WELCOME TO THE 2015 SCHOOL YEAR

A very warm welcome to all of our students, families and staff – those new to the school and those returning for another year. I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas-New Year break.

Our year started wonderfully this week with the beautiful rose ceremony in the Hall. For those of you who are new to the school, the new Class 12 students present a rose to the new and eager Class 1 students as a welcome to their journey through the school. It is a lovely event, one of many celebrations which punctuate our calendar, which is reversed at the end of the school year when we farewell the Class 12s. A special welcome to both classes and best wishes to the Class 12s for their full and challenging year ahead.

We welcome a number of new staff to the school this year. At the High School: Alan Berris and Todd Hurley will teach hard craft subjects and Jessminka Sharp will mainly teach biology and geography. In the Primary School, Karen McDonald will be teaching violin.

We also farewell Zsofia Kennedy, who has been our acting Director for the past year or so. Zsofia has performed admirably in this role, taking on a heavy workload and managing a number of challenging concurrent projects. She is consistently professional, ethical and balanced in her approach to her roles. Zsofia joined us in 2011 as the Business Administrator and has done an exceptional job in establishing systems and in ensuring strong financial stability for the school. She has made a significant contribution to our school in a number of ways over the past four years and we wish her, Glenn and Roisin all the best in their move back to their home in NSW.

I have taken on the role of Director on an interim basis until the Board finds a suitable replacement. While I also retain my role as Board President during this time, Fiona Garnes (Vice-President) will be undertaking some of my tasks on the Board to ensure appropriate segregation of duties. I have worked in a range of roles within the school over the past 11 years in both a volunteer and a professional capacity, including the craft group, the bookshop, pre-PAFA working group, the HR Review, the structure review and the Board. I look forward to working more closely with the staff and obtaining a different view of how the school functions.

You may have noticed some new landscaping works around the school which were undertaken during the holidays. I love to see the gardens of the school developing, with new plantings, new and improved paving and pathways, and places for students and staff to sit and eat lunch. The gardens add so much to the positive feel and energy of our school! Peter King has been our groundsman for some years now and he does a wonderful job ensuring things are maintained and looking good.

The staff have also been busy since the start of the year, with teachers attending professional development and preparing for their classes, admin staff have been organising resources and there have been many activities occurring in vacation care. We start the year with 337 students.
PAFA will host a welcome morning tea next Wednesday 4 February at 9.00 am. Please join us for a cuppa and to meet other members of our wonderful school community.

Again, welcome.

Warm regards

Karen Dunshea
Interim Director

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**ENROLMENTS**

Welcome to all the new students and their families. Also to our returning families.

We have had new enrolments across the school right up to Class 11. The High School has just about reached 100 students – it is on 102, including exchange students. Without the exchange students it has 98.

It is great to have so many full classes.

**WELCOME MORNING TEA**

There is a welcome for all new families on Wednesday 4 February at the Hub (9am after drop off). PAFA (Parents and Friends Association) will be hosting the morning tea. We would also like to invite current families to attend and welcome our new families.

If you have any questions about the school please approach either Judy or Joan at the front desk or to Mercedes in the High School office.

Mercedes Logan

High School Administration & Enrolments Officer

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**NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR**

I think if I was to characterise this week I would say it was a mixture of lots of activity in the background by teachers, parents and admin and (I think) a smooth ‘takeoff’ for the students. That is certainly what we were aiming for!

The High School have warmly welcomed our new Class 8. They have begun "The Power of the Word" English Main Lesson with Molly, which is going really well. It is wonderful to see them so engaged and focussed in classes, and how they have supported each other through the difficult first few days of a quite new environment. Great to see the relaxed open faces of our returning students, and just a hint of the thought "how are our 2014 graduates going?".

