WELCOME BACK

It’s always wonderful to see everyone back - students as well as adults, returning refreshed after a Summer break - even if Summer has not yet ended. On this note, please be mindful of our typical fluctuating weather and keep an eye on fire-danger ratings: days that are declared Extreme or Catastrophic/’Code Red’ will mean that the school is shut for that day. Should there be an immediate fire threat to the school (as communicated from the CFA), even if it is not a declared Extreme fire danger day, the school may be closed. Notice will be on our website, and four-day forecasts are available on the CFA site.

As many amongst our community already know, numerous small changes have occurred through the school. In the Kinder area, in order to both meet changing regulatory requirements whilst still providing for an ideal cross-age setting, increased sessions have been made to the Prep programme, simultaneously necessitating reduced assistant staffing during those afternoons. We are extremely grateful at the sacrifice that various staff have made to their allotments in order to set us into the year on a sound financial footing in this transition.

You will also notice various changes in the admin area and in further consolidating the strength of our educational programme in the secondary. What results is a curriculum that is both increasingly more in line with both Steiner’s indications as well as being able to solidly meet the new national curriculum frameworks.

You may also have already noticed that Carita is handling day-to-day accounts, with Francis overseeing its management at Business Manager. Please do contact any of us to ensure an ongoing smooth transition... and clarity into the year ahead!

From Calendar of the Soul by Rudolf Steiner

Verse 18

Can I the soul widen,
So that she herself unites
With receptive World Germinating Word?
I intuit, that I force must find,
The soul worthily to fashion,
To mould herself to a spirit mantle.
At the end of the school year there are always a number of changes to our staff. It is with pleasure that I announce that Larissa Lemon will be our new Class 1 Teacher this year. Larissa has worked at the School for a number of years in administration and as a Class Assistant whilst completing her studies. We very much look forward to hearing about her journey with her new class. Although this appointment was made quite some time ago, it is not announced until the very end of the year until the handover ceremony with the children has occurred. Thank you to parents for keeping this information quiet until the appropriate time. Nicole Gutierrez will be assisting Larissa with Class 1. Nicole has completed her Steiner teacher training and is currently in the process of finishing her Bachelor of Teaching. We look forward to welcoming Nicole and her husband to our wonderful community. I am also very excited to announce that Clare Tomlinson will take over from Ruby Williams as teacher of Class 2. Clare has done a terrific job working as an assistant with this class and is very excited about stepping up and taking on the teacher’s role. Cath Curwood will be taking leave in Term 1 and we are very pleased to have Roberto Colosimo taking on this role in Cath’s absence. We wish Cath a wonderful break and welcome Roberto back to Little Yarra in a more substantial capacity. It is also very exciting to welcome Rachel Blake back to Little Yarra. Rachel has worked as a violin teacher for many years at our school and will be rejoining us to take some of Erica Russell’s teaching load whilst Erica completes her music studies.

It is always sad to farewell staff that have been at Little Yarra and shared their many talents and skills with us. Renee Spencer will be pursuing her teaching pursuits elsewhere this year. We thank her for all of her contributions in the Upper School and for being a co-guardian of our current Class 12 cohort. We thank Ruby Williams for her work stepping into the role of Class 1 Teacher half way through last year. I know the children will miss her deeply but there is another class that is very excited to be beginning their journey with her. Alice Woodberry who has worked in the primary faculty as a singing teacher and Joanna Tidy who has worked as a cello teacher in the Music Department will also no longer be with us this year. We thank them for all their enthusiasm and passion for music they have brought the children. Eliza Lecke and Lauritz Martin have been with us for a few months as German Volunteers. Eliza will be completing her volunteer placement at Willunga Steiner School and Lauritz has chosen to travel for the remainder of his time in Australia. On behalf of the School I would like to thank Renee, Ruby, Alice, Joanna, Eliza and Lauritz for all their contributions and wish them every success in the future.

SCHOOL FEES

We are currently still updating the school database programme used to generate Parent Account Statements and as such they will only be issued at the start of next week - I apologise for the delay. Please be in touch if you have any questions in this regard. Fees paid yearly or per semester in advance will be subject to 6% and 4% discounts respectively if paid by the end of February. Please also be aware that our system will automatically generate a reminder notice for all accounts in arrears, even if your family is on an approved payment plan.

