

### Term 2 Week 2

#### NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Dear SVSS Community,

I was reflecting on how the past weeks may be what it is like to experience an earthquake, when there is a seismic shift of your reality and things are literally swept out from underneath your feet and the world doesn't seem as solid or reliable as it previously was. However, with every earth tremor or change in your life, you have an opportunity to experience something new. It may be a realisation about yourself, how resilient you are or how quickly you can adapt to change, or to reflect on how you can change yourself to be stronger, more adaptable and to know you can rely on yourself, no matter what. It also helps you realise what is most important in your life. Your child's smile, the garden, cooking a nutritious meal for the family, connecting with loved ones and realising how much they mean to you; the list can go on and is as individual as you are.

So, my contribution this week is to ask us all to reflect. As we are now in the transition from these beautiful autumn days heading into the winter spiral of the earth becoming more quiet, as the mornings arrive later and the sun sets earlier, it is the perfect time to have this inner perceptive mood.



We have been receiving some wonderful photos of what the children are doing at home and we want to share some of these with you. Keep up the great work and keep us informed of your challenges and your successes. We can't to have all our students back with us again!

In world tribulation, times of trial,  
If we can nurture in the soul's  
Deep inmost core the strength to sense  
The power of spirit beings, such heart-  
striving will  
Keep life's reins within our grasp.

*Rudolf Steiner*

Stay safe and healthy everyone and thank you for making our community special.

*Tracey Taylor*  
School Director



As we all strive to re-imagine our usual approach to education, we need to remember to be kind to ourselves.

The primary role for parents is to love and support their children.

## THE EARLY CHILDHOOD – CARING AND LEARNING AT HOME PROGRAM

It has long been the desire of all teachers that parents connect to the curriculum more fully because it is such a powerful influence for the child, the message they receive is *you care and about this as much as my teacher*.

Well we all jumped in together, last week – Parents and Teachers Hand-In Hand!

*Whatever you think you can do or believe you can do, begin it. Action has magic, grace and power in it - Goethe*

One parent asked me during a phone conversation “Umm, if I don’t do all the things you’ve suggested in the program, does it matter?” to which I responded humorously, “Yes it’s fine, your daughter will still become a lawyer, a scientist, a teacher, a mother...she won’t fall behind or fail kindergarten”



*The Kindy was turned into the curriculum development office*

The teachers tasked with delving into the essence of the Steiner early childhood curriculum, and, then within a great experiment in communication, our families connected with that same essence and lovingly gave it to their children in a **living** form. This, for us early childhood educators, has been the silver lining of the Covid-19 cloud!

Here are some of the silver linings - the heartfelt responses and feedback - not only from our parents, but from the EC teachers describing experiences of collating the curriculum, receiving it, and, delivering it. AND... the photos of the children speak more loudly than any words as testament of how powerful this curriculum is, that it’s truthful gift can be handed from teacher to parent to child just through a weekly document! Magic!

### From Teachers ...

*“I’m getting to know a different side of my families that I wouldn’t have known, I’m able to start to view my families in a different light”*

*“I’m feeling really nourished by these deeper connections to the families”*

*“Feedback from the parents has been reaffirming that what we do in the classroom can be presented in a slightly different way, giving the parents the lens of how we view the children”*

*“I am moving into another next level of appreciation, really enjoying learning the deeper aspects of what we do, I have a greater respect for this education”*



From parent feedback, it's been establishing a **Rhythm**, and the weekly **Story** seem to be the most prominent elements being appreciated and connected to. From us early childhood educators, this experience (I hope I can speak for all of us as a community) has been worth more than a year's worth of Parent nights!

#### From Parents -

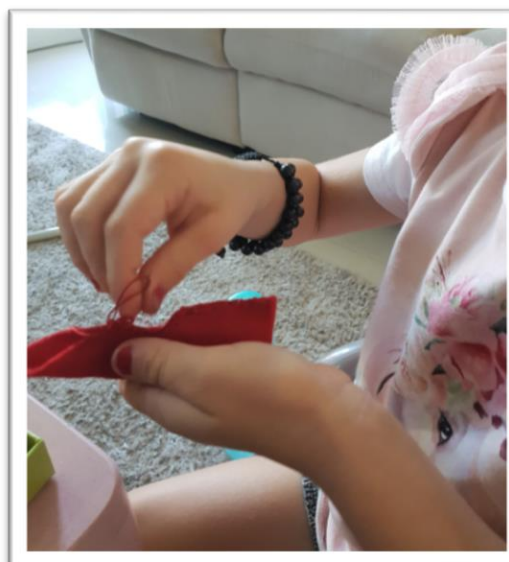
*"No, we're not at work but we sit together for lunch everyday"*

