening. If there are concerns about the format and/or process, please contact the school directly for further clarification.

Our aim is to create user friendly and succinct reports. However, we are cognisant of the fact that best practice reporting is a process of review and renewal. For this reason, we welcome any feedback in regard to the reporting format and/or process.

*Peter Henderson -
Teaching and Learning Coordinator*

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK IN NATURE PLAYGROUP

As part of the National Reconciliation Week, in Friday Nature Playgroup we started our morning with a cup of warming lemon myrtle tea and I told a story about a little grey possum.

As a group we sang Inanay Capuana (in the Yorta Yorta language) and the children loved calling out 'Choo' at the end. As gentle rain fell, we raked leaves and pulled out weeds in the Veggie garden then went for a walk up the twisty, windy paths in the Convent garden. The children found their favourite play spots; the 'wattle cave', the 'muscle tree' and old grandmother fig.

We ended the morning with a verse:

'Down is the earth (bik), up is the sky (wurra wurra), here are my friends (kirrup), and here am I (murrambik).' These are Boonwurrung words, from south of the Yarra (Birrarung) River.

Vicky Stock - Nature Playgroup Teacher.



THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY - PREP & CLASS 2

Ever considered the importance of play?

This week Class Two were fortunate enough to visit the Preps for the day. This gave our children the opportunity to join in with the early childhood program. Thus we enjoyed a day of a lot of 'doing'.

Our Class Two's at once assumed the role of 'responsible older children' and it was heart warming to see the care and awareness expressed toward the younger preppies.

In Class Two play is still daring and self-directed wherever possible however the chance to have younger one's about to share ideas with was inspiring.

This was such a rejuvenating experience for our Class Two's and they have not stopped asking when we can go an visit the preps again.

And now, a little on the nature of "play", from me to you...

Everything that the child imitates becomes their own through self-initiated and self-directed play. They do not reflect or conceptualise but take in the gesture of their surroundings, and through their will express this in play. This immersion in life and ability to play bring embodied experience and learning at this age. The child brings the capacity to imitate and also their own inner impulses to engage with the world in a unique, creative and potent way. This connecting together of what is experienced or revealed to the child about the world on the one hand and on the other the awakening and strengthening of what are essential



individual impulses and gifts characterises a healthy education.

I invite you to consider the links below as they speak directly to the important role of play, not only in early childhood, but into pre-teen, teen and adult hood. I hope you get a chance to play at some stage these Winter holidays with your beloved families.

Ramana - Class Two Teacher.

- Back to "The Land" - An Adventure Play Documentary (www.kickstarter.com/projects/playmovie/back-to-the-land-an-adventure-play-documentary/)
- Junk Playgrounds (www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-north-east-wales-24741977) and (www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/08/the-junk-playground-of-new-york-city/495371/)
- Imagination & Play (<https://ttfuture.org/academy/899>)
- Kim John Payne on Simplicity (www.simplicityparenting.com) and (*Overwhelm of Boys Trailer*)