

The Craft Resurgence

The Craft group, sponsored by the P and F, is resuming its activities on Wednesdays 9.00 am to 11.30 am at United Church, Charles St, Castlecrag. Everyone is welcome to come and work on a range of craft activities that are personally inspiring, support school activities such as the Fair and build community over the classes. We will be highlighting its work and the role of Craft in the school curriculum over the coming weeks. As a starter, it seemed appropriate to revisit this article which ran in our Newsletter a few years ago, and was later published in the national professional journal Teacher.

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Knitting's Back!!

Have you heard? Knitting's in, again!

Once consigned to the Country Women's Association and the retirement village, twenty-something's have rediscovered knitting with a vengeance: new patterns and new colours are promoted for the youthful wielders of needle and yarn. The Clock Hotel in Surry Hills, one of inner Sydney's funkier places for drinking, eating and meeting, now has a Tuesday night knitters' group where young women and men, swap patterns and down the odd schooner or three. Many primary schools are rediscovering the joys and value of knitting and are putting it back into their Craft programs.

So what's the big deal? At Glenaeon, knitting has never been **out**: from the beginning of Class 1, our children have always made their own needles then started on an exciting journey of knitting a variety of useful and decorative items, from blankets to scarfs and toys. Two needle knitting continues in Class 2, and then in Class 5 the complicated 4 needle knitting is the challenge. Each child makes a range of items, while the talented and strong-willed can produce an impressive array of extra products.

For Steiner-Waldorf schools around the world, knitting is not a trend that comes and goes. Dr. Rudolf Steiner suggested knitting as a fundamental skill for developing not just a healthy will, dexterity and fine motor coordination, but also a foundation for clear thinking. Sound strange? It did in 1919, but since then extensive research into brain activity has found that the centres connected to the tips of the fingers are adjacent to the centres that are active when we perform mathematical operations. While knitting will not make you more intelligent, it may sharpen and strengthen your natural thinking powers.

The rhythmic crossing that is the basis of knitting has a significant impact in helping the growing child to cross the midlines that are so important in the incarnation process.

A recent book celebrates the resurgence of knitting: **Zen and the Art of Knitting: Exploring the links between knitting, spirituality and creativity** (Adams Media Corporation, USA, 2002). Author Bernadette Murphy takes the reader on a journey through the new world of knitting and its contemporary practitioners. No less than 23 pages are devoted to the knitting program, identical to ours, at Highland Hall, the Los Angeles Waldorf School and one of our sister schools across the Pacific.

And the results? All our crafts, including knitting, sewing and crochet, aim to harmonise, balance, and "fine tune" our dexterity. The results later in life may be unexpected: former Glenaeon student Dr Tom Thorvaldson, who knitted and sewed all through school is now Registrar in Surgery at John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle. He says that one of the impulses to his choosing surgery as a specialty came from an incident when he was an undergraduate: one of his surgeon mentors complimented him on the neatness of his stitching of surgical wounds. He learned his stitching at Glenaeon of course, and now applies the skill to human flesh. Who knows where else our knitters may apply their talents in the future?

*Andrew Hill
Collegiate Chair*

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P and F Dinner Dance

BOOK YOUR CLASS TABLES NOW!

One of the highlights of last year's social calendar was the Leap Year Latin night, an evening of dancing to great Latin music. This year it's **All that Jazz: Glenaeon Jazz Club**. **Put the evening of Friday March 20th in your diary.**

Class 9 is hosting the night of dining and dancing to Big Band jazz with **Sussudio**. The evening is a wonderful opener to the year, bringing the community together and raising some much needed funds for school projects. We are hoping each class will be represented by at least one table on the night: your Class Parents will be contacting you for bookings. Alternatively you can contact Jacqui Landis on jacqui.landis@optusnet.com.au for details. Cost is \$30.00 per person.

Andrew Hill
Collegiate Chair

School Calendar

Important dates to remember

March/April 2009	EVENT
Thursday, 12 th March	SSO Concert, Opera House
9 th -13 th March	Class 6 Camp
8 th -14 th March	Class 9 Camp
Monday, 16 th March, 9am – 3pm	Class 11 – Ancient History Excursion – Archaeology Study Day
16 th – 20 th March	Class 12 Mid-Course Exams
Friday, 20 th March	ISD Touch Football Championships
Friday, 20 th March	<i>"All that Jazz - Glenaeon Jazz Club"</i> P&F Dinner, 7.00pm – Sylvia Brose Hall
19-22 March	RSSA Conference, Middle Cove campus
Wednesday 25 th March	Kindergarten Harvest Festival, Castlecrag – 11am
Thursday, 26 th March	Information Open Evening, 7.30pm – Sylvia Brose Hall
Friday, 27 th March	Harvest Festival, Castlecrag
Friday, 27 th March	Coffee Shop, Castlecrag, 2.30pm – 4.30pm
Saturday, 28 th March	Sydney Lyre Ensemble – 3.00pm, Christophorus House
Thursday, 2 nd April	Class 11 & 12 – Art Gallery NSW - ArtExpress Talk, 9am - 2pm

Campus News

Dear friends,
We warmly invite you to a very special concert on:
Saturday, 28th March.
Please see below for details and advise by email or phone your attendance:

The Sydney Lyre Ensemble

performs at Christophorus House

on

Saturday, 28th March 2009

Afternoon tea at 2.15pm - concert begins at 3pm
In the Hostel lounge, 396 Pacific Highway, Hornsby
(Street parking or opposite in Old Berowra Road)



Featuring works from

The Renaissance, the 17th Century,

Japanese folk music and Colin Tanser (contemporary)

We welcome residents, family and friends!

