FROM THE DIRECTOR

We have some new and returning staff joining us in 2017. We are delighted to announce that Ted Muller will be joining the faculty again as Class Teacher for next year’s Class 4. Ted is known to many of you as a teacher from the High School in previous years (2010-16) and also as a parent of four children in the Primary School. He is very excited to take up this position and has worked with the class several times this year as relief teacher. Welcome back Ted! As previously advised, Lucie will be taking a year’s sabbatical to travel with her husband in Europe. In her absence Alice Smith will be taking the hand work lessons for Classes one to five. Alice has already met most of the children through the swimming lessons she has been taking for us this term. She comes with a background of teaching in London as well as Australia. Alice is currently working with Lucie to support the transition. Jackie Cox-Taylor will also be joining our expanding learning support and well-being team in 2017. Jackie has many years of experience and a strongly grounded Anthroposophical and mainstream understanding of how to support children who come to us with special needs. Jackie will be working at the school for one day a week in 2017 and will be providing assistance, professional advice and support to our teachers as well as working directly with the children. We look forward to welcoming Ted, Alice and Jackie to the team in 2017.

*We can also be grateful if someone gives us a little cake, although we actually would have expected the gift of a large cake.* – Rudolf Steiner

I found this interesting little quote from Steiner this week and it inspired me to say a word or two about gratitude. It is common for us to carry expectations of how another should act, think, feel or do. When they do not live up to those expectations, we can feel a variety of negative emotions such as disappointment, frustration, anger, scorn and perhaps an inflated sense of ourselves as the one “who knows better”. Our expectations can then completely mask any positive gesture that a person may have actually made. It is a worthwhile challenge to take up to try and find the “little piece of cake” that we can be grateful for in any interaction or human exchange.

There are so many tiny, seemingly inconsequential moments and exchanges in a day that we can find the light in and be grateful for if we are actively looking. If our children can witness us really appreciating and seeing the good in others, the world and even our own selves, we will give them a great gift for life.

As we near the end of the school year, I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to all those who surround and interweave through the life of the school to help make it a place of nourishment for the young people we are here together to serve. A very warm thanks to all of the teachers who give endlessly of themselves each and every day and to the admin staff, whose work is often unseen, but enables the teachers to carry out their task with the students. Thank you to the school Board and the College of Teachers, who commit a very significant number of hours to their tasks...
as legal and moral custodians of the school. Thank you to all of the parents and volunteers who have worked with enthusiasm this year to enliven the cultural life of the school through participation in Festival preparation, working bees, Friday Foodies, Cuppa Time, Music under the stars, the amazing Christmas Markets last weekend as well as all the little daily offers and gestures of time and support.

Here’s to noticing and appreciating the sweetness of the cake regardless of its size!

Warmly
Pep

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**SVSS STAFF GOING OUT INTO THE (STEINER) WORLD**

One of the goals in the schools’ 2017-2018 Improvement Plan is “To utilise the skills and knowledge of our experienced staff to contribute to broader educational dialogue and thus promote the benefits of Steiner education.” We are very proud to have many of our staff stepping out to contribute to Steiner education in Australia next year.

In January, Tim Dunn, the High School Education Administrator, will be presenting workshops at the newly developed High School Steiner Teacher’s Intensive to be held at the Melbourne Rudolf Steiner Seminar and Alan Drysdale, our Class 5 teacher, will be taking workshops at Glenaeon’s Primary Class Teacher Intensives. Here at Samford Valley we are hosting the inaugural Early Childhood Intensive, and three of our staff will be presenting and sharing their knowledge: Marilou Araullo, one of our Kindergarten teachers, Jan Baker-Finch, Eurythmy teacher and Pep Wright, Director.

Later in the year, I will be presenting workshops at the GLaM Conference (Governance, Leadership and Management) run by SEA and Giulius Canteri will be presenting at the SEA National Education Conference.

