

Sophia Mundi Newsletter

Term 3 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,

As the wattles flower, our thoughts turn towards lengthening days and warmer nights. As we anticipate the approach of Spring, let us all strive together to kindle our inner light and warmth and let it ray forth into the world. Each morning and evening as I cycle along the Yarra I feel blessed to experience the seasonal changes of our place here on Wurrundjeri land.

During the recent Steiner National Teachers Conference staff worked with Peter “Muraay Djeripi” Mulcahy and Waiata Telfer. It was a time for us to reflect on the wisdom of our first nation sisters and brothers - who have empowered us to continue our work. Currently teachers are exploring authentic relationship with Wurrundjeri First Nation people by connecting with country when children are on camps and here at Sophia Mundi; seeking permission from Elders and Mother Nature when using resources (stories and learning their ancient crafts) and having reverence for all people who walk on the earth.

Sophia Mundi’s Reconciliation Actin Plan (RAP) is slowly finding a form. A RAP provides a framework for Schools to advance reconciliation with their community. We are treading slowly and lightly as we understand so little however our intent, open hearts and commitment is alive.

Our College of Teachers is currently working creatively with a Fire Blessing, this is a prayer given by Burnam Burnam to Eurythmist Helen Summers in 1995. This ancient prayer has been handed down through Aboriginal culture and was translated into English by Burnam Burnam who was an activist, actor and author who was born a Woiworrung and Yorta Yorta man at Wallaga Lake in southern New South Wales. Kelly Papas is leading us to explore this blessing. May it bring an inspiration for us all to meditate on.

Rug up and Winter warmth to all,
Fiona Cock – Principal

Next Newsletter deadline: TERM 3 Wednesday 21 August.

SOME UPCOMING DATES: Please see our online website calendar

Mon 12 Aug - Annual Music Concert, 3:30-5:00pm

Tue 13 Aug - Class 7-10 Parent/Teacher Interviews, 2:40-8:00pm

Mon 19 Aug Class 4 Excursion: Melbourne Zoo

19-30 Aug - CAMP: Class 9 Nungatta Station

19-30 Aug - Student Placements: Melbourne Steiner Seminar

Thu 22 Aug - TBC Class 4 Play: 12pm & 6pm

Fri 23 Aug -VIC Steiner Schools’ Curriculum Day (pupil free day)

4-8 Sep - The Waldorf 100 Australian Youth Conference, QLD

Fire Blessing

May the fire be in our thoughts
Making them true, good and just,
May it protect us from the evil one.

May the fire be in our eyes;
May it open them to share what is good in life.
We ask that the fire may protect us from what
Is not rightfully ours.

May the fire be on our lips, so that we may
Speak truth in kindness: that we may serve
And encourage others
May it protect us from speaking evil.

May the fire be in our ears.
We pray that we may hear with a deep, deep listening
So that we may hear the flow of water, and all Creation.
And the dreaming.

May we be protected from gossip and from things
That harm and break down the family.

May the fire be in our arms and hands
So that we may be of service and build up love.
May the fire protect us from all violence.

May the fire be in our whole being ?
In our legs and in our feet,
Enable us to walk the earth
With reverence and care;
So that we may walk in the ways of goodness and truth
And be protected from walking away from what is truth.



Class 8 Guardian Rohan Vickers with some new friends he met on camp!

Staffing

We are interviewing for new staff to fill vacancies created as staff notify us of decisions to begin new journeys. We will share the much-anticipated Class I Teacher announcement and other 2020 staffing appointments in early Term 4. I understand and experience that changes in staff can be difficult for some children and parents, but it is also very exciting and refreshing to welcome new colleagues and teachers to our community.

Unfortunately, I now share that Tanya Rao has resigned. Middle School parents and students are already aware of Tanya's departure and the students had the opportunity to say farewell yesterday.

Since coming to Sophia Mundi in 2016 Tanya has embraced her role as a Class Teacher and this year stepped into the leadership position as Head of Middle School. She has been a strong advocate for our Respectful Relationships, Rights and Resilience programme while supporting each student to find their voice, build on their strengths and feel empowered to think critically about local and global issues in the service of others. Tanya will stay connected to our community before she heads off on her travels.

Fiona Cock – Principal

Message from Tanya Rao

Dear Parents & Community,

It is with great weight and sadness that I have decided to resign from my position at Sophia Mundi. My life circumstances have changed very quickly, and a number of factors have culminated to bring me to this point. I always believe that we must trust ourselves and our passion, and sometimes this takes us in unexpected directions. We cannot pour ourselves into something if our cup is not full. I plan to have a break, do some travel and further study in education.