*"I'm really enjoying being more involved in the children's education and having the opportunity to understand the Steiner curriculum more thoroughly"*

*"The information about (being comfortable with) being bored was a good starting point"*

*"The information has been so clear, accessible, interesting, we have all loved it"*

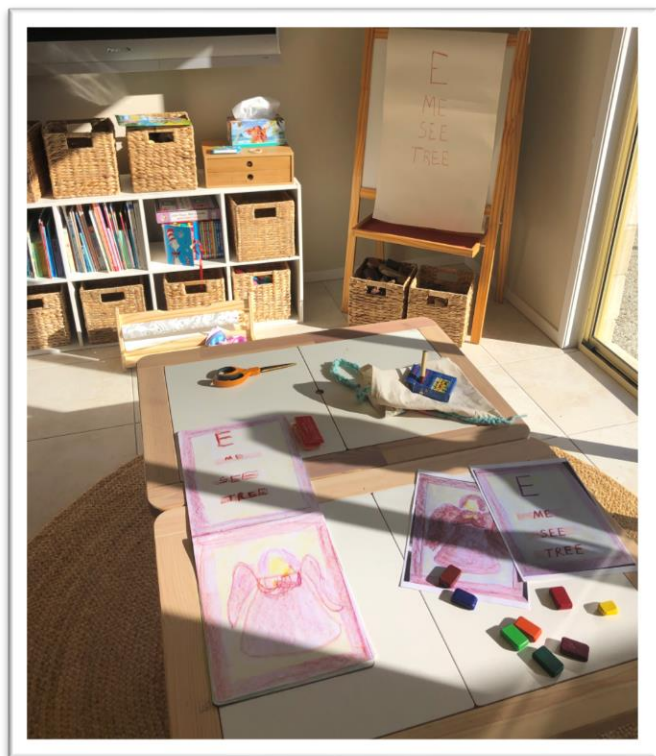
In Week One's Program we chose the **Little Straw Broom** story to introduce the children to the notion of Tidying-Up. Little Gnomes Red Hat and Blue Hat live together under the roots of the tree, their house is a mess with *seeds, seeds, everywhere* (song), until Little Gold hat visits and teaches them how to *sweep it all up* (song).







## PRIMARY SCHOOL – LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS AT HOME



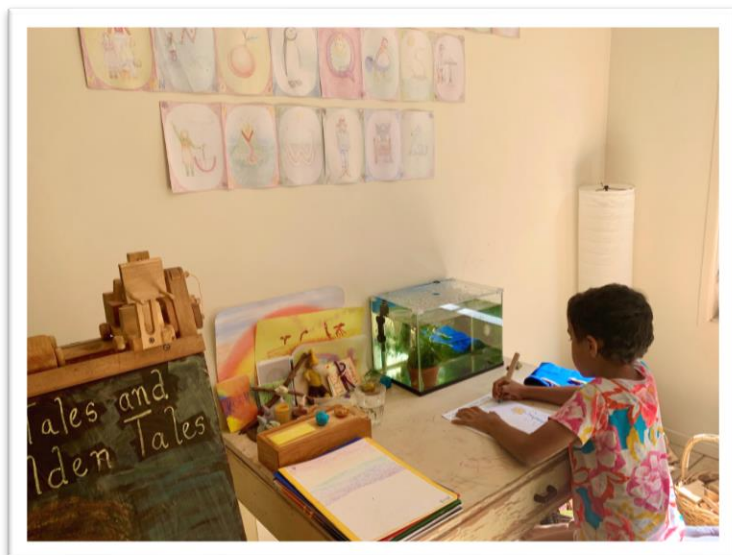
### Feedback Fuzzies from Class 2 Parents:

I have been very impressed by everything [my child] has accomplished and what she's currently learning (and retaining). My biggest surprise came from watching her copy a picture however. She didn't simply copy it, she understood how all the elements interacted with each other. That is something I've seen a lot of design students at Uni struggle with before.

*My biggest success was taking our time and not rushing, thus not bringing any stress to the room. We just completed what felt right without worrying about what everyone else might be achieving. This was a win for me.*

German! I laughed a lot when we listened to the first audio file. I had no idea how to support this aspect. I asked [my child] if he knew what it was about and he smiled coyly. Then a few minutes later he said, 'Oh this is the hungry caterpillar' and answered prompts about the foods the caterpillar was eating... it dawned on me that my little guy who NEVER talks about German, showed (real) comprehension.