During this year John Davidson was the lead presenter for the year-long program the Art of Education held at school, with Alan, Tim and Pep also presenting workshops.

Wow, what talented staff we have! These contributions certainly highlight the depth of knowledge of our staff. With much gratitude to all.

Joan Weir
Marketing & Communications

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**SHEPHERDS’ PLAY**

**Tuesday 29th November 6:45pm in the School Hall**

Come along to the school’s biennial performance of the Oberufer Shepherds’ Play. The teachers offer this as a gift to the children.

We warmly invite you to bring your children to the performance; it is a great community event which is usually warmly received by everyone from grandmothers to the youngest toddlers.

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**Dates to Remember**

**Tuesday 29 November**
Shepherd’s Play, 6.45pm

**Thursday 1 December**
Kindergarten Summer Advent Celebration

Year 12 Graduation
Ceremony, 11.30am

**Friday 2 December**
Term 4 ends at 2.45pm

**Monday 30 January**
Term 1 starts
HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Class 9 & 12 art exhibition is currently on display at local restaurant Honey Peppers – it will be there until mid next week. If you have not seen the work already we encourage you to go and have a look, pretty amazing work.

Class 12 Graduation – Thursday 1 December 11.30 start for an 11.45 finish.

High School last day
High School students (Classes 8 – 11) will be going on a picnic outing to Shorncliffe on Friday 2 December. There will be activities arranged for the day including waist deep wading and swimming if conditions allow. The buses will depart from school at 9am and will return by 2.30. We encourage all students to attend as it is a great social opportunity that can occur with all of year levels.

Students will need to bring with them:

✓ Picnic Blanket
✓ Morning Tea
✓ Lunch
✓ Water
✓ School hat
✓ Clothes/bathers & towel

Consent forms were handed to students today and are required back early next week.
If your child is unable to attend we will require notification by Monday 28 November 8am.
Please email notification to highschooladmin@samfordsteiner.qld.edu.au.

Lost Property
Stef & I have put all of the lost property out on to a table on the deck for the students to go through. There are many winter hoodies, a few jackets & jumpers. If you are dropping your child off, you may also want to go through the pile to see if you see anything familiar.

Mercedes Logan

Class 12 2016 Graduation Ceremony

Thursday 1st December
11.30 for 11.45 start in the Hall

☆ High School String Ensemble
☆ Opening and Story – Tim Dunn
☆ Class 12 student speech
☆ Class 12 parent speech
☆ Class 12 presentation – Jenny Agius & Class 1
☆ High School & Class 7 Assembly to sing
☆ Pep Wright to close (Choir to stay on stage)
☆ All to sing – ‘As We Stand by The Shore’

ALL WELCOME

☆ Class 1 to 6 to leave via the Primary School side
☆ Class 7 to leave via the High School side and start the guard of honour, followed by Classes 8 – 11, staff, parents and then Class 12 students
☆ Class 11 picture of Class 12 on the High School deck
☆ Class 12 to leave rocks on the Cairn
☆ Class 12 depart!!!
ON THE QUESTION OF CLASS SIZE AT SAMFORD VALLEY STEINER SCHOOL ...

There is much research and debate in educational circles regarding the impact of class size upon student success. Steiner Educators have a position on this question that is influenced by the unique nature of our curriculum and schooling method. The use of mainstream research on this topic is problematic due to the lack of transferability to a method of education and pedagogical approach that is significantly different from the system that is the focus of the available research. Much of the research that indicates a positive impact of smaller class sizes in schools (with the largest agreed impact being in the early years of schooling, for minority and low socio-economic students) is focussed solely on academic achievement as the primary measure of a positive outcome. This assumes that the primary focus in an early primary education program is academic achievement and the transference of information (content) and academic skills is the central tenet of education.

The focus and measure of ‘success’ in a Steiner School is far broader and deeper than this. We believe that one of the most notable factors that drives long-term success, health and happiness is allowing the child time and space in the early years to unfold, and to learn slowly and deeply through imaginative experience. In an environment that is less pressured and not content and assessment driven we believe the positive academic gains suggested in the research as a result of small class sizes are not relevant or applicable.