Sophia Mundi is a very special place, a vibrant, warm community, and the place where I have found my authentic voice as a teacher. Thank you for the privilege of teaching your children and being part of your lives.

*Much love and warmth,
Tanya Rao*

Music Corner

All primary students, parents and friends of Sophia Mundi are warmly welcome to attend the Annual Music Concert on Monday, 12 August.

No bookings required. Donations of \$5-\$10 at the door are appreciated.

Dress code for all performing students is smart casual: blue pants, skirt or dress, white top. Neat and tidy dark jeans are okay. Tracksuit pants and hoodies not okay.

Myfanwy Hunter

Instrumental Music Coordinator Ensemble Director, Viola & Violin Tutor



2019
Annual Music Concert
Monday 12 August
3:30 to 5:00pm

An afternoon of music featuring Secondary School Music Ensembles and Bands

Rosina Auditorium
Abbotsford Convent
1 St Heliers Street, Abbotsford

No bookings required
Recommended door donations \$5 - \$10

The poster features three circular images: a violinist, a cellist, and a singer. The background is white with yellow and orange accents.



SOPHIA MUNDI
Steiner Education and IB World School

www.sophiamundi.vic.edu.au

The footer is a solid yellow bar with the school logo on the left and right, and the website URL in the center.

Class 5s have fun creating felted peacocks!



At the beginning of this year the Class 5s began work on beautiful felted peacocks.

Declared the National Bird of India because of its rich religious and legendary involvement in Indian traditions, the peacock fits in well with the epoch of Ancient India, a Main Lesson taught during Class 5.



We spoke to a few of the students to find out more about the creative process of the project.

Saskia Hagendoorn, Radha Pritchard and Scarlett Kokkinos took me through the craft making process.

Firstly, each student drew pictures of different parts of a peacock, cut each picture out to make patterns, then placed each pattern piece on top of their felt pieces and cut out the shapes. The felt pieces of the peacocks' bodies and tails were then sewn together and gussets inserted to ensure the peacocks remained upright. Fly stitch was used to give the impression of textured feathers on the tail. A variety of decorations was available for students to choose from, to embellish the tail further as well as their peacocks' crown and eyes.

What Radha (pictured) has enjoyed most about the process is the fun she had sewing the body of the peacock and connecting the tail to the body.

Saskia liked the fact that she could choose from a lot of different kinds of decorations. She chose to work with sequins. Although she admits that it is not that easy (they come loose quite easily), she thinks they add to the beauty of the felt peacock.

Scarlett (pictured) has enjoyed sewing the wing and liked choosing different colours and decorations for the tail.

Primary Craft Teacher Nikki Fletcher is pleased with the progress of the peacocks. In the past, Class 5s have created felt elephants during their craft lessons.



The felt peacocks are something different - not only do they blend in well with the epoch of Ancient India but they are also ablaze with colour and attractive embellishments.

Peacocks are also familiar to the students - they have had a long history with these mystical creatures at the school. Peacocks often walk around the grounds of Sophia Mundi, flying onto the roof, and can be seen from the classrooms while students are being taught!

The felt peacock project was inspired by craftswoman Jill French, who is based in the Dandenong Ranges. Jill creates a range of birds from fabric and her love of nature extends to a love of natural materials.

Note: this article was originally published in The Chronicle & Annual Report 2018 which can be viewed on https://www.sophiamundi.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Final-PDF-Chronicle_AR-2019-WEB.pdf



House building with Class 3

Class 3s are having a busy time building at the moment!! Earlier this term each student presented to the class their own model of a dwelling that they worked on during the term break. As you can see from the photos, a lot of thought, imagination and technical expertise and skill went into this exciting project. You might enjoy a closer look at these models, which will appear in the display cabinets in reception hallway area over the next few months. An inspirational project!

Katina Kondos, Class 3 Teacher

Parent / Teacher Interviews

Middle School: Class 7-10

Tuesday, 13 August 2:40-8pm.

To make an interview booking, follow the link below and login with the School's code.

Simply follow the prompts and please enter the student's full name. Once completed, check for your confirmation email.

LINK: www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code

CODE: **wsuga**

Please note: Interview times are 10mins each and only one 10min interview is available per parent/ per subject.

If you would like a longer interview, please arrange another meeting date/ time directly with the teacher.

If you require any assistance with this process please contact School Reception.

Art Award Finalist

IB Visual Arts teacher Michelle Zuccolo has been shortlisted as a finalist in the 2019 Portia Geach Memorial Award. This Award is Australia's most prestigious art prize for portraiture by women artists and sometimes referred to as the female Archibald Prize.