Education Maintenance Allowance - Health Care Card Holders If you have a Health Care Card, please fill in an EMA form available from the school office. This will result in extra government payments directly to you and also to the school.
MUSIC REGISTER

Next week’s edition of Sweet Porridge will contain an up to date list of Music Instruments for sale amongst the School community. If you have an instrument to include, please email music@lyss.vic.edu.au by this Friday. If you are looking to purchase a pre-loved and outgrown music instrument we suggest you have a look through. A copy of the music Register will also be on display outside the Music Rooms and on the Community Notice board in the Office.

PHOTO WEEK

School photos at Little Yarra will be a bit different for 2014 than in years past. Photos will be taken by Angela Rivas, a parent and professional photographer. Angela will be assisted by her daughter Genevieve. Rather than rushing the whole school through a single day of School photos, we have decided to spread photographing the class groups over the course of the four days of that week starting from Monday March 3rd to Thursday March 6th. Friday 7th of March is a Curriculum Day. This will achieve more natural and authentic images of the children within their school environment. Individual Pre-school and Kinder photos will be taken in their classrooms and playground during free play time. A timetable of photo times will appear in next week’s newsletter.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE

If you live more than 4.8 kilometres from Little Yarra and regularly drive your child(ren) to school, you may be eligible for a State Government Conveyance Allowance. This allowance is not means tested but conditions do apply. Students must be in Prep or above. If a student holds a bus pass, their parent is ineligible for Conveyance Allowance. To claim Conveyance Allowance please collect a form from the school office and return it completed by the end of February. PLEASE NOTE: If you received Conveyance Allowance last year and your details remain the same, you need do nothing.

EMA

Welcome back. The start of a new year means EMA applications once again. EMA, or Education Maintenance Allowance, is payment from the government to help with the costs of education. It is available to all holders of a Health Care Card or Pension Card. Please call in at the office and pick up a form if you hold a current valid Health Care Card or Pension Card, so we can get your application in as soon as possible. Please remember that you need to reapply each year for EMA. All forms must be received by February 28th. Late applications cannot be accepted.

FAIR FUNDS

As you are aware, last year’s Fair and Open Day funds were directed towards re-establishing the Library in our recently built Resource Centre and towards the further development of the Sports Precinct.

Thanks in large part to an enthusiastic group of volunteer parents, students, staff and the donation of further funds ($6,000) from the Craft Group, the new Library is quickly taking shape. We are very grateful to all those who have lent their support in many ways to this project and look forward to having a fully functional Library full of resources for primary and secondary students.

Physical Education Staff have decided to devote their share of funds to the completion of the floor in the Gymnasium. We are currently in the process of assessing different floor types, however, the main obstacle is still the raising of further funds to complete this project and various fundraising initiatives are already underway. We will keep you up to date as we progress towards the completion of our indoor sports facility.
WOOD FIRED PIZZA

Emma

Wood fired pizzas will start again this year from Friday 21st of February. Hopefully by then the weather may have cooled down a little for our cooks... & less chance of having total fire bans. We have been really lucky in the past, the weather has not stopped us. I would also like to thank the following parents who were part of our team last year, Rachel Ritchie, Lisa Dalboni, Chelsea McNab, Niree Bingham, Max Thurlow, Kym Sinclair & some occasional help from David Digapony & Perry Haider.

Pizzas orders can be left in the baskets outside classrooms or at the office for high school students. With name, class, pizza type & amount (1/2 or whole) clearly written on bag or envelope & correct change please, we cannot give change. Term orders can also be placed at the office.

Pizzas available –

Margherita – Tomato base with cheese
  plus olives ½ $3.00  full $6.00
Pepperoni – Tomato base with cheese, with salami, feta & olives ½ $4.00  full $7.50
Vege – Tomato base with cheese, pumpkin, grilled capsicum, spinach, feta & olives ½ $4.00  full $7.50
The Lot – Everything ½ $4.50  full $8.00
Garlic & Cheese ½ $3.00  full $6.00

Special orders are available on whole pizzas only.

I am looking for new parents to join our team for a fun day of making pizzas & feeding the school community please call emma 5967 1638 / 0439 639 497 or email stevejacobson@netspace.net.au or come & visit us at the ovens on Fridays. Thanks emma.