Here is what I know so far:

Kirily Jago – Bachelor of Creative Arts – QUT,

Bianca Simpson – Bachelor of Business at Griffith University,

Anthony Logan – Bachelor of Languages and Linguistics – Griffith University,

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**Dates to Remember**

- **Tuesday 3 February**
  Class 6 Parent Teacher Arvo

- **Wednesday 4 February**
  PAFA Welcome Morning Tea
  Swimming starts, Primary

- **Thursday 5 February**
  Class 11 Parent Teacher Night

- **Tuesday 10 February**
  Class 8 & 10 Parent Teacher Night

- **Thursday 12 February**
  Class 7 Parent Teacher Night

- **Thursday 26 February**
  Preschool Parent Teacher Night
Cahona Lacour – Natural Medicine at Endeavour College of Natural Medicine,

Max Baker-Finch - is lined up to work as a part-time climbing instructor and builder’s labourer,

Jethro See - is working and saving on his quest to travel the world, and

Sam Gallon - is developing his computer hardware enterprise and working towards the publication of his original board games.

We also have welcomed three new teachers in the High School. Jessminka Sharp comes to us from Cairns (previously at Shearwater) and is working in a number of areas, Class 11 english, Class 8 maths and art. She will also be teaching some main lessons this year. Alan Berris is taking hardcraft to a new level (Class 9 and 11 this term). He is a teacher with enormous experience and trade quals in electrical and mechanical engineering. Todd Hurley is working with Class 8 in hardcraft. He is also a tradesman and a very experienced teacher. It is wonderful to welcome these three energetic and enthusiastic people into our High School faculty.

A profile of each of the High School staff will be included in this newsletter as the term unfolds.

I also want to mention a very significant milestone for SVSS. Our current High School began with dedication, generosity and love by a group of teachers and staff in 2006. Many of these people are still working and giving at SVSS. The first class of 16 students was a group of both Class 8 and 9. At the beginning of our 9th year, we have 102 students. I want to express my gratitude and heartfelt thanks to all the people who have supported the healthy growth and development of the High School. A special thanks to the pioneering families of 2006, and to Liz Morrell and Robyn Maggs who were both midwife and carer eight years ago.

Kind regards,

Tim Dunn

High School Educational Administrator

NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR

Welcome back every one. I hope you all had a restful and joyful Christmas Season and are looking forward to the rewards and challenges that the coming year is sure to bring as much as I am. On Tuesday we welcomed the new Class 1 children to the primary school with the Rose Ceremony and acknowledged the extra step that every student has taken along their educational journey. It was also wonderful to welcome so many new students and their families to the school. I do hope the year continues as well as it has started.

Towards the end of last year we began to review the music program in our school. In a Steiner school, participation in the arts is seen to be of paramount importance for the healthy development of the human being. In days gone by, the arts were integral to daily life and it is only in modern times, since the birth of materialism, that art in all its forms has been relegated to the realm of luxury rather than necessity. Through artistic activity we can stand on the threshold between the sensory world and the spiritual world. Through artistic feeling we can come to know the richness of the world and experience a deeper reality that cannot be illuminated by our thinking and ideas alone. Steiner talked about 7 arts: architecture, sculpture, painting (drawing), music, speech/poetry, Eurythmy and the social art.
The first 3 arts are spatial arts and are connected to formative forces that come from the past. Within our education, attention to and practice of these arts helps the children to come to “know” the physical world and to take hold of their bodily constitutions. The second group of arts, including music, are “time arts” that are connected to forces that stream towards us from the future. These arts help the children come into their feeling life and allow them to meet the present in a healthy way.

As part of our review process we have developed a new Music Vision and are currently developing a strategic plan which will see changes and additions to the music program unfold over the next 5 years.

**Music Program Vision**

*Through an integrated and holistic music program we seek to create and encourage a school culture in which joyous, enlivened musical activity is embedded into the daily experience of every student and teacher across the whole school.*

*To achieve this we will:*

- **Prioritise the development of musical skills amongst all staff.**

- **Provide a classroom music and instrumental program that is informed by the Anthroposophical picture of child development and is connected to and reflective of the core classroom curriculum content, and seasonal festivals.**

- **Provide a dynamic instrumental and choral program that provides a solid musical foundation which balances the social nature of music making with development of the art form of music.**