Established by the will of the late Florence Kate Geach in memory of her sister, Portia, the non-acquisitive prize is awarded by the Trustee for the entry which is of the highest artistic merit, *'...for the best portrait painted from life of some man or woman distinguished in Art, Letters, or the Sciences by any female artist resident in Australia during the twelve months preceding the close date for entries.'*

The 2019 exhibition will run from August 2 to September 15 in the S.H. Ervin Gallery in Sydney.



Michelle Zuccolo
entry: "Self portrait
with William"

Inter-school Debating

The high-school Debating team has just finished the final inter-school debate of the year. Our topic was: "That Refugees Should Have Full Access to the Australian Welfare System." We, as the negative team, found this topic difficult to grapple with, as we needed to deny refugees the right to welfare; it took us a long time to get our heads around arguing against refugees!

On Monday the team went to Camberwell Grammar, where the debates are held, and spoke against Balwyn High School.

Our year 9 speakers: Mon, Jasper and Maxim, each spoke well, despite our rush to get ready. We presented a counter-model: proposing that refugees are given environmental jobs - instead of welfare - to help them earn a living. This would assist with global warming, as well as giving them a purpose and feeling of self-worth, instead of waiting - with little or no English, no qualifications and no experience - until their permanent residency is accepted.

Unfortunately, the adjudicator didn't quite agree with us!

The team is now quite knowledgeable in this area, so anyone with questions is welcome to come and find us.

In my opinion, Debating as an art of arguing, is an essential part of any discussion. It builds the ability to keep one's cool, think critically and find the heart of any issue. And, most importantly, it is the ability to speak in public and choose the right words, often 'off the cuff'.

Many people tell me that they are terrified of public speaking. Ever since I joined the debating team, I've been learning not to be afraid of a crowd, to use simple language, to make my points in such a way so as to be understood.

These are skills we all need to have, and I encourage anyone, class 7 and up to join us. Debating improves confidence, research skills, ability to construct a meaningful argument, to listen to another's point of view [while noting the strengths and the weaknesses in their argument], and the skill of public speaking!

Throughout the rest of the year, the team (Mon, Jasper, Max, Ted, Bella and I), will meet Friday, 1pm, in the Language Room. As there are no more inter-school debates this year, we can spend our time debating against the teachers and readying our new members for next year's competition!

Thank you to Jonathan Shaw, who supervises our self-driven work.

Yani Joannidis, Class 9 student.

Class 8 Camp: Flinders Ranges and Camels!

For their second camp this year the Class 8 students travelled to South Australia to enjoy a spectacular four-day adventure through the foothills of the Flinders Ranges. Accompanied by 11 camels and the rugged cameleer Ryan, the group explored dramatic desert environments, mountains, river beds, and fascinating rock formations. In the evenings the class kept the cold at bay by sharing fire-cooked meals, stories, laughter and song. The quality of the meals – entirely planned and prepared by the students – was exceptionally high and the menu was very varied, including flame-charred calzone, heirloom slow cooked stuffed potatoes and rainbow sushi bowls.

The nights were crisp and clear and sleeping out on tarpaulins allowed us all to appreciate the breathtaking beauty of the billions of stars above us.

Ryan's extensive knowledge of the geological features of the area provided fascinating insight into the rock and mountain configurations we observed. By the end of the trek the students had forged strong bonds with the camels they had brushed, saddled and cared for, and an appreciation for those who have used camels to explore the Australian landscape in times past.

Some of the highlights included a welcome to country and stories around the fire from a passionate Adnyamathanha man called Christian, seeing the sun rise over the mountains, and a tour of the community-run Blinman Copper Mine.

This amazing experience is one which has deepened the class' understanding of themselves and each other, and it will live on inside them for a very long time.

Oush, Oush, Oush, Vamos!

Rohan Vicars, Class 8 Guardian





Spring Fair & Open Day

It's that time of year again, the day when our school community opens our doors and our hearts to the wider community. The Open Day & Spring Fair is approaching fast and the parents and staff have been planning and working hard all year, preparing for the big day! Our newsletter will begin soon, in the meantime we welcome any suggestions or feedback please email either myself or Colleen Bate openday@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au

LEMONS

We are beginning to collect lemons for the lemonade stall, if you have a tree and can spare some fruit, please drop them into reception.

WHITE ELEPHANT

Having a clean out? Keep in mind the white elephant stall in November. Storage can be arranged if necessary otherwise put all your pre loved items aside until closer to the day.

SILENT AUCTION

This year Class 2 is running the silent auction, we will have more information soon on how we all can contribute to raise funds to help rebuild the Prep playground. Your class carer, teacher or guardian will contact you soon.

