From Calendar of the Soul by Rudolf Steiner

Verse 43
In wintery deeps
Warms the spirit’s true being;
It offers to world appearance
Might of existence through heart’s forces;
The soul’s fire in human core
Gaining strength defies the world cold.

IN THE MAIN...          - JEAN-MICHEL DAVID

Over the last couple of weeks, the Main Lessons our students are undertaking across Classes 1-12 have been mentioned in the Newsletter. One of the more obvious and distinctive features of Steiner education is certainly this aspect of our timetable. The idea behind the Main Lesson is that it allows for an indepth and sustained period of study, where various facets are given time to both transform and enliven the study and thereby embody the work in the feeling realm. It is through feeling that memory is engaged. Feeling itself is accentuated through aesthetic qualities. Hence, the Main Lessons, even when on topics that may appear to be abstract, still incorporate an artistic, or more specifically, an aesthetic element. This element reveals something of the topic’s ‘human connectedness’, which, in the higher years, is often supported through history. Where appropriate, the abstract quality is allowed to emerge out of directed reflection.

It is often through the course of a Main Lesson that those ‘ah-ah’ insights emerge, when enough time is given to allow those moments for quietude and reflection.

On a separate note, this Friday (3rd August) will be parent-teacher interviews. Please do take the opportunity to speak with the Class teacher or guardian of your child – as well as, of course, those specialist teachers who may further enrich our mutual understanding of the children as individuals in their process of development.

Also a brief reminder that the VCE information evening will be coming up on Monday the 27th of August.
CONVERSATION RETURNS NEXT TUESDAY  - JEAN MICHEL & JIM
The Conversation will resume next week in the new time-slot of 9.00 am Tuesday. The conversation follows its own course or the direction your questions lead it. Join us in the Main Building to be a part of the conversation. Questions on notice may be emailed to jtaylor@lyss.vic.edu.au.

A FRIDAY WITHOUT PIZZAS!  - EMMA
Due to the parent teacher interviews on Friday the 3rd August there will be NO wood fired pizzas on this day. Pizzas will be available every Friday again from 10th August onwards.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NEEDS ACCOMMODATION  - LARISSA
Natsumi is currently attending Year 12 at Little Yarra and is looking for a family to host her for the rest of the year. The family would need to provide a room and 3 meals a day. Transport to school can potentially be by bus rather than private car if this better fits with the family routine. If you are interested in hosting Natsumi please contact Larissa on 5967 1953. Thank you.

SEEKING HANDY WEIGHT FOR CLASS 5 OLYMPIANS  - GLENN
Do you have any hand weights used for jogging that are collecting dust? If you do have the small padded bar type (heavier the better), and would like to donate them, or loan to us for a couple of terms, please drop them into the office. Class 5 are beginning their preparation for the Greek Olympics and we will use them for the standing start long jump.

SAUSAGE WEDNESDAY
Buy a sausage on Wednesday from now until term ends and help send the Little Yarra Ensemble on an East Coast Tour. See the detailed notice in the “Repeats” section.

WHAT THE UPPER SCHOOL IS DOING  - RENÉE
Class 9 is in a Communication Main Lesson. They are learning about the telegraph and telephone and the impact this technology has had.

Class 10 is currently studying Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet, initially looking at plot and plot complications as well as setting context in terms of Elizabethan times and the student’s own experiences.

Class 11 is exploring Projective Geometry. In standard or Euclidean Geometry we are concerned primarily with measurement. In projective geometry we study spatial relationships as a phenomena in their own right, including those which are dynamic and transformational. This study of space reveals its own invariant relations, which we endeavor to discover and observe. The forms produced in projective geometry often mirror aspects of nature: both in the realm of physics, and in the world of living things.

Class 12 has begun a ‘Book Binding’ Main Lesson. During this time, students produce a finished visual diary from raw materials using traditional methods.

EMA – LAST CHANCE FOR SECOND INSTALMENT  - LARISSA
EMA is an allowance paid by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to eligible parents of students under 16 years of age and enrolled at a school in Victoria on census day (3rd August 2012). These parents must carry a Health Care card, Pensioner card or Veterans Affairs Gold card.

If you fit the criteria and have not submitted a form earlier this year, it is time make your application for the second instalment. (EMA is paid in two instalments – a larger amount during semester 1 and a smaller amount during semester 2.)

“What do I do?”... Fill out an EMA form (available at the office). Return this form to the office and bring your concession card with you. This must be done by the 3rd August. Please note that this is this coming Friday. Late applications cannot be accepted.

N.B. If you received the first instalment in semester 1 and your details have not changed, you do not have to do anything to receive the second instalment.