As a result of the new vision and review process, we will be transitioning away from the Colour Strings program in 2015, and with the cessation of this program the school farewells Yuri and Sally-Anne. We would like to warmly thank Yuri and Sally-Anne for the work they have done at the school over the last 2 years. We are very blessed that Daniel, Eleanor and Dale, who are all extremely talented and professionally practising musicians, will continue to teach the children this year. In addition we welcome Karen McDonald who will be teaching Classes 3 and 4 violin, viola and ensembles and Classes 3, 4, and 5 classroom music. Karen is a registered music and classroom teacher who has exceptional choral and instrumental skills. She is greatly looking forward to working with the children in the classrooms and providing a range of wonderful extra-curricular opportunities for the school community, including a community choir and a voluntary primary school performance choir. Liz will also be offering Marimba workshops again on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. More opportunities for participation in various musical experiences are also being developed for our High School students this year. These activities may include: High School ensemble, High School performance choir, string quartet or ensemble run by Dan and a band/singer-song writer group lead by Dale.

I would like to acknowledge the work of all of our music staff and send out a particularly big thank you to Brendan Hook who holds the enormous responsibility of co-ordinating the whole school music program. As many of you may know, at the end of last year Brendan had the impulse to host a National Steiner Music Conference here at the school. The conference came to fruition in January and was a huge success attracting around 50 teachers from all over Australia. Congratulations Brendan!
There have been a few other staffing changes in the Primary school as we enter into the new school year. Due to organisational changes, Lyndal Rooney has accepted a redundancy package from the school. We wish to thank Lyndal for her contribution to the school during her service. We look forward to Lyndal’s continued involvement as a parent and community member. As the Learning Support role is to become a full time position this year, Jenny McDonald also finished in her role as Learning Support Teacher at the end of last year. We are currently interviewing for the new Learning Support Teacher. I would like to sincerely thank Lyndal and Jenny for all they have contributed to the school during their time here and wish them both well for the future.

I look forward to catching up with many of you over the coming term.

Warmly

Pep Wright

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**Would you recommend that future Class 11 students apply to attend this forum?**

Yes highly recommended. You don’t need to know what you want to do in science – you need to be interested in science, but not necessarily be a top academic student. It was really useful for me to find out more about what careers were out there as well as what University courses were on offer, it has been an invaluable experience.

**Would you like to thank anyone in particular for the opportunity you have had?**

I would like to thank the Samford Rotary Club for supporting me in the selection process and contributing to the expense of me attending the forum. However it is really the wonderful school community I should be thanking. The numerous donations I received were greatly appreciated as well as the many congratulations and good lucks.

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**A student experience with the National Youth Science Forum**

As most of you know during the holidays one of our Class 12 students, Amy Weir, was fortunate to attend the National Youth Science Forum. The forum ran from 5 January through to the 17 January and was held in Canberra. It is a forum that is for students entering into Class 12 that have an interest in the sciences. I caught up with Amy to get a picture of her experience.

**How would you describe what NYSF is?**

It’s a forum for students entering year 12 who are interested in science and are looking at a possible future career in science. We had opportunities to experience what it would be like to work in the sciences, as well as hearing from other scientists and their journey of how they entered into science careers.

**What would you say you gained from your experience at the Forum?**

- I got inspiration for year 12
- a greater interest in studying science in uni
- knowledge of how people got into a science career
- personal confidence
- a heightened general interest and thirst for science
- I came away with more questions around what topics/areas there are to study
- And I made some great friends!
**What was your favourite section/part?**
The Scientific aspect - we had a video conference with CERN (European Council for Nuclear Research) – they are the company that did the particle accelerator – this was a personal highlight – I came away with questions and the desire to know more about this area. The disco night was also fun and a great break!

**Did you notice your knowledge was different to the knowledge of the other students attending?**
I noticed that in the discussions people seemed to have more knowledge, this would be due their curriculum being more specialised than ours however I do not feel this negatively impacted my experience. It was interesting to have many different schools there, I could see and experience the differences as well as share my experience at the Steiner School.

**What do you think you can bring with you from the experience into your final school year?**
The confidence and the desire to ask more questions. I also learnt schemes on how to study and I feel more prepared for year 12 and the years afterwards.