Judy Darmanin, Open Day & Spring Fair Coordinator
0422405743 | openday@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au

School Garden News

The Veggie Garden has been alive with activity this in Term 3! We were lucky enough to finish Term 2 with a biologically dynamic preparation "500" spray which enhances the soil and health of the garden. The garden beds of each class are receiving a lot of attention - the regular opening times of lunchtimes on Tuesdays - Friday proving very popular. We've been planting seedlings of spinach, beetroot, cauliflower, carrots and broccoli amongst many other vegetables.

The Class 3 bed is looking very full with barley, wheat and rye doing well showing very strong stalks with seed forming well in the tops. We have also been blessed by a self-sewn giant artichoke that has appeared amongst potatoes, silver beet, parsley, fennel. It has been wonderful to also see a very keen group of Class 3 boys interested in studying the variety of weeds that appear.

Whilst in the garden - we are taking this opportunity to remind children about safety and how tools need to be handled properly and with care. Around safety: All toadstools are should be left untouched " look but hide your hands". Please



be especially aware of the Death Cap mushroom (extremely poisonous fungus) often found growing under oak trees. As the Convent has many oak trees please take care.



In the Aftercare garden bed we have been planting potatoes, garlic and broad beans and working on soil improvement. Weeding paths, collecting nettles to make nettle compost tea and completing our second Native Bee-Hotel.

Our two Nature Playgroups on Thursday and Friday mornings for aged 3 to 5 year olds, has been busy making 'weed soup'. This this fortified liquid is then shared with to our baby vegetables: chard, purple cauliflower, kohlrabi and tat soi. The corn flowers are about to bloom and the hollyhocks are gaining height.

We hope you enjoy the lovely late winter season, 'Waring', Wombat season when birds start building nests and wombats can be found grading on lush winter grasses during the day time.

The School Community is welcome to join the teachers in the garden 12:45 -1:40pm Tuesday - Friday. There's always plenty to do!

Until next time, - Vicky, Jude and Ramana.

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What is Steiner education?
Do you want to become a Steiner teacher?

Information evening for enrolling in 2020
Tuesday 13th August 2019, 7.30 pm-9.00 p.m.

Full time study in 2020

Join us on Tuesday 13th August 2019 from 7.30-9.00 p.m. at the Melbourne Rudolf Steiner Seminar to learn about our full-time accredited course, the Advanced Diploma of Rudolf Steiner Education (course code 30527NAT CRICOS 073548).

Hear from graduates about their experiences, meet staff, get a feel for the beautiful campus, and find out about the rewarding career and ample employment options that await - there is a great demand for professionally trained Steiner teachers in Australia and overseas.

Our full time course, based upon the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner is aimed at:

- individuals seeking to become a qualified registered teacher, in order to work in both Steiner schools and/or the mainstream sector;
- practising teachers wanting to shift their career, to work in a Steiner school.

This course offers a pathway to a Bachelor of Education at Australian Catholic, Deakin and Charles Darwin universities.

This is an accredited two year full-time course. VET Student Loans and Austudy are available for eligible students.

Where: The Melbourne Rudolf Steiner Seminar

37A Wellington Park Drive, Warranwood, 3134,
less than 10 minutes from the Ringwood exit of the Eastern Freeway and EastLink.

Please email us to confirm your attendance:

Email: office@steinerseminar.com

Phone: 03 9876-5199

Further information: www.steinerseminar.com



Slavic Masterpieces

Award-winning musicians perform a recital of glorious and poetic music for cello and piano by Rachmaninoff, Janáček, Martinu, Glière and Kapustin

Chien-Hsiu Ong - Cello

Irina Cherkasski - Piano

Alister Barker - Cello



Saturday 7 September 2019 at 7 pm

St Peter's Anglican Church
1038 Maroondah Highway
Box Hill

Adults \$25 Concession \$15 Family \$60
Limited seats available.

Please book online at <https://www.trybooking.com/BDZNV>

For further information, please telephone 0406 320 857



igniting
THE SPARK

ADD YOUR VOICE & SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK
SOPHIA MUNDI SCHOOL SURVEY
LAUNCHING 12TH AUGUST 2019

Our annual school survey is launching this year on August the 12th - your opportunity to add your voice and share your feedback!

Each year we gather feedback from our community to help shape the future of our school. Together we can continue to build on the quality and unique educational experience offered at Sophia Mundi Steiner School, moving towards an ever brightening future for our school.

Look for more info in next weeks newsletter and an individualised survey link will be available to all current staff and parents, and students from class 7.