Donation contribution \$5 – includes afternoon tea

RSVP Monika – (02) 9476 3161 ext 111

MARKET DAY AT GLENAEON CASTLECRAG

Friday 27th March 2.30-4.30pm

Dear Families and Friends,
Please come and join us at our March Market Day for a delightful afternoon of gorgeous stalls full of toys, clothes and wondrous things. The Coffee Shop will be selling delicious healthy cakes and slices, Frubi icypoles, popcorn and fresh coffee and tea.

Please bring along your friends to help us welcome Autumn and raise funds for the blossoming Glenaeon Preschool. We look forward to sharing the afternoon with you.

Hope Pitman

Glenaeon Preschool Parent Committee

STALLS AVAILABLE – MARKET DAY, CASTLECRAG – 27TH March 2009

If you would like to have a stall at this event please contact Hope Pitman on:

jandhpitman@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Members of the school community with children at the Middle Cove campus may remember there was an unusual incident last year where a senior student waiting at the bus stop in Greenfield Avenue was the victim of an unprovoked attack by a young man working on a building site nearby. The family involved have asked that the school community be advised that on the 5th of March the matter came before the Court and the young man (who was also a minor) was released with a formal caution on his record. The family also advised that the young man expressed remorse and regret at the incident which was linked to some behavioural/medical issues. As far as the family are concerned the matter is now closed and they have expressed their thanks to the school and the school community for their support.

*Sarah Sandberg
Daily Operations Manager*

CASTLECRAG PLAYGROUND

For safety reasons we would like to keep the two playgrounds at Castlecrag separate before and after school as well as during school hours.

Could the Kindergarten children please stay in the Kindergarten playground and Class 1 and 2 in their designated area.

Due to supervision issues this will not apply to After School Care.

*Jan Fowler
School Manager*

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP! **RSSA CONFERENCE BILLETING** **19-22nd March 2009**

A BIG **"THANK YOU"** to those families who have offered to help accommodate Conference attendees. Billets are **still urgently** required on the abovementioned dates.

There will be only a few delegates arriving on the evening of the 19th March and they will be delivered to your door. The remainder will be coming in (mostly by plane) on the morning of the 20th requiring accommodation for that evening and that of the 21st March. Please advise Susie on 9417 3193 the number of people you are able to accommodate.

Your offers of kindness are greatly appreciated, enabling us to show the wonderful generosity and support within the Glenaeon community.

*Jan Fowler
School Manager*

Isis Parent And Family Craft Room

Isis has been chosen to represent parent craft. Isis is the Egyptian Goddess who embodies **wisdom, magic and nurturing** - a great expression for craft. We have started fairy tale standing dolls and have plans for a forest full of characters.

Coming up: needle felting, natural dyeing and basket weaving with recycled materials. If anyone would like to conduct a workshop for any kind of craft please let us know. Donations of any material, wool and pure wool jumpers greatly appreciated. We also need a sewing machine in working order to keep in the craft room. If you have an unwanted sewing machine please contact Heather at hevtay54@hotmail.com mob: 0419 225211 or drop off at the Castlecrag office.

We need the skill and help of parents to help teach sewing skills and to develop confidence in untapped craft abilities. If your sewing skills are a bit rusty, you could still come for a chat and offer your experience of being a Steiner parent, get to know the parents in the younger years & build up the community. The craft group meets:

Wednesdays 9:00am-11:30am

(at United Church on Charles Street (across from Edith St. that runs behind the Castlecrag campus). We appreciate any help you can offer.

Inner West Group contact Sarah: 9802 2744

Michael & Wendy Dacre
RAVENTALES
VOYAGES OF WONDER

...that carry you to other worlds...
...that transport you to lands of endless dreaming...

vivid words and haunting song

Blue room www.raventales.co.uk

Kamaroi Steiner School
220, Forest Way, Belrose
Sat March 14th 7.30

Tickets \$25, \$20 concession, \$12 students
from Sherryl at Kamaroi 9450 1651, or email joyeday@hotmail.com
suitable for adults and children 9+

ALL THAT JAZZ

featuring 'Sussudio'

Glenaeon's Jazz Club

www.myspace.com/bigbandsussudio

Friday, March 20th

7pm - 10.30pm

Sylvia Brose Hall

\$30 per head (fundraiser)

Includes dinner & welcome cocktail

BYO

'Sussudio' is a high level community band, playing big band hits from the libraries of Glenn Miller, Count Basie, Buddy Rich, Phil Collins, Gordon Goodwin and Bob Florence as well as original arrangements and compositions.

Featuring an amazing line-up of young up-and-coming jazz stars, the band covers all tastes and moods, from old style big band classics from the World War 2 dance band era, through to Sinatra classics and on to modern funk, rock and pop songs.



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