*Interviewed By Mercedes Logan*

**Outside School Hours Care**

Dear Families,

I am asking for any expressions of Interest for Before School Care. If you are interested, please email me your form (attached to the newsletter email) at oshc@samfordsteiner.qld.edu.au or drop it of at the OSHC Room or Admin Office.

Please be specific if you are requiring this service on a full time or on a casual basis. Thank you

*Kylie Turner*

*OSHC Coordinator*

**PAFA News**

Welcome back to all the current families, and a special welcome to all new families! We trust that you all enjoyed a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas holiday break. As we all ease into the new routine we will let you know of the different activities and events that we will be hosting this year.

**Welcome Morning Tea**
This Coming Wednesday 4 February (week 2) 9am at The Hub

This is an opportunity for us to welcome all the new families into the parent community. All families are welcome and it is a good chance to catch up and make some new friends. You will also have the opportunity to meet some of the new PAFA team and hear about some of what PAFA has planned throughout the year.

**Cuppa and a Chat sessions in 2015**
Friday Cuppa Time 9am-11am at The Hub (Look out for news of which week it will start!).

**Share, Grow and Love your parenting journey**
This year we will have an opportunity every Friday morning to have conversations about parenting, Steiner Education and Anthroposophy. These conversations will be guided by Pep Wright who will help us explore the trials and triumphs of being a parent/caregiver. The aim of Cuppa Time is to allow parents to also learn and grow from each other’s experiences as well as learn more about child development from a Steiner perspective. We will explore ways in which we can keep ourselves centred and nourished in order to be fully present on our journey through parenting.
Throughout the year we will also have guest speakers or special themed conversations arising out of the need of the group. So come along and breathe out with us on a Friday morning as we share, grow and love our parenting journey.

Contributions of baked goods are always welcome and very much appreciated.

Cuppa Time is open to anyone who would like to learn more about parenting from a Steiner perspective.

**Friday Foodies**
After a really successful first year of 'Foodies' last year, we will continue the tradition this year. It will begin later this term, giving everyone the chance to settle into the school year before we start this fortnightly venture.

Friday Foodies is all about coming together every second Friday at the Hub. We have live music (kids or parents), delicious artisan food and great coffee. If you would like to be part of the fun, have your own stall or perform, we would love to hear from you in the coming weeks.

**Being Part of PAFA**
All parents and friends within the school community are automatically members of PAFA. We will have our first PAFA meeting in week 4, at the Hub after drop off. All Welcome! It’s also a great opportunity to hear from representatives of the school community, including the Board, High School and Primary School administrators.

If you would like to be part of the PAFA leadership team this year, and make a year long commitment, we would also love to hear from you. Email: imogencusack@yahoo.com.au.

Thanks and we'll see you around school!

*Deb Boyd (President) Paula Miller (Treasurer) Amy Vella (Secretary)*
*Jacqueline Hobbs (Communications) Amy Curran, Kim Ryan and Imogen Cusack*

**PARENT’S CRAFT GROUP**
Watch this space!

The new Craft Group team is putting their heads together this week to come up with this year’s programme. All will be revealed in next week’s newsletter.

Meanwhile please pencil in Wednesday 11 February for the first gathering ...... it will be something lovely!
CLASSIFIEDS

Please note: All Classified Advertisements are submitted by individuals for the community benefit. They do not in any way express the views, opinions, endorsement or policy of the school and should not be relied upon as such.

There is a flat $2 charge for each advertisement and payment is required prior to inclusion.

WANTED: Home to rent
for Steiner family of four. Long term lease.
Tel. 3855 9504 - Adriano

Free to a good home...
Hard Full Size Cello case with wheels. Fair condition, but heavy. Phone 0422 324 648 for details.

