MEETING THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

The second article I spoke about last week refers to the load that is placed on many schools today to ‘prove’ that we are doing what we say we do. In our school the Faculties in Early Childhood, Primary and High School meet every week to share what we have done, what we are planning to do, to review how things are going. We spend a lot of our Professional Development sessions deepening our understanding of children’s needs in a contemporary world and seeing what we need to be doing to meet this.

At the College retreat last weekend one of the questions was how do we track a path through what one writer has called a ‘digital inferno’? When technology changes so rapidly how do we meet it in a way that can acknowledge the usefulness, and help students find a way to use it as a tool, if it is? One debate here is around what is useful and when does someone have the capacity to use it. Much of our education is around preparing individuals to find their way in the world.

The Departments of Education in various states, and also in other countries seem to have a different agenda. To be an effective educator teachers use a wide range of information in order to make professional decisions that enable them to meet their professional responsibilities. More and more schools are asked to generate, record and reflect on an enormous amount of data. This is called “evidence-based decision making”. Political and bureaucratic imperatives have increasingly focused on these measures, ones that are ‘objective’ and ones that can be counted, to see if schools are on the right track.

The workload that this places on schools and staff is extra-ordinary. What tends to suffer is simply the teaching. Compliance can take over from collegiality and collaboration. Compliance can take over from children.

We have done a lot of work last year to co-ordinate the data we collect and to reflect on the information in the parent surveys. We want to listen to how you see we are going. We aim to be effective as teachers, and really effective as a school, but we see the important part of this is the children, not compliance.

Where compliance requirements go to safety, we see them as vital, and also to focus on behaviours and student well-being. We also see the need to monitor and assess achievements the children make and how they are progressing. These are focused on the children and for us will be paramount in how we regard the work we do.

Both these points raised, last week on chores at home and this time ‘compliance over children’ are open to response, and I am interested to know your thoughts. Does it sound like we are on the right track?

John Davidson
**DRUM LESSONS**

As part of our Instrumental Music program, we are now offering drum lessons to High School students with Kieran Kuskopf. These will be run in half hour blocks on a Tuesday afternoon, on a rotating timetable between 1pm and 4.30pm.

For more information, please contact our Creative Arts Co-ordinator, Michelle Carey on 0403 803 198.

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**FREE PARENT WEBINAR - THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY**

Please find attached link to Queensland Independent Schools Parent’s Network (QISPN’s) next webinar - ‘The Importance of Play’.

[http://www.ttedsc.edu.au/Events/Pages/EventRegistration.aspx?NbnEventDateId=%7bc5611134-fda6-e611-9e79-005056b81031%7d](http://www.ttedsc.edu.au/Events/Pages/EventRegistration.aspx?NbnEventDateId=%7bc5611134-fda6-e611-9e79-005056b81031%7d)

How many parents lament the rise of screens and the resultant decline in children creating and engaging in their own play? The importance and power of play in a child’s development is profound, but children today are spending too little time immersing themselves in imaginary worlds or creating and directing their own fun. Dr Helen Street, the co-creator and chair of the internationally acclaimed Positive Schools Initiative, contends that the mental health problems now plaguing our youth can, at least in part, be explained by “our reliance on increasingly passive ways to be entertained”.

Dr Street, who is a mother of three children, has a background in applied social psychology and youth mental health and has worked extensively supporting mental health in schools and colleges since 1999. Dr Street will share her expertise and advice in this timely presentation for parents.

Due to popular demand, QISPN has chosen to continue to fund these webinars for 2017 and I encourage you to tune in to this one (on the night or later at your convenience). Don’t forget previous webinars are also available for viewing at any time on QISPN’s website.

Please feel free to provide feedback or suggestions at any time.

*Zoe Richardson (SVSS’s QISPN parent representative)*

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**REMINDER - SMOOZES FOR SALE**

Class 9 will be selling smoozes during first break every Tuesday and Thursday this term, except week 6 when they will be on camp. They will be selling them on the verandah of the Eurythmy room. $2 each.

*Many thanks for your support*

*Class 9*
**CLASS 7 NEWS**

Class 7 certainly hit the ground running this year. They arrived for their first day of school to learn they were to sing during the opening ceremony of the new buildings in front of the whole school and invited dignitaries. It is a testament to this class's confidence and ability that only with a short rehearsal with Karen were they able to do this so tunefully and with smiling faces. Even our two new students Caylin and Brandon participated as fully as they could without complaint.

More surprises were in store on the first day when they were reminded that we had a singing gig at Bellevue Nursing Home on the lofty heights of Arana Hills in week 2. The room was packed with elderly and infirm residents keen to experience the joy of children singing. This class were able to deliver a repertoire of 12 songs and a poem to the appreciative audience. A favourite was when they sang Waltzing Matilda and were joined by many residents. One students said "wow I counted 18 people singing with us!" They certainly made an impression on residents and staff and have been invited back any time for other performances. This was a wonderful opportunity for outreach into our community, which I think, needs be on our school agenda more often.