VOLUNTEERS FOR VOLUNTEERS  - LARISSA
Our next three volunteers from Germany start to arrive next week, the first being Sarah. She will be staying with Hiromi, Edgar and Fujina for the first 3 months. On the September 1st Fabian and Alina arrive. Alina will be staying with Sonja, Katharina and Stephanie, and we are seeking a Little Yarra family to host Fabian. If anyone is interested you can direct your enquiries or hosting offers to me on 5967 1953. Families need to provide a room and 3 meals a day. The school subsides host families $150 per week. If anyone is interested you can direct any enquiries or offers of a home for Fabian to me on 5967 1953. The volunteer program is a wonderful opportunity for a cultural and social experience for the whole family.
Last Tuesday evening, Independent Schools Victoria held the opening of their seventh annual art exhibition. One hundred and thirty artworks were selected, showcasing excellence in artistic achievement, from 12 Member Schools in Metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. Little Yarra was one of the selected schools and was well represented, with outstanding artwork from both primary and secondary levels. The evening was witnessed by hundreds of people, predominately parents, students and educators. The official opening was marked by Frances Lindsay, Deputy Director of the National Gallery of Victoria, where she spoke of the importance of the visual arts and praised the standard of our student work. Congratulations to those students who were selected for the exhibition: Harriet Laidlaw, Own Chiou, Rosie Eden, Lily Chalmers, Sarah Jones, Iden Reidy, Mikayla Branch-Spence, Hugh Brennan, Rebecca Andre, Matilda Reynolds and Harry Ventham. Sarah Jones’ work was selected by the ISV as one of the six best entries in the exhibition and featured in ‘Excel’, the Independent Schools magazine. The exhibition is from July 12 to August 30 and is held in the Shell House, Spring street, Melbourne. For more information about the exhibition, or to see the works, go to independentschools.vic.edu.au

FRANK’S LONG SERVICE LEAVE

Frank Bonig will be on Long Service Leave from Week 6 – 9 of this term. Libby Evans will be taking Frank’s biology classes and John Houghton has just been appointed to take Frank’s sports classes for the four weeks. We look forward to welcoming John to the School and benefiting from his Bothmer Gymnastics training and also thank Libby for agreeing to increase her load whilst Frank is on leave.

COMMUNITY GARDEN – PLANTING MORNING THIS WEDNESDAY

Our winter garden is continuing to provide us with plenty of greens over the wet and cold winter months. But already it is time to look forward to the next season and time of growth – come and join us on Wednesday morning after drop off for a busy and productive morning of planting. All welcome, including children, down by the tractor shed on the school farm.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Dear Parent, on Sunday 28th October Little Yarra Steiner School will be holding its annual Fair & Open day. This is a very special day in the school’s calendar because it allows us to celebrate the beauty & splendour of new life in the season of spring at the school. The school opens its arms to all in a display of music, colour, artistry, food & education. At this stage Fair Coordinators and I are busily working to bring it together and to make this a great day. However, we still desperately need help to make it a success. Right now I am building a labour bank of people who are willing to give up an hour on the day to help. Can you spare 1 hour or more on Sunday 28th October to help make our Fair & Open day a success? If you can help, please call me on 5967 1953 or email nwilliamson@lyss.vic.edu.au. Any help would be warmly welcomed.
KNITTED SQUARES                          -  JACQUI & ISABELLE
We hope you have had fun knitting or crocheting squares for the Craft Stall - it has certainly been the weather for it! Please could you hand in any squares you have finished to Jacqui or Isabelle by the end of this week (Friday 3 August). Thank you for your help.

CRAFT GROUP                  - HIROMI
We continue knitting simple squares into cute rabbits. Please bring your own knitting needles (4mm) if you have them. We are also supporting the Craft Stall and the Children’s Treasure Trove. If you have any items to make and need some help or company, just come and join us! We meet on Thursday mornings between 9am and 12 in the Main Building. The profits from our group go to the Community House project. Children are welcome and morning tea is available.

FRUIT TREES                        - FRANCIS
This year we will be planting out the final phase of the school’s new orchard and in order to secure a bulk purchase price we had to order in bundles and consequently we have a few extras that we will be selling to the community. What we have available is 2 bare rooted fruit trees from each of the following varieties:

- Apricot - Moorpark and Trevat
- Apples - Fuji and Pink Lady
- Cherry - Starkrimson and Stella
- Nectarine - Fantasia and Goldmine
- Peach - Daisy and Golden Queen

These are standard varieties and not part of our heritage stock but do come well established. They will sell for $20 per tree - around 20% than Nursery prices.

BEEF PICK UP                       - FRANCIS
Also, a reminder that beef orders will be available for pick up this Wednesday from 2:30 at Sam Failla’s on the main street. Any last minute orders will need to get to me by midday.

INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOSOPHY (ADULT EDUCATION TALKS) - FRANCIS
Next Monday night Johannes Schuster will be presenting a talk introducing anthroposophy. Whilst most parents at the school will have an understanding of anthroposophy and the various areas the Rudolf Steiner worked in - this talk will aim to further deepen and broaden that understanding. Johannes has a very deep understanding of Steiner’s work and I am sure that this talk will be appreciated by everyone, regardless of their level of prior study. This talk will take place at 7:30pm on Monday August 6th in the Lecture Theatre - all welcome, minimum donation $5. Next term Johannes will present a talk on Steiner Education.

The rest of the program for this term includes a talk by Anthroposophical Naturopath Annette Batchelor with practical demonstrations for ‘supporting the sick child’. This will be followed by a talk on Biodynamics by Tobias Mager in early September.

COLLATERAL BENEFIT OF SUPERMARKET WARS -GLENN
Sports for Schools is offering double points for vouchers until the 14th August. Which means we get 2 vouchers for every $10 you spend at any Coles, Bi-Lo or Pick ‘n’ Pay stores or at Coles Online.

EMAIL NEWSLETTER                                                                                                                   - BARRY
If you would like to have an email link for the newsletter each week, please visit the School website www.lyss.vic.edu.au and subscribe. That way you have the colour version of both the School newsletter and Sweet Porridge emailed fresh with each edition.

GET ONTO THOSE PHONES            - JIM
Donate that old mobile phone you’ve got tucked away in a drawer. Fonebank fundraisers refurbish discarded mobile phones and make them available at affordable prices in Third World countries. The school receives cash from Fonebank for collecting the phones, the environment benefits because the phones are recycled and making modern telecommunications available empowers people in poorer communities. Just bring your old phones and place them in the box in the foyer of the school office. Fonebank recommend that you remove your SIM card and any personal data, photographs or contacts. You can get help doing this and more information about the program at www.fonebankfundraiser.com.au. Bring the phone (handset and battery) but not chargers or accessories.
REPEATS AND REMINDERS

CLASSES 1-12  PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS. HALF DAY  - OLGA
Parent/Teacher Interviews are to be held on Friday August 3rd. School will finish for classes 1 - 8 at 12:30 pm and for classes 9-12 at 1:05 pm in order for the interviews to begin in the afternoon and continue into the evening.

The Booking sheet for class 1-8 interviews is now on the table in the office foyer. Please fill in your name in pencil, in capitals to book a time.

The interviews for the Upper School will take place in the Resource Centre (Lecture Theatre building) from 1:30 to 8:00. Please ensure that your child has made bookings with their teachers and class guardians that are convenient for you on the booking sheet. (Booking sheets will be provided to students and a copy will be posted home)

*** In consideration for all concerned, please arrive 5 minutes ahead of time for your interview and give 24 hours notice if you can’t keep your appointment. Thank you.

If you are unable to come on this day you will need to make alternative arrangements with the relevant teachers.

EURYTHMY FOR YOU  - KELLY
Introductory sessions with Kelly Papas Starting 1st August - 12th September (7 sessions)

Wednesday evenings 7:30 for 7:45start – 8:45pm (out the gate by 9pm!)  Little Yarra Steiner School Eurythmy Room

You will learn and experience through these introductory sessions many different aspects of eurythmy. This could be a helpful experiential way for parents to deepen their appreciation of both the Rudolf Steiner approach to education as well as eurythmy and to see how they are intimately entwined. The sessions will provide a lively opportunity for moving in joy and harmony with others.

These sessions are the perfect place for beginners to get acquainted with eurythmy, and drop-in participation is greatly encouraged. At the same time consistent participants are able to develop and deepen their eurythmic knowledge and skill within the flexibility of these fun and open classes. Everyone is welcome any time!

Fees: First visit free!  Single visit (drop-in) - $15 Any seven (7) consecutive sessions pre-paid - $90
(Subject to changes – participants will be notified where possible)

For more information contact Kelly – 0414 391039   Email - Kellypapas@aapt.net.au

SAUSAGE WEDNESDAYS  - DAMIEN
The sausage sizzle every Wednesday this term will raise funds for the Little Yarra Ensemble’s East Coast Tour in September. We will also be catering for vegetarians. Class 3 and 4 will have their sausages delivered to their classroom. They must place their money inside an envelope with the order printed clearly on it. They should then be handed to the class teacher first thing in the morning. Class 5 to 12 should come up to the main building with their money. A sausage with onion will be $2.00. All funds will go towards the tour. Thank you for your support.

Looking Through My Eyes
Photographic Exhibition: 2nd – 25th August
By Carly Young
Whitehorse Art Space
Ground Floor
Box Hill Town Hall
Official Opening: Saturday 4th August 2pm

Meet the Photographer 9th, 11th, 16th of August between 11am-2pm.