At Samford Valley Steiner School, we consider a class with between 28-30 students a ‘full’ cohort. This however is not rigid as there are many factors to consider when looking at the healthiest picture for each unique class group. Most of the main stream researchers that advocate for smaller class sizes acknowledge that other factors such as teacher quality and pedagogical approach are likely to have a greater impact on student outcomes than class size.

In our school we invest significantly in the development of our teachers and teachers consciously undertake to strive for a path of continuous learning and personal and professional development. Teachers in the early primary classes are well supported with full time class assistants allocated to the first three grades. Steiner teachers understand that the most important aspect of education is relationship and consciously seek to really come to know the children in their classes. They work consciously to observe the children continuously, recognising their individual strengths and weaknesses, and to work in ways that allow each child to grow and develop to their full potential.

A teacher in the mainstream system has 12 months to deliver an overcrowded curriculum and ensure that they can “prove” that students have achieved certain benchmarks to the next teacher and the system. In this system one could rightfully argue that there is not time to come to know a larger group
of students. Steiner teachers and students are blessed with an extended period of time to come to know one another and it is very possible to develop full and wonderful relationships with a class of 30 students over their schooling years and to give them all the best possible opportunity for success. This continuity of teacher especially through the foundation and Primary years adds to a fuller understanding of a child’s needs and enables the allowance of real time to meet these.

Our students are held very much as a ‘group’ in their early years. We believe that too much individualisation and choice does not support the young child, and this holds true for the early years of primary school. The teacher leads the children, as a group, through artistic and experiential activities through which they absorb the content that is to be learned. Each child can meet the task in their own way and at their own level; all can succeed and all can move and develop according to their own inner time-line rather than to artificially imposed benchmarks. We believe that within this pedagogical approach a larger class size has little impact upon student success.

Steiner Education is a social education and in a larger class there is a healthy mix of personalities and temperaments and students must learn to negotiate the wide array of approaches to life that exist in any group of people. Classes that are too small in size may be dominated by a few children. In a larger class, on the other hand, every child has the opportunity to learn how to function respectfully within a diverse group; a skill that Rudolf Steiner thought was essential to creating change in society.

The structure and small size of our whole school supports our ability to successfully host larger classes. The school has a village like feel within which each and every student is visible and known to staff. The regular meetings of the faculties (Early childhood, Primary and Secondary) mean individual teachers can find assistance and resources from colleagues on pedagogical questions. This is further supported by the College of Teachers, mentors and a Well-being Group all designed to serve the needs of the children. As teachers are invested in a long term relationship with their students, they actively cultivate and welcome meaningful relationships with parents and families. Strong links between home and school we believe are one of the cornerstones of a healthy educational experience.

The above mentioned features of our pedagogical approach ensure that our students have opportunity to experience a warm, nourishing and successful learning experience, in which a larger class brings benefit and health rather than disadvantage.

Pep Wright
Director

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

This year we have been researching ways to help families, parents and students to understand the way social media operates and the ways to secure the information that we put up and then goes out on the internet. We have chosen a company called Eyes Open and next year they will present to staff and parents and to all the High School students. They have prepared many on line systems to ensure that we are able to work with social media, and at the same time to be aware of how invasive it can be. Some of the aspects they look at are addiction as well as how, as parents, we can act in the home to make sure our children are safe. How many times do you just push ‘agree’ without reading the agreement that has replaced the one you signed up for?

We had hoped to be able to roll out these presentations this year before the holidays. We will start early next year. What I do urge you to do if there are questions is to look at the literature on the Queensland Police website:


There are a lot of unknowns, but what we do know is that as parents it is important to know what is going on.