![Image of students singing](image)

At school, students have been immersed in the Medieval World during Main Lesson. The literature of the Middle Ages is particularly suitable for the transition of the twelve year old into adolescence. Later in the year, when most children are turning thirteen (yes Liam and Jasper I know you are already 13!), generally sees the birth of the intellect with the need to experiment and explore the world. The study of the Renaissance then comes to the fore. The 13-14 year old needs to question authority, (groan!!!) pushing the boundaries of what is known or allowed. Powers of reasoning are being exercised and judgments about the world are being formed. The student is developing the capacity to stand back from his/her own feelings and with this distance can come perspective. Woodwork, calligraphy, gardening and weekly science lessons in the High School physics lab are embraced by the class! The next two Main Lessons for this term are Algebra and The Human Being.

**Congratulations to Ethan Cook**, who has qualified for the Metropolitan North Swim meet. Ethan is very passionate about his swimming and puts in hours each week. We wish him well!

*Lydia Kelly*
A PASSIONATE SCHOOLING 30A
We continue the development of the spirit in childhood - at the end of last week’s edition it was noted that the use and understanding of the word ‘I’ becomes consolidated.

Children then gradually move into a more participatory consciousness (3-9 years) where they can gradually learn to separate their own feelings from those of others. At this stage children still have difficulty sorting out what is real and pretend, what is their own, and what belongs to others. Even a seven-year-old can enter so deeply into another person’s experience that the child may tell of the experience as if the child had had that experience him or herself.

The major learning modes of the child in holistic and early participatory consciousness are through imitation, because they relate so fully and easily to the experience of others and the world.

At the nodal point between 9 and 10 years, children feel their separation on a soul level. They are more certain that their feelings, thoughts, and intentions can be different from those of others. They no longer will necessarily assume others are just like them. They have a ‘self - experience’ as they move into sceptical consciousness between 9 to 14 years, where they begin to think for themselves in a new way. Children of this age and a little earlier seek teachers who have a reassuring strong wrong ‘inner authority’ who are in fact the ‘authors’ of their own lives and knowledge. Such teachers give children a feeling of security at this age of growing scepticism.

Next time we will continue with this section and the child at 14.

Compiled by Tricia Scott from “A Passionate Schooling” by Dr. Alduino Mazzone in collaboration with Susan Laing (Available from The Treehouse bookshop)

CRAFT NEWS
Greetings,
Next week we commence our Autumn craft. We will be wet felting in autumn colours in preparation for several projects. Come along and bring a towel please to make a beautiful piece of autumn toned felt that will be used for leaves, wings on pinecone fairies and an autumn leaf bookmark.

At next week’s craft, there will be no charge as the felt will be retained by Craft group and used for the next few projects. If you haven’t wet felted previously now is the time to come and learn, it is very simple and so satisfying.

Hope to see you next Wednesday after drop off at the Hub
See you next week,
The Craft Group Team
**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.

The Brisbane Branch of the Anthroposophical Society

Welcome to the Brisbane Branch of the Anthroposophical Society's first newsletter for 2017, I hope you enjoy reading it. Being the start of the year, it has events and workshops and study groups listed too keeping you well informed. Here is the link to click on to go to the newsletter: [https://goo.gl/8aIEHE](https://goo.gl/8aIEHE)

Monique Davies - Secretary - BBASinA
Ph 0414 291 491

Children Growing up with Technology: Managing Screen Time

Talk by Connie Grawert, Experienced Early Childhood educator and international teacher trainer.

What does it mean for children today growing up surrounded by media and information technology? The conditions of Childhood and of parenting have changed dramatically from one generation to the next. How do we understand the implications for our children for the future? What can we do to help and support them to grow into healthy and balanced people who are able to realise their full potential in light of the vast changes in the way we live?

This promises to be a lively and interactive, fun and informative session. All welcome including your family and friends. Held at the Birali Craft Shack Shop 6, 874 Beachmere Road, Beachmere (next to the United Petrol Station) 8.45am -10.45am on Wednesday 22nd February. No RSVP’s necessary.
Nature Tales Family Day Care
Holistic, nature-based, Steiner-inspired loving Family Day Care for children aged 6 weeks to 5 years. Steiner craft, painting, storytelling, songs, creative play and fun.

Vacancies currently available Tuesday through to Friday but filling up fast. Open 7am- 6.00 pm. CCB and CCR govt. accredited service.
School pick-up and drop-off available on request. Casual days available.

Carer with 21 years’ experience in Early Childhood field. Blue card and First Aid.
For inquiries call Emma Forsberg on 0400 826 991, or go to educator101.com.au for more information.

For Sale
Animato Arco 1/4 size violin. Fully re-strung less than 12 months ago, including 2 x 1/4 size bows and Animato hard case. $250. Call Judy on 0432 330 125.