Making art to mark a passage - a workshop
with Kate Sharp

- a time to gestate an unknown
- unveiling moments of revelation
- moving into our future with all its questions, holding, containing, honouring while beginning to let go of some things
- travelling with the inner companion with respect, awe, patience, forgiveness, as we would a child
- beginning to create a new or stronger container and new containment
- caring and nourishment along the way and then for the newly birthed one

Seven weeks x 2 ½ hr session. Wed 18 Feb @ 1pm $40 or $240 for block paid upfront some materials will cost extra (eg canvas, paint medium) See full details at www.katesharpartstherapy.com
Contact Kate katshar@gotalk.net.au 32897227 or 0402884205

Adult Beginners Eurythmy - During School Hours
For those who are new to Steiner Education or have not had the opportunity to experience eurythmy as yet.
FRIDAY Mornings - during school term.
(Alternatively if THURSDAY is more popular that would work also).
8.45.am - 9.45.am
AT: Farmers hall (upstairs) Main Street, Samford Village.
COST: $20 per person, per lesson.
Enquiries/Registering: Karen 07 3851 2550 / fostkp60@hotmail.com
I am hoping that we form a group that can experience the social application of eurythmy, in a joyful and light hearted setting.

FREE to a Book Loving Home...
2 tall, pale grey solid bookcases
(View them in the HS: Room Cate)
Email: mbrumm@samfordsteiner.qld.edu.au

Balaangala Community Group invites you to a "Hidden Histories" workshop. An interactive workshop that explores Queensland's history from an Aboriginal perspective. Facilitated by experienced Indigenous Cultural worker, James Sandy.

When: Saturday, 31st January. 3-5 pm
Where: Balaangala Garden Space, 98 Yoorala St, The Gap
Cost: $15 / $10 concession
Bookings are essential
Please email: balaangalathegap@gmail.com to make your booking or for more information.

Your organic garden
Use our knowledge and services to create a bounteous organic and biodynamic garden for 2015. Book into our March workshop in Camp Mountain or use our food garden design package. Call Peter Kearney on 0401156532 or visit our web site at www.cityfoodgrowers.com.au
Steiner inspired Childcare Camp Mountain
Home based care (the Rose Blossom children) available for little ones aged 2 - 4 years, either half day 8.45 - 12.30 or full day 08.45 - 2.30 during school terms only. On 5 acres, we create opportunities to connect with the natural world and its rhythms as well as the rhythms of the day. A gentle experience for the children working with the four senses of touch, balance, life and movement.
Call Vicki Kearney 3289 3602

Therapeutic Eurythmy  Karen Foster
Hello, I am living in nearby Arana Hills. My work with Therapeutic Eurythmy works with a wide range of conditions and illnesses. In children it assists the person to be more harmoniously incarnated, working with developmental conditions that hinder learning, illness and social behaviour; at puberty Therapeutic Eurythmy works with the newly activated processes to find a good rhythm in the individuals who are having challenges at this development time and illness; as adults many illnesses arise due to prelaid conditions and/or stresses that life presents us. With all these Therapeutic Eurythmy supports the individual.
If you would like to know more about Therapeutic Eurythmy in relation to a specific circumstance or to arrange treatments please phone me at: 07 3851 2550 or Email me: fostkp60@hotmail.com

Samford Netball Club
2015 Season Registration
When: 31st January 9am - 2pm
Where: Samford Netball Clubhouse Samford Parklands
Enjoy a Snow Cone while you Sign up & attend to uniform fittings
Also available Online:
http://samfordnetball.org.au
Squad Training commences on 10th February, 2015
Season Commences on 21st March, 2015
Registration Fees for Season 2015
$300 per player
Further Enquiries Phone: 0428 648 154

KinectivEnergy® is starting Stretch & Flexibility Classes at Samford’s Farmers Hall from 10 February. The classes combine slow and gentle techniques to help relieve muscle tension, improve muscular strength, and ease stiffness and joint pain. In addition to the many physical and mental benefits of stretching properly, the great thing is it feels good and is an effective way to improve overall wellbeing.

If you are interested, come along and try your first class for free or buy an initial ‘three session pass’ for only $20.00. Weekly classes commence on Tuesday 10 February. No previous experience is necessary. Classes are limited to 12 people. For bookings or enquiries about class times contact Bill on 0400 273 664.

KinectivEnergy also offer personal training, private group exercise classes, individual stretch consultations and corporate stretch & flexibility programs. Heartmoves classes (low intensity exercise for those with chronic but stable conditions) commence Monday 2 March.