THANK YOU ANITA

Dana

It is with sadness that we farewell Anita Holman from Reception in her role as Front of House. Unfortunately for us, Anita has decided to pursue more of her private work. We are pleased, however, that she won’t be leaving us entirely, as she will continue with her role of Music Secretary on Mondays and Wednesdays. On behalf of the School, I would like to thank Anita for the tremendous dedication, diligence and initiative she has displayed in this role. She has been an incredible asset with her administration skills, and we will sorely miss her many talents in Reception. I wish her every success in pursuing her private work.

VACANCY

Dana

We are currently searching for the right person to work two days per week in Front of House. If you are interested or know of someone who you think would be an asset in this position, please visit the employment page on our website for more information. www.lyss.vic.edu.au/employment

BIODYNAMIC FARM GROUP

Annette

Our summer garden has survived the heat and producing an abundance of zucchinis and other produce. A spray of BD 500 over the holidays has given it a boost and we will be busy harvesting over the coming weeks - look out for our excess produce in the main office! If you want to join us for our gardening & farm day, we meet every Wednesday morning, 9 am down on the farm by the tractor shed. Children are welcome.
ANTHROPOSOPHICAL STUDY GROUP

Southern Aspirations, the anthroposophical study group with Adrian Anderson will be running again this term on Friday mornings. For Term One we will be looking into the evolutionary journey. If you are interested in attending please contact Corey Flynn on 0405 223 940.

The Evolutionary Journey

7th Feb: Before Time began: how divine beings created humanity; the first two aeons (Saturn & Sun)

14th Feb: Creation of humanity continued; the third aeon (Moon) & the current fourth aeon (Earth)

21st Feb: Behind the Genesis story: secrets of ancient Lemuria, of Adam & Eve and the expulsion from Paradise.

28th Feb: Atlantis & its significance, the evidence for a pre-Flood civilisation, and the Atlantean Mysteries.

7th Mar: The Flood of Noah: the Atlantean emigrations and the re-emergence of civilisation

14th Mar: Meaningful history: Spiritual influences through the zodiac Ages

21st Mar - week 7: What will the future bring? The next epoch and beyond.

CRAFT GROUP

This week we will be having a morning tea for everyone who has been involved in Craft Group in the past and also for anyone who would like to become involved in Craft Group. It’s a chance to catch up with old friends, make new ones, and to share and explore an interest in all things crafty. For anyone who has had items for sale through Craft Group, this would be a good time to pick up your consignment payments. If you have been working on something in the holidays or have been given an interesting crafty item for Christmas, please bring it along. There’s nothing quite like a ‘show and tell’ session for getting the creative juices flowing.

Craft Group is a parent-run group that meets every Thursday morning in term time from 9 am until 12 noon in the main building to share our skills and passion for craft. Depending on the project we are working on, we either make two items for free, one item for ourselves and the other for Craft Group to sell, or we pay for the materials we use. Craft Group also sells craft supplies every Thursday morning, including knitting yarns, hand-dyed fleece and felt, modelling wax, wooden beads and threads. Morning tea is available and children are welcome.

CIRCUS CLASSES

Circus classes will begin in the school gymnasium for Term One. A teenage class will be offered where students from Class 7 and up may attend for a six week period. This will begin on Tuesday 11th February from 4.30 - 5.30 pm. A class for younger students will begin as soon as possible.

We will be tumbling, riding unicycles, stilt walking and juggling. If you have an inclination towards round-off back-flipping, flick-flacking and perfecting handstands but have never learnt, then I can teach you. Classes begin: Tues 11th February – 6 weeks

Call Katherine Ellis 0418 804 378
ADULT EURYTHMY

Classes will begin again Friday 14th February and then run every Friday from 3:30 pm – 4 pm in the new Eurythmy room. $5 per class, with childcare available for $1/child (bring a piece of fruit for children to share for afternoon tea). See you on the day or phone Kelly 0414 391 039 for more info.

INTRODUCING THE LYSS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISING GROUP

The Little Yarra Steiner School Community Association Fundraising Group is a Parents and Friends initiative that formed at the end of 2013 to support fundraising for the School.

The Fundraising Group has a two-fold purpose:

- to work in partnership with school management, Parent Groups and the community to help identify the areas of the School which would benefit from additional funds raised. Through fundraising we can help achieve many of the projects identified before they would otherwise be possible.

- to identify and develop fundraising resources and opportunities that can be utilized by the school community to help build community and raise funds for a common goal. This will include in-house fundraising activities as well as investigating available grants in collaboration with school management.