Have you always wanted to know more about feltmaking?
One of the schools past parents, Wendy Bailye, is a very experienced Felt tutor and is running some special evening classes in Samford.

The Felt Studio. New Evening Classes
This year I am trialling some delightfully relaxed Monday evening classes to create small felt items. These evenings are designed for beginning felters or people who just want a lovely creative evening out. I am hoping to do it weekly if there is enough interest -end of Feb and March as a trial. We will be making different small things each week. Flat felt, tiny pods, flowers, simple jewellery. The cost will be $55 per evening including all materials and felting equipment. You just come along- no need to bring anything at all. Do bring a torch as we live on acreage! Bookings are essential.

Evening Class Dates:
Monday 20th Feb Evening felting- small projects Flat Felt and introduction to felting 7.00-10.00pm
Monday March 6th Evening felting- small projects Flowers 7.00-10.00pm
Monday March 13th Evening felting -small projects Pods and baskets 7.00-10.00pm
Monday 20th March -Evening felting -small projects Jewellery -including balls and dreadlocks 7.00-10.00pm

Hope you can join me! www.wendybailye.com email wendy@wendybailye.com for details. I also run weekend classes for making specific larger projects. My calendar of events is on the website.

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, Karen or Kate.

Prescriptions in Remedies and Home Healthcare
Louise Schnitzhofer
P 0439 896 025
E louise@seasalthomeopathy.com.au
W seasalthomeopathy.com.au
Clinic: Wights Mountain

Therapeutic Eurythmy
Karen Foster
P 3851 2550
W livingmovementnaturaltherapy.com.au
Clinic: Arana Hills

Art Therapy
Kate Sharp
P 0402 884 205
E sharpcatherine1@gmail.com
W katesharpartstherapy.com
Studio: Highvale
**Kids Acting Classes now in Samford**

Does your child love performing? The Australian Acting Academy Brisbane’s best acting school for young people is now open in Samford. Collaboration, creating, devising and performing are all part of this unique program specialising in Devising Theatre, Performing for Green Screen and fostering creativity in kids. Your child will flourish under our "safety net" philosophy, which creates total support for the ensemble and supports each child to take creative risks. Your child is welcome to come along to a $10 trial class on Tuesday 7 February from 4.45-6.15pm at the Farmers Hall. Call to book on 0412 728 628 or you can check out our program and full list of locations here: [http://www.actingacademy.com.au/](http://www.actingacademy.com.au/)

**Your help please**

The property in Camp Mountain, which is the home of Rose Blossom Children, is going up for sale next week, in the hands of a local real estate agent. Our aim is to remain here as tenants to a new owner who has an interest in the positive social impact of our work, based at the property.

This is our 6th year of offering a home-based setting (10 children to 2 carers) to care for children up to 5 years of age. The youngest child came to us when he was 19 months old and this year started in pre-prep. Jocelene, his Mother was 8 years old when I first met her, arriving at the school 21 years ago with our son Daniel joining class 3. Connie Grawert was our first teacher and Connie is now our mentor and supporter of this child care facility.

The Rose Blossom Children’s setting is home to families choosing an unregulated, nature-based, calm and loving environment following Rudolf Steiner’s indications for the development of the young child. "Allow children to proceed in their own time. The more time they have to develop fundamental capacities, the stronger they will be."

This property is ideal for our childcare and our [My Food Garden](#) business operated by my husband Peter. Peter and I are willing to take a long-term rental lease from a new owner of the property. We have been at this location for 3 years and the property reflects the care and attention we have given it through our love of the land and the use of our gardening skills and biodynamic practices. The home is large enough to provide a comfortable and warm facilitation of homely tasks that surround the children while they play and grow and is also our family home and home office.

Please contact either Vicki or Peter Kearney (3289 3602/[0401 156 532](tel:0401156532)) for more information.

**Homeopathic consults**

Cyena is a new mum at SVSS this year (daughter, Sage, is in Star Gold) and is a Homeopath with over 8 years’ experience in practice. She works with families who prefer to use natural medicines to help with a wide range of ailments. Homeopathic medicine is completely non-toxic and acts gently, allowing children’s bodies to recover without strain on their immune system. Homeopathy is holistic, taking into account the physical, mental and emotional aspects of the child's experience. Cyena offers consultations by phone and at her home clinic in Gaythorne. Call 0418 792 827.

**Honey Pepper’s Café**

Have you been to Honey Pepper’s yet? We are right on the Samford creek and feature a menu full of yummy wholesome food, with just a few wicked treats. We’d love to welcome members of the school community down and offer you a special Steiner School Family bonus of either-two for the price of one ice cream sundae’s, or kids meal. We have dairy and refined sugar free options, as well as gluten free. If you find yourself with a babysitter and its date night, we have live music and happy hours on Friday and Saturday. You can book online at [www.honeypeppers.com.au/book](http://www.honeypeppers.com.au/book) or ph: 3289 6850. Look for us on Facebook or Instagram, with love from Dave, Ness, Ruby & Toby.