*Our biggest success was creating an inviting home school space and setting the routine rhythm and flow. It really paid off to chat with [my child] and ask her details about what happens in class, and how things are done, so along with your information, I was able to set things up for her in a familiar way she would really enjoy.*



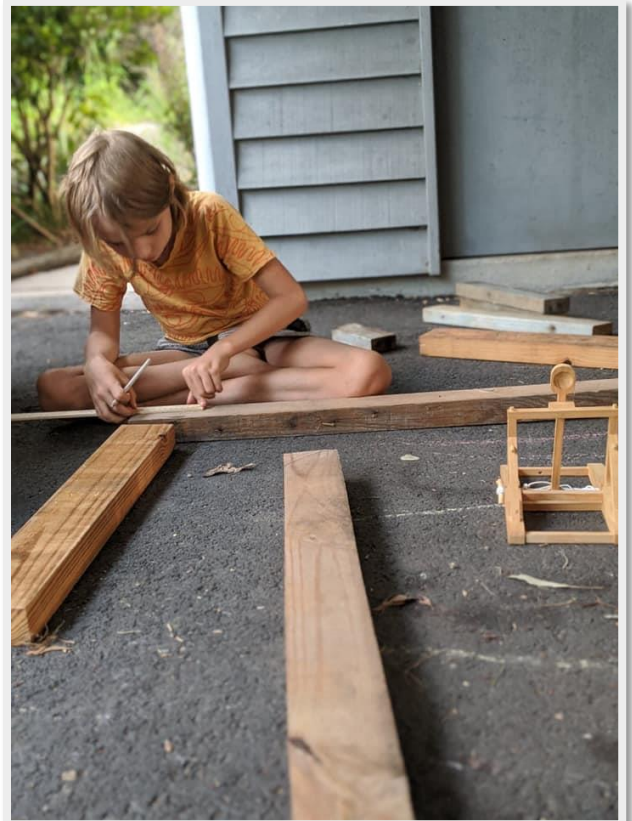
*Class 2 child at his table doing his morning work.*



***STUDENTS UNDERTAKE THEIR LESSONS  
– INSIDE AND OUTSIDE – AND WITH  
FAMILY PETS!***



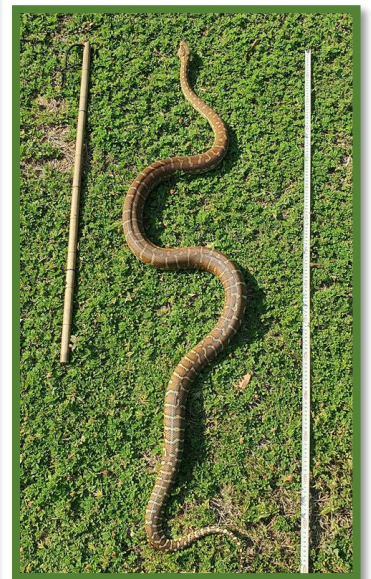
*A Class 4 task was to create a Nature Mandala*