The Group will work towards streamlining fundraising within the School, ensuring all fundraising activities follow the School’s pedagogy with outcomes being reportable and measurable.

Our major fundraising project we have identified for this year is the gym floor - we’ve done some figures and it looks like a real possibility by the end of the year. We will need the whole school community to work towards this together and will let you know how you can help in your class groups, to make this a reality, over the coming weeks.

While our fund raising efforts will work towards major fundraising projects, 10% of funds raised will be allocated to help fund future resources, fundraising supplies and equipment. This will help ensure fundraising activities continue to grow and provide an enjoyable and positive experience for the school community.

The Biodynamic Sausage Sizzle at the monthly market is an initiative of the fundraising group and is available to school groups to use for fundraising. The Sausage Sizzle is now also a weekly lunch option every Monday with proceeds going to the gym floor.

During the summer months (Term 1 and 4), we will be offering organic frozen fruit ice creams after school on a Wednesday - starting Wednesday 12th Feb. These will be available in the common area in front of the school office. This will also provide the opportunity for after school socializing and a mini market - please contact the fundraising group if you would like a stall - all proceeds again helping towards our gym floor.

We are also starting to work with other current fundraising activities to help reduce duplication of effort, simplify fundraising, work towards our common goal and begin reporting fundraising outcomes back to the community.

If you have something to offer the group or have a need that requires fundraising within the School community, please contact Naomi Ween, 0431 363 525.
Our next market is coming up - 15th February and the market committee has been busy planning for the coming year ... read on for some exciting new initiatives.

**New Casual Recycled Stall Option** - if you had a clean out over the holidays and have some quality used but unwanted goods for sale this is for you! At 2m x 2m this is smaller than our standard stall, is only $15 and you can put down a rug or table for your goods (because of the smaller size, no marquee or umbrella is permitted with this option).

**Busking Opportunity** - we are looking for buskers for our markets and are willing to pay, plus you get to keep what you get given! $30/hr professionals, $20/hr Class 11 & 12 students, $15/hr Class 9 & 10 students, $10/hr Class 7 & 8 Students. Primary school children are welcome to busk and I’m sure the market patrons will be generous with what we put in their hat!  
There will be five x 1 hour time slots for each market and bookings are essential. We are looking for someone to fill the 10-11 am and 1-2 pm slots this coming market (15th Feb). This is a great opportunity for our students to get exposure, perform and earn some money - busking will be in the entertainment area and power is available. If you are interested, please contact Francis Klugman, Lisa Dalboni or Annette Batchelor.

**Business Opportunity** - our market needs more fresh fruit and vegetables. We are looking for a self-motivated person to take the reigns of a local conventional produce stall. We have done our research and run some tests over the last few markets and we believe there is enough interest in local, conventional produce to warrant a self-sustaining stall. The Biodynamic Farm Group sells local, spray free/organic produce, but our community has a lot of conventional produce that people visiting the valley as well as locals would love to buy (cherries, strawberries, apples, stone fruit to name a few).

This would be your own business, a monthly commitment and supported by the market committee. We are offering this opportunity to the school community first, but if not taken up by the next market, we will offer it to the wider community. If you would like to discuss or take up this opportunity, please contact Lisa Dalboni 0411 243 673

**Looking for Local Spray Free or Organic Produce** - the Biodynamic Farm Group has a stall at the monthly market. We sell our excess produce from the farm as well as our members’ and community members’ produce. If you have unwanted or excess produce, but not enough to warrant your own stall, we would love the opportunity to share it with the community and make some extra money to be put back into the farm.

There are two ways you can be involved:

1) Sell us your excess fruit for $1/kg, we will give you your money straight away and then sell the produce at the market (and use excess to make jam to sell) with any profits going back to the farm.

2) Let us sell your excess produce on a commission basis. At the start of each market, bring your produce, a list of produce with quantities and the price you think we can sell it for. We will display and sell it during the market and at the end of the market give you back the money we have received (less 10% selling commission) plus any unsold produce.