John Davidson
**SHEPHERDS’ PLAY**

There are three shepherds; a fourth really with old Crispin and three inn keepers and each time the play is performed the children love to guess who is playing the various roles; often the disguises are good enough to fool them for some time; others they guess almost immediately as certain teachers play traditional roles year after year.

The element of tradition runs strongly through the presentation of the Oberufer Christmas Plays. There are in fact three plays: The Paradise Play, the Shepherds’ Play and the Kings’ Play, at SVSS we only perform the Shepherds’ Play, biennially. These plays come from the island of Oberufer in the Danube River. The German inhabitants of the island had brought the plays with them from their original home near the Bodensee in southern Germany. The plays have a rustic quality to them and they were never written down in their entirety. Traditionally a role, e.g. Huckle, the young shepherd, would remain within a particular family, being passed down from father to son for generations, but this family would not possess the words for another role. Rudolf Steiner gathered all the roles together into a single script and it is the version of this, translated from German into English with which we work when we prepare the plays.

The Shepherds’ Play is a family and community event where the teachers present the play as a gift to the children of the school. We are trying to bring a vision of the original Christmas Story as a way of observing Christmas from a perspective which goes beyond the commercial picture which is so pervasive in our society.

Everyone is welcome and we hope all the family can attend and enjoy the various moods of the play.

*Alan Drysdale*

**OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE – LAST DAY OF TERM & VACATION CARE**

If any parents are needing OSHC for the last day of Term (Friday 2 December), please contact me via email. This is the last week to book in for Vacation Care.

Thank you.

*Kylie Turner, OSHC Co ordinator*

*Email: oshc@samfordsteiner.qld.edu.au*

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**IT’S NOT TOO LATE TO BOOK…**

**SVSS Summer Holiday Adventure Program**

**WHEN**: Monday 5th to Friday 9th December and Monday 12th to Friday 16th December (first two weeks of school holidays). 8am-4pm each day (care from 7am – 6pm is available)

**WHO**: Targeted age group: 9-14 year olds

**WHERE**: All activities start and finish at Samford Valley Steiner School unless otherwise stated. Students will be driven in a mini-bus to the adventure sites.

For more information, download the flyer in the email body. There are still places available.
A GREAT EVENT... SUMMER ADVENT MARKET 2017

Last Saturday, many feet wandered while eyes and tummies feasted at this year’s “Summer Advent Market”.

There were many stalls selling their fare: handmade toys, scrumptious homemade foods, SVSS Parent Craft group, Henna tattooing, Lucky dips, children story telling with several interactive activities, a brass section, choir, ukulele harmonies, picnicking, lazing under the sun and much much more.

All in all, everyone who attended enjoyed being part of this great community we have here at SVSS. The day was put together with many Helping Hands coordinated by PAFA. We are so proud to have the opportunity to host these special events. It fosters community and builds on friendships, from children through to parents, not to mention just having some good ol’ fashioned fun.

Keep an ear out for more exciting events next year, PAFA Helping Hands plan to make it the best year ever!

May you all have a wondrous, safe and special Festive Season with family and loved ones.

To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe. - Anatole France

Kind regards
The PAFA Team
CRAFT NEWS
This week we continued our work on our Advent Mats and the Christmas Angels. They are all coming together beautifully.

Next week is our final week of craft for 2016. What a year it has been of craft. I do hope everyone has enjoyed the projects we have made; to list a few we have had our story gnome and snail, our Australian animal series, the gorgeous doll that we spent all of term 2 making, autumn maidens, spring maidens, wet felting, needle felting, embroidery, crochet and knitting. We have also made a supply of toys for the new Lillipilli Class Room and toys for Class 1 along with 7 recorder bags. Thank you everyone for your contribution, friendship and company.

It was wonderful to see new faces this year that have become part of our warm community. So next week please do not bring any baked goods or morning tea with you, this will be provided and we will have a lovely end of year party. Please bring your craft if you wish to craft, or just come along for a chat and mingle.