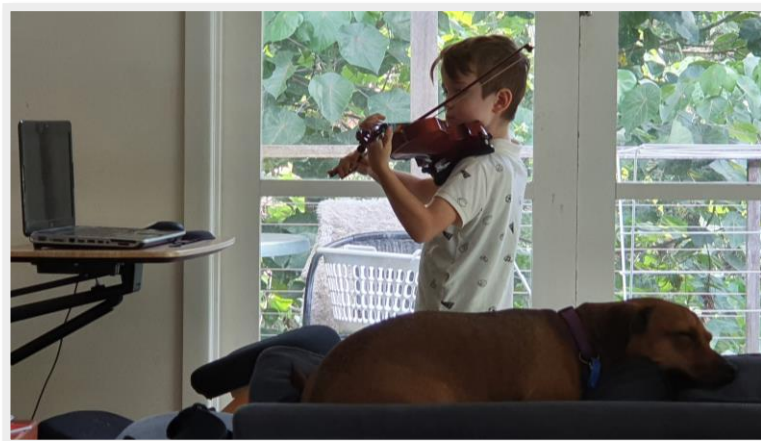
*Class 3 Main Lesson*



*Class 6 Recorder lesson - "Hey Jim Along"*

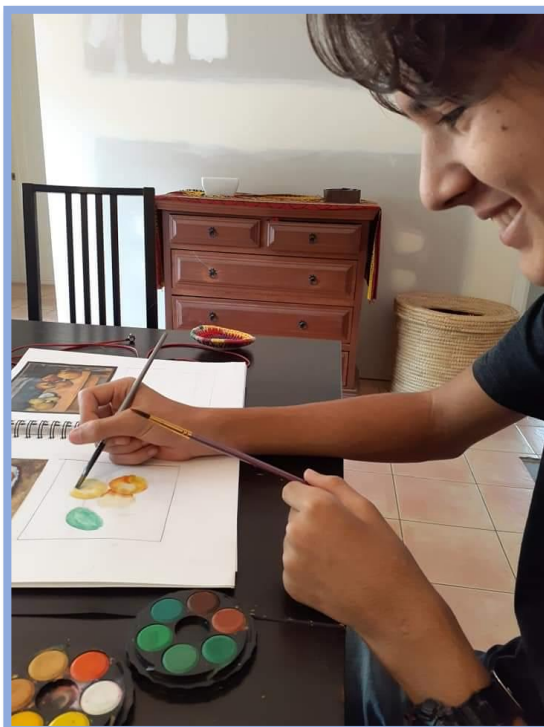
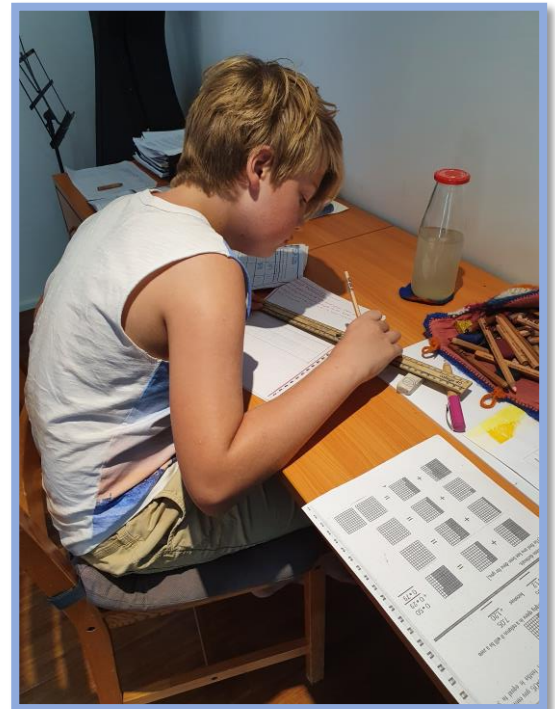


*Online violin lesson*





**LEARNING AT HOME -  
CLASSES 6, 7 AND 9**





## OUTDOOR EDUCATION WHILE LEARNING AT HOME

Outdoor Education, when broken down into its simplest form, covers 2 main areas; there is learning about the outdoors and then there is learning while in the outdoors, and both of these can still occur while at home.

The Coronavirus has certainly disrupted a lot of the aspects of our regular routines, who would have thought that we could be faced with the prospect of the majority of our students Learning at Home? Yet here we are.



Disrupted routines can be very challenging, but it can also present wonderful opportunities for change and growth. Even though we can't have school camps and excursions in the near future, there are still many aspects of Outdoor Education that can be conducted at home.

The challenge of restricted travel and social distancing gives us the opportunity to slow down, spend more time at home, and literally discover our own backyards.

So, what does this mean for now?

Unfortunately, due to the combined impacts of bushfires, flooding, and now the Corona Virus,

some OE programs for 2020, have had to be cancelled. Some programs have been modified and pushed back to later in the year, when hopefully the current restrictions have been lifted; and some programs are being translated into opportunities that can be experienced at home.

If your child was meant to be on camp in Term 2 and we are still in a Learning at Home setting, then your teacher will be in touch with some ideas and activities to share the learnings that were incorporated into that camp.

But whether or not your child was meant to be on a camp, it's a great time of year to get out and experience, discover and wonder in our own backyards. Can you set up a tent in your backyard? Can you lie down on the grass and observe the insects, or look up at a night sky and watch the stars? Can you go for a short walk, or bike ride (for exercise), or get up early and watch a sunrise?

See if you can find a butterfly. We can all learn from the butterfly. After a period of transformation and struggle it will emerge from its chrysalis with an amazing display of growth and freedom.



I hope you enjoy the new opportunities that can be presented through these challenging times, and until we see you back at school, I wish you and your family health and happiness.

*Simon Roberts*  
(OE Coordinator)