



Yarra Valley's Independent K-12 Steiner School

Term 2 – Week 8
Tuesday 2nd June 2020

The Gift of Rhythm

Recent events have brought us all an experience of uncertainty and rapid change. It seems as though no sooner have we all adjusted to our current situation then it changes again. The effect of this on the familiar routines of our lives is very tiring, and we have seen this reflected in the children who have been at school for the last week. While they are certainly delighted to be back, we are having to work to gently build them back up to being able to engage in the flow of their lessons for a whole school day.

The use of rhythm is a very powerful tool that is specifically and deliberately employed by Steiner education. Our teachers consciously plan their lessons around an awareness of this, carefully utilising and balancing the active with the still, the intellectual with the practical, the outward gesture with inward contemplation. Our students feel secure in their place within the world when they are supported by the rhythms of their daily routine at home and at school, the cycles of night and day, week, month and year.

The continual cycling of the seasons is a very significant rhythm that we have become increasingly detached from by our modern lifestyles. We are no longer as connected to the land in the ways we once were and few of us can share the stories that our ancestors told about the worlds within and around them. Our predecessors knew that what happened in the world around them gave them insights into their inner landscape and real guidance for personal development.

As the Winter solstice draws near each year, our teachers carefully work to bring this outer seasonal experience into the classrooms as an inner experience for the children. As adults, we can be more intellectually conscious of spiralling inwards as the cold and darkness of Winter enfolds us. And as the solstice approaches, we will find the warmth and light of the spiritual essence that lies within the centre of us all.

John Stewart, Education Administrator



Calendar

TERM DATES 2020

Term 1	28/1 – 27/3
Term 2	14/4 – 19/6
Term 3	14/7 – 11/9
Term 4	5/10 – 11/12

June

Thu 4	Student Work Drop Off & Resources Return	Admin	9am – 3pm
Fri 5	Reports Writing Day	Student free day	
Mon 8	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday	Public Holiday	
Tue 9	Return to School – Classes 3 – 10		
Fri 19	End of Term Two		

July

Mon 13	Staff Conference	Student free day	
Tue 14	Term Three begins		

COME AND JOIN OUR CLEANING TEAM

Monique

If you would like to join our awesome cleaning team then now is the time to do it! Our school offers cleaning to our parent community as a way of assisting parents to pay their school fees. We currently have a few shifts available on various days throughout the week for the remainder of Term 2, with many more shifts to become available from the beginning of Term 3. If you would like to join our cleaning team please email cleaning@lyss.vic.edu.au

MOTHER HOLLE AND BRIAR ROSE

Shar'lee, Anita, Ingrid & Robyn

Part way through last term we decided to start Fairies and Elves day! Since then every Thursday afternoon we have been grouping the Elves (Preps) and Fairies (Kinder's) separately. The Elves go with Anita and Ingrid beyond the kinder gates while the Fairies stay in kindergarten with Shar'lee and Robyn and have time together in a small group. This enables the different groups who will be together throughout their schooling to begin to get to know one another and form stronger bonds and also for all children to get to know the educators from the other room. The educators will swap next term so Shar'lee and Robyn will be with the Elves and Anita and Ingrid with the fairies.



Last term the Elves left the Kinder from the back gate, crossed the little bridge and found ourselves amongst the oak trees. The children spent their time climbing the trees, collecting sticks & leaves and running here and there before sitting down for afternoon tea.

Last Thursday we began our adventure leaving from a different gate. This time we went up the hill and found ourselves at the Labyrinth. The children ran like the wind, around and around before finally sitting down for afternoon tea. We very much enjoy our little adventures and who knows where we will end up this week.

It has been lovely seeing the Fairies take the space as their own without so many older children. Most days there have only been about six Fairies with only one from Mother Holle. Last term we had a wet day where they all came into Mother Holle. For most it was the first time and they enjoyed looking at what was different from their room and finding things they liked. It has also been lovely to reconnect with those Ring a Rosy children I was with last year. At the end of the session before afternoon tea, we have been playing a singing game where we roll the ball and say the name of who we are rolling to, thus helping the children get to know each others' names. At the end of the session we say goodbye until next time!



As we enter our final week of remote learning, we are very much looking forward to welcoming back students from Class 3 to 10 next Tuesday. In preparation for their return, we have organised for this Thursday 4th June as a day to drop off student work and resources that have been sent home this term. Tables will be set up at the front office and you are welcome to drop off your child's work anytime between 9am and 3pm.

For workplace health and safety reasons, we ask that you do not go to classrooms, one person drops off and leaves as soon as possible and at all times observe physical distancing between adults. You may also use the 10 minute car parks if you have heavy or many items to carry.

If you need assistance with pick ups or can help other families who may not be able to make the drop off, please let me know and we will work to coordinate this for you.

CARING FOR OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Claudia

A few weeks ago a team of our students learning onsite, helped with revegetation work down by the Little Yarra River behind our school. Last Friday Claire, Claudia and the students went down again to check on our plants, finding a little damage from roaming deer but also some amazing growth on trees that we had planted only two years ago. A number of old tree guards were collected along the way back and a few reeds were carefully gathered from along the wetland boardwalk for platting into artistic creations.

While the snakes are sleeping and the grass growth slows over the winter, we have an opportunity to carry out work on our planting sites (apart from those within the wetland swamp). The planting and care carried out by students and staff is supporting not just our outdoor classroom but the restoration of important wildlife habitats on the school grounds.

This ongoing work has been enabled by our joint management agreement with Melbourne Water along the river and by the Yarra Ranges Ribbons of Green program which has supplies thousands of plants for revegetation work. A Caring for our Local Environment Grant has also recently enabled us to buy two fauna cameras and a set of student binoculars to enable students to be involved in observing and researching the wildlife on the school site. This site can further develop into a haven for Yarra Valley wildlife, with our ongoing care and developing conservation skills.