Warmly
The Craft Team

PARENT LIBRARY
As the 2016 school year draws to a close, we’d like to take the time to thank all the parents that utilised the parent library this year. It’s a joy to see people sharing resource titles with each other and creating conversations.

We’d also like to ask you to ensure that ALL books are returned by NEXT Wednesday (30th) as we will be doing a stocktake and reshuffle during the holidays in preparation for 2017.

Many thanks,
Stacey Parish

Positions Vacant at SVSS
Senior High School Science and Mathematics Teacher
Samford Valley Steiner School is seeking an experienced Senior Science and Mathematics teacher to commence in a full time teaching role in 2017.

The right person will have broad scientific knowledge and be passionate about working with young people to help them develop into informed, creative, thinking members of the community.

Current teacher registration in Queensland is essential, and previous experience in Steiner Education highly desirable.

The role description and information about the application process can be found on the school’s website:
http://www.samfordsteiner.qld.edu.au/employment-opportunities/

For further information please contact Tim Dunn via email tdu233@samfordsteiner.qld.edu.au

Closing Date: Friday 2 December 2016
ASSOCIATED INITIATIVES
These Steiner/Anthroposophically related activities and services, whilst not directly related the school, can be seen to be in sympathy with and supportive of the impulse of Steiner education.

Transform your summer organic garden
This afternoon workshop on Dec 3 in Camp Mountain by Peter Kearney will give you the key seasonal and food garden management tips for a productive summer organic and biodynamic garden. Book here http://myfoodgarden.com.au/workshops/

Next Brisbane Branch Meeting with Sally Macfarlane
26th November, 10am—1pm
VENUE: Samford Valley Steiner Hub (next to library), Narrawa Drive, Wights Mtn

Printing from your garden!
Come along and bring all of your family, any age can contribute to this fun, community day
Stay for an hour or for the 3 hours! Sally Macfarlane will be teaching us how to print from our gardens
You will take with you the knowledge for this technique and contribute greatly towards the Life and Living Conference in April 2017
We have a task to print on table runners for the wonderful feast at the festival. Your hands on contribution is greatly appreciated
Here is the flyer link:
https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B188OfRd7amCbjRNc3dqdDZCVUE

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 $5 charge for each advertisement and payment is required prior to inclusion.

For Sale
One ticket to Woodford Folk Festival 2016/17 – Adult season, camping and Christmas Day camping. 0467 196 479 or see Astrid in the Kindergarten.

Great Gifts for Christmas Rolka
Creative Building Blocks (Locally made) – 50, 100 or 150 wooden blocks in a calico bag with a fully illustrated Ideas Booklet. Hours of fun and challenging activities for all the family. 3289 4505. www.rolka.net.au

Self-contained flat for rent
Does anyone need to borrow a car? We have a blue Ford Focus hatch, which is registered and has comprehensive insurance. We purchased it for our mum who is currently overseas for 6 months. If anyone in the community could use it, we’d be happy to loan it out at $40/week (which goes toward rego and insurance costs). There is no minimum amount of time you can borrow it for. Please call Imogen on 0410 584 229.

Creative Dance and Yoga classes
Saturday 10-11am, held at the Closeburn Hall (near the Cedar Creek turn off). Ages: mid-upper primary school. Classes run during school terms and bookings required. Come along for a free try out class. Please get in touch with Emma for more info: Ph. 0487342909 E. riseandbloomedance@gmail.com W. www.riseandbloommove.com.au

Healthcare Practitioners Applying Anthroposophical Therapies
Treating physical and emotional symptoms in children and adults with natural therapies as indicated by Rudolf Steiner. The therapies are used separately or in combination to assist an individual overcome acute or chronic symptoms that may be related to environmental factors or developmental stages throughout life. To enquire contact Louise, Lorraine, Karen or Kate.