**Library Stall** - If you have visited the market over the last couple of months, you will have seen our Library Stall. A wonderful, ever changing selection of second hand books for sale. All profits go back into our Library. Come and visit the stall or if you have books to donate, books that are suitable to go straight into the library, all others make their way to the monthly market stall. Books can be left in the box at the office or delivered to the market stall on Market Day.
The Fundraising Group coordinates The Parents and Friends Biodynamic Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser at the Monthly Farmers Market, Little Yarra Steiner School. The Sausage Sizzle is OPEN for any community group fundraising for the students/school. At present the Sausage Sizzle raises about $240 profit. This is the minimum funds raised, with view to sales increasing as the Market becomes more well known and attended.

If you think your school community group would like to run the stall for either the Farmers Market on March 15th, April 19th 2014 from 8 am to 2 pm, please contact Naomi Ween, 0431 363 525.
2014 TERM DATES

Term One – Tuesday 28th January – Friday 4th April (9 ½ weeks)
- Saturday January 25th – Community Working Bee
- Tuesday 28th - Wednesday 29th – Staff Curriculum Days
- Thursday January 30th – Classes begin
- Monday March 3rd - Photo Day
- Friday March 7th – Curriculum Day
- Monday March 10th - Labour Day
- Wednesday March 26th - Music Concerts
- Tuesday April 1st - Class 9 – 12 Parent teacher interviews (full day for all students)*
- Friday April 4th – Bach Easter Performance
*Easter occurs during the holiday break with Good Friday on April 18th

Term Two – Tuesday 22nd April – Friday 20th June (9 weeks)
- Friday April 25th - ANZAC Day Holiday
- Monday June 9th - Queen's Birthday Holiday
- Wednesday June 11th - Music Concerts
- Thursday June 19th - Winter Festival

Term Three – Monday 14th July – Friday 12th September ( 9 weeks)
- Friday August 1st - Class 1 -8 Parent teacher interviews (half day – classes 1 – 8)
- Wednesday August 27th – Joint Steiner School Curriculum Day
- Friday August 29th – Annual School Music Concert
- Tuesday September 2nd – Class 9 – 12 Parent teacher Interviews (half day-classes 9-12)
- Thursday September 11th - Spring Festival

Term Four – Monday 6th October–Friday 12th December ( 10 weeks)
- Friday October 17th – Fair Prep Day (no classes)
- Saturday October 18th - Fair and Open Day
- Saturday November 1st – Tuesday November 4th - Melbourne Cup Weekend
- Saturday November 15th - Class 12 Presentations
- Monday November 17th – Student free day classes 9 - 12
- Friday November 21st – class 12 Festival (half day classes 9-12) & Graduation Dinner
- Wednesday November 26th – Music Concerts
- Thursday December 11th - Christmas Festival
2014 CAMPS DATES BY CLASS

CLASS 3 – NOVEMBER
CLASS 4 – FEBRUARY
CLASS 5 – OCTOBER
CLASS 6 – MARCH, OCTOBER
CLASS 7 – FEBRUARY, DECEMBER
CLASS 8 – AUGUST
CLASS 9 – FEBRUARY, MARCH, MAY, JULY/AUGUST, NOVEMBER
CLASS 10 – JUNE, NOV
CLASS 11 – MARCH, NOVEMBER
CLASS 12 – JULY

2014 CAMP DATES BY MONTH

FEBRUARY
Class 9 Yarra hike – 6th – 7th
Class 7 Sailing camp – 10th – 14th
Class 4 camp – Walkerville - 25th–28th

MARCH
Class 9 Waratah Bay – 4th–6th
Class 8 – Bike Camp – 12th – 14th
Class 11 Rock Climbing – 17th – 21st
Class 6 Horse Riding – 24th – 28th

APRIL
No camps

MAY
Class 9 – Hattah Lakes – 8th – 16th

JUNE
Class 10 Community Exp.– 7th – 22nd
Class 12 Project week – 16th – 20th

JULY
Class 12 Whitsunday Camp 6th–13th
Class 9 Nungatta – see August

AUGUST
Class 9 Nungatta Camp – July 28th – Aug 8th
Class 8 Flinders Ranges camp --13th – 22nd

SEPTEMBER
No Camps

OCTOBER
Class 5 Grampians Camp – 20th – 24th
Class 6 Kooyoora Camp - 29th –31st

NOVEMBER
Class 9 High Plains Hike – 5th – 14th
Class 3 Murrindindi Camp – 18th – 20th
Class 10/11 Surf/ Canoe Camp – 24th – 28th

DECEMBER
Class 7 Canoe camp – 1st – 5th