In Class 11 Geography, we began the year by tracking the spread of COVID-19 and compared it to other pandemics throughout human history. None of us expected it to end up affecting each of us individually.

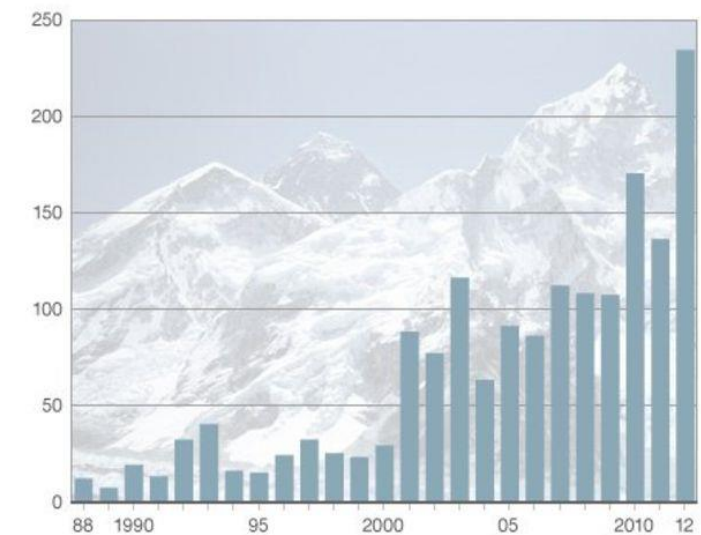
Since coming back to school we have been discussing the myriad of impacts of the pandemic; including social, environmental and economic impacts at different scales across the world. Last week, each of the students conducted research to investigate some of the positive environmental impacts that have emerged due to a decrease in movement around the globe. Please note that references have not been included.

Jessica Killey

COVID's Effect On Mt Everest

Over the last few years Mt Everest summits have been rising. In 2019 there were 876 summits of Mt Everest. Due to COVID – 19 China and Nepal have shut down both sides of Mt Everest on March 11 greatly reducing the number of summits this year. The high number of climbers previously was having many negative effects on the mountain range. There is large littering each year as there is no way of disposing of rubbish. There has been deforestation to keep up with the increasing demand for lodges, and mountain paths are eroding. Additionally, water is being polluted due to contamination from both human and animal waste. All this is taking a toll on the health of the ecosystem. The recent climbing ban will hopefully allow the mountain to start recovering.

Largest number of ascents in a single day, per year
Number of ascents



Source: Eberhard Jurgalski



Traffic Jam at Mt Everest
in previous years



Littering at Mt. Everest in
previous years

The Canals of Venice

On the 9th of March 2020, Italy went into full lockdown making the streets empty and the famous Venice canals cleaner than they have been in years. The drastic reduction of the traffic and tourism on the canals have calmed the sediment that generally made the canals look dirty and polluted however the big question is whether the canals sediment has just dropped to the canals floor or whether the waters have actually become cleaner from the lockdown. The clear waters have also seen a return of marine life.

Hoshi Kiers-Bontjer

Clean Canals in Venice

Due to the lockdown procedures taken by Italy for the COVID-19 outbreak, which was very severe in their country, tourism had a dramatic drop. In Venice, Italy, the environment on land and water positively changed. The change to the water quality in the canals of Venice was visible in satellite images; the water became clear and an uptake in plant and animal life was able to be seen. And through the satellite images comparing 2019 and 2020 the waters are darker and are less trafficked. The absence of tourists has allowed the sediment in the canals to settle at the bottom instead of being constantly disturbed by water traffic.



http://www.esa.int/ESA_Multi-media/Images/2020/04/Deserted_Venetian_lagoon



<https://www.metromag.co.nz/society/society-society/wholesome-things-to-do-while-social-distancing-for-coronavirus-covid-19>

Air Pollution in New Delhi



https://images.7news.com.au/publication/C-947259/3a503965ac2519955483708b0c9a501db88a9c17-16x9-xoyow1920h1080.png?imwidth=1024&impolicy=sevennews_v2

On a good day in New Delhi the air quality index (AQI) was at a dangerous level of 200, with anything above 25 deemed unsafe by the World Health Organisation (WHO), in 2019 levels were even as high as 900. Since India put in place restrictions to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 levels have fallen below 20 regularly, and PM2.5, one of the deadliest particles in New Delhi’s airs quantity by 60% since 2019.

Air Quality Index (AQI) levels

<i>Level of Concern</i>	<i>Values of Index</i>
<i>Good</i>	0-50
<i>Moderate</i>	51-100
<i>Unhealthy for some</i>	101-150
<i>Unhealthy</i>	151-200
<i>Very Unhealthy</i>	201-300
<i>Hazardous</i>	301+

AQI in New Delhi

Today, 26 May 2020, 13:00 Local Time – 154
01 November 2019, 12:30 Local Time- 582

Fall in aeroplane Travel

Aeroplane travel since the beginning of COVID-19 has plummeted dramatically, going from 2.5 million travellers through TSA (Transportation Security Administration) in April 2019 to a staggeringly low 90,510 just one year later. Even after the virus' infection rates have gone down it is theorised that the amount of plane travel will still remain low. Due to the low amount of passengers, most airlines have been flying aircraft that are almost completely empty, usually having less than 1 person per 10 seats. This causes a large amount of environmental waste per person as almost half of the flights are un-cancelled. Although the effects on the environment has lessened it is only by half and could be prevented if smaller planes or better flight scheduling was used.