Prescriptions in Remedies and Home Healthcare

Rhythmical Massage
Lorraine Birse P: 0403 760 680 E: birse75@gmail.com Clinic: Camp Mountain

Therapeutic Eurythmy

Art Therapy
Kate Sharp P: 0402 884 205 E: sharpcatherine1@gmail.com

Animato 3/4 cello for sale
Will suit Class 3 student. Good condition, comes with bow and good quality strings. The cello does have a hard case, however the rollers are gone and the zip doesn't work. $350 please contact Carol carol.kleidon@hotmail.com.

Give The Gift of Music
Gift vouchers available for guitar lessons with experienced teacher and school parent.

Your child is now due for a dental check-up
We’ve improved our school-based Oral Health Service. Good dental health begins at home. That’s why we’re making changes to our school dental program to give all parents the opportunity to be involved in their child’s dental care.

What’s changing?
We now ask that a parent or guardian attend dental appointments with their child. To fit in with busy families, we are offering FREE dental treatment at Ferny Hills School Dental Clinic. That means you can now book an appointment for your child; you do not have to wait for us to arrange appointments through your child’s school.

How can I make an appointment?
Simply call our new telephone line – 1300 300 850 – to arrange an appointment at Ferny Hills School Dental Clinic. Or you may contact the clinic directly on 3851 2304.

Who can now attend?
ALL students 4 years of age through to year 10 Students in years 11 & 12, who have a current Centrelink Card, Healthcare Card or Pension Card
0 -3 year olds, whose parents have a current Centrelink Card, Healthcare Card or Pension Card
2 - 17 year olds, who are eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS).
To check your eligibility, visit the website at my.gov.au or phone 132011.
We look forward to welcoming you and your family soon. For more information, visit – http://www.health.qld.gov.au/metronorth/oral-health/
Contact Adriano for further details on 3855 9504 or email: aprigano@yahoo.com

Summer Holidays Kids Yoga @ Zen Space Samford
Children 4-7 yrs. ($16)
(Tuesday 13th Dec/ Tuesday 17th Jan) 11am-12pm
Children 8-12 yrs. ($18)
(Friday 16th Dec/ Friday 20th Jan) 11am-12.30pm
Call Kathryn for more details and to book 0434237397

Instruments for Sale
1/2 size cello - Cello excellent condition, bow and semi-hard case fair condition. Originally purchased from Animato for $1600. Selling for $500.
Danielle 0466 843 344.

Kiah Park 7 DAY HORSE CAMPS
3 – 10 December 2016
10 – 17 December 2016
17 – 21 December 2016 (4 Days)
31 December 2016 – 7 January 2017
7 – 14 January 2017
14 – 21 January 2017
School-aged children are engaged in the fresh excitement of spending time outdoors with a focus on horse riding through our stunning, hilly countryside. The facility is located in the Sunshine Coast hinterland and continues to be a favourite school holiday adventure for children from all over Australia.
Included is full accommodation in a safe environment where children develop independence and make lifelong friendships. Each child adopts a horse to ride and learns to care for their horse/pony. We follow an active and busy schedule to provide the children with a great range of outdoor fun, including challenge team activities, camp fires with damper roasting and a fun gymkhana at the climax of the week.
Camps are suitable for beginners through to advanced riders.
Bus available from Brisbane.
We hope to meet your young horse-lovers there!
Please contact Samantha for more information.
Phone (07) 5486 6166
Email info@kiahpark.com.au
Web www.kiahpark.com.au

Nature Tales Family Day Care
Steiner and community-based, warm and loving care for children from 6 weeks and onwards. Organic morning tea, cooking, storytelling, singing, gardening and craft included in daily program.
I am a mature-aged carer with many years’ experience caring for children of all ages and I am also a parent. I have a Blue Card, First Aid Certificate, Bachelor of Social Work and Certificate 3 in Children’s Services.
NOW TAKING BOOKINGS FOR JANUARY 2017. Pick-up and drop off available from SVSS. I am based in Dayboro.
Please call Emma Forsberg on 0400 826 991 for enquiries.