

Melbourne Rudolf Steiner Seminar Ltd.

Summer Newsletter 2010



Welcome to all our students, old and new, to our first term of 2010. This year, we have 42 new students joining us in the Diploma course, with five of these coming from as far away as South Africa, Korea, Brasil and Indonesia.

Welcome back to our students from last year who return to join the Advanced Diploma course.

To mark the commencement of our year together, the Advanced Diploma students presented each new Diploma student with a flower. These were gathered in a vase as a beautiful gesture marking the beginning of our work together.

Professional Development : Asian Intensive Short Course on Steiner Education.

The Melbourne Rudolf Steiner Seminar has plans underway to conduct a short intensive course, aimed at teachers from Asia who want to learn more about Steiner education. The course will be held in third term. In previous years these Asian intensives have been very successful; relationships are forged, and teachers return to their homes inspired and energised in their commitment to bringing Steiner education to their communities. If you would like to support this initiative by offering short term accommodation (a room in your house) to a student, please let us know. Feedback from families in our community who have hosted overseas students/teachers in the past has been very positive.

Update about new building

Building work commenced on the new Art/Sculpture room, located under the movement room, over the summer period. The room will be a dedicated space for artistic activity. We look forward to opening the room when it is completed in time for second term.

People

Farewell to Sandra Paulka.

After seventeen years with the Seminar, Sandra Paulka has set her sights on new vistas. Sandra brought great dedication, enthusiasm, warmth and kindness to her role at the Seminar. We wish her the very best as she begins this next phase of her life.

And welcome to Anne Redsell

Anne Redsell joins the Seminar as Office Manager, filling the role previously held by Sandra. Anne has completed the part-time teacher training course at the Seminar, and also the Advanced Diploma. She currently is studying her Bachelor of Teaching and Learning on-line at Charles Darwin University. Anne has also worked as a Kindergarten Assistant at Dandenong Ranges Steiner School. Based on this experience, she is happy to share her knowledge with students interested in either of these areas. Anne is in the office from Monday to Thursday, 9.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m. We welcome Anne to the Seminar.

Welcome to Geoffrey Bieber.

We welcome Geoffrey Bieber to the Seminar. Geoffrey is a very experienced Class teacher, who has taught for many years at MRSS. This year Geoffrey will be teaching painting Advanced Diploma Seminar students.

Welcome to Playgroup and Doll making.



We are delighted to welcome Meron, Maryanne and Jenny who will run playgroups in the library room during term. It has been wonderful to see the space where the fireplace was, modified to become a play area for the young children and their families who attend playgroup. The joyous energy of young children has come to the Michael Centre!

Playgroup will be accommodated here at the Michael Centre for 2010, until the new Multi Purpose building is completed down the hill at the Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School, in 2011.

We also welcome Gillian Finch, whom some of you will already know, and Lynne Howard, who will conduct doll making classes on a Wednesday afternoon in the library.



Some thoughts on educating young children.



Students in the Diploma will begin the Kindergarten module this term. We offer this reflection on educating young children: kindergarten is about *"nourishing the child's belief in goodness and beauty"*.

"The young child knows the world is true and in the kindergarten we nourish that belief, while helping the child meet the world outside home."

And this: "I am struck by the fact that the more slowly trees grow at first, the sounder they are at the core,

and I think that the same is true of human beings. We do not wish to see children precocious, making great strides in their early years like sprouts, producing a soft and perishable timber, but better if they expand slowly at first, as if contending with difficulties, and so are solidified and perfected. Such trees continue to expand with nearly equal rapidity to an extreme old age."

Henry David Thoreau.

A thought from Pauline, Helen and Marcus: The art of handwriting.



The art of handwriting with an ink pen is a most valuable experience. Firstly, in a tactile way, where the consciousness of the act is vivid, we notice the paper, the movement of our wrist, the meeting of pen and paper. This can then heighten the awareness of the content of our thinking as we create forms.

Secondly, it lends itself to cursive writing and when this is practised consciously (and often), changes can occur as we are able to define ourselves in a fundamental way. A forming of ourselves and our self-image.



Forthcoming events

Easter Festival- Maundy Thursday 1st April and Easter Sunday 4th April 2010



Friends of the Seminar are invited to attend a special Easter festival, on **Maundy Thursday (Thursday 1st April)** at the Michael Centre. On this evening we will gather in reverence, and wash each other's feet in warm water scented with essential oils and rose petals, in silence.

There will be a music piece performed during the evening. We will also share a simple meal together while a section from St John's Gospel is read. Please bring a plate of special food, eg., figs, nuts, salad. Everyone is invited to attend. Thursday 1st April from 7.00 p.m. at the Michael Centre.

On **Easter Sunday morning (Sunday 4th April)**, we will gather at sunrise at the Michael Centre. After a short ritual we will share breakfast together - please bring a plate to share.

Evening Presentation by Dr James Dyson MD: "The Seven Life Processes and their Planetary Correspondences" as the organic basis for assimilating sensory awareness and for the developing life of soul.

James has worked as an anthroposophic physician for nearly 30 years with a special interest in mental health and child development. He was a co-founder of Park Attwood Clinic, worked as a school doctor in several Steiner-Waldorf Schools in the UK and as a medical advisor in the field of learning disabilities for the Camphill Village Trust and Garvald Centre (Edinburgh). James has wide experience as a teacher and lecturer in the field of anthroposophic health and social care.



All welcome.

Thursday 29 April, 2010, 7.30 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.
The Michael Centre (Library Room)
37A Wellington Park Drive
Warranwood

Enquiries: Michelle Nichols
tel. 9458 4124
* supper provided
* Entrance fee: \$15

Gabriel Talks 2010

The Gabriel Talks begin in April and continue through second term. The talks are free, and take place at the Kew Library, Cnr Cotham Rd and Civic Drive Kew, at 8.00pm. For further information, contact Jacinta on 97258879 or email: talks@gabrielcentre.com.au and all start at 8pm. For inquiries call Jacinta on 97258879 or email: talks@gabrielcentre.com.au

Kemi Nekvapil: Family Food Traditions: Creating them, building them and how they nourish us. Thursday 22nd April

There is now so much fear around food that we can sometimes forget the joy of preparing it and sharing it with our family. Having children that are fussy, have allergies, do not eat, are teenagers and of course the 'witching hour' are some of the things that can challenge the way we approach mealtimes and whether we or anyone else around the table enjoys them! Dinner on the 23rd will be different!

Further Gabriel Talks are scheduled for Term II- see next newsletter for information.

Term dates

Diploma students: 9th February-1st April
Advanced Diploma students: 8th February -1st April.
Ad Dip Teaching round (practicum): 15th March-1st April (3 weeks).
Labour Day Holiday: 8th March

Student Reunion: an invitation to past full time Seminar students, Friday 28th May 2010, 7.30 p.m.

All past full time students of the Seminar are warmly invited to a reunion at The Michael Centre. This is an opportunity to catch up with old friends, renew contacts and to come together to share a meal.



Friday 28th May, 7.30 p.m.,
music, conversation, bring a
plate of finger food.

Please RSVP to Anne in the
Office by 17th May 2010 on tel.
9876 5199.



In the Head the power of Faith
In the Heart the might of Love
In the full human being all-sustaining Hope
Rudolf Steiner