

COMMUNITY VISIONING

Together we can build community, open to growth, nurtured through love and commissioned to the engagement of "head, heart and hands".



DEAR ALL

Thank you for the many life-giving ways you support the journey of the children, their families and staff.

A very big well done to all involved in the Celtic Dance celebrations, from the preparation to the activities of the evening. Congratulations to the Class 2 dancers and primary classes for their beautiful music.

Our School Open Day Fair will be held on Saturday 19 May. The day will include activities, stalls and presentations, celebrating the wonder and joy of community in action. Please check-in at the Hub if you are able to give some time to supporting the day.

The transformation of our physical school environment continues. Extensive work on the front Primary and Early Childhood playgrounds will soon begin. The restoration of the school roof is complete. Your support and understanding of the scope of onsite work during this stage in the school buildings and grounds upgrade and development is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for the attention given to the school dress code and the colour and joy this brings to the classrooms, the playgrounds, the children's social and academic experiences and learning. The dress code is outlined again below for your reference.

Thank you also for the support given to monitoring the children and traffic at the

front of the school at drop off and pick up times. There are still some spaces on the roster; Thursday 2.00-2.30pm and Friday 8.15-8.45am and 2.50-3.20pm. Please note again the safe driving and parking reminder for your reference below.

There is a great deal of amazing activity occurring across the school. The updates on our school website and posts on Facebook are great ways to engage with them and share our story ongoing.

OTHER DATES TO NOTE

Tuesday March 27:

Perth Waldorf School: Secondary School Talk 7pm

Thursday March 29:

Easter Festival - celebrated during the school day with the children and teachers

Thursday 5th April:

WCSSCA AGM 9am. Fathering Group 6pm

Tuesday 10th April:

WCSS Council AGM

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REMINDERS

- At Kiss 'n' Drive times, please proceed to the furthest bay available, towards the Nollamara Avenue end of the bays. If there is no bay available, there are options to park further away. Stopping on the other side of the road to have children alight and cross the road is extremely dangerous. Double parking and verge parking are also not safe options for the children. A big thank you to all safe and considerate road users.

- Clothing is to be plain in colour without any printing, advertising, numbers, pictures or caricatures. Rainbow colours are suggested. Natural fibres such as wool or cotton are most beneficial for children. Black is not to be worn. Following the "colours of the day" guide is recommended, but not mandated:

- MONDAY: BLUE
- TUESDAY: RED
- WEDNESDAY: YELLOW
- THURSDAY: ORANGE
- FRIDAY: GREEN

For sun protection, tops must cover the shoulders and upper arms. Children may keep sunscreen for their own use in their bags. Midriffs must be covered. Jewellery must not pose a distraction or possibility of injury. Make-up and

nail polish must not be worn to school. Shoes suitable for the range of activities undertaken at school, including running and jumping, must be worn. Shoes that are not held securely to the foot, such as scuffs Crocs and slip-ons, are not suitable. For woodworking sessions, enclosed shoes are required. Appropriate length shorts may be worn in warmer weather. For example, the length of shorts should fall on or below the tips of your child's fingers, when they are standing with their arms by their sides. All children must wear a hat when outdoors. Students without hats will not be allowed to play outside. Wide brim hats are suggested for sun protection, and those that protect the back of the neck are highly recommended. (*WCSS Parent Handbook*)

OUR VISION

Working from the indications of Rudolf Steiner, we strive to educate the whole being of each child in head, heart, and hands. We envision this education set within a community guided by goodness, beauty, and truth. Further, we seek to plant the seeds for our students to enter the changing world with purpose, as self-directed adults, with a lifelong love of learning, who are intellectually and spiritually free,

socially responsible, and emotionally balanced. (WCSS Vision Statement) Within this vision we strive as a staff and parent community body to offer:

- A warm, welcoming learning environment
- The nurturing and respect for self, others and nature
- The building of confidence through a growth mindset
- Opportunity to develop the ability to persist and complete tasks
- Holistic learning, engaging the head, heart and hands
- Dynamic and artistic teaching and learning of academic content: math, literacy, languages, history and earth sciences
- Exploration through the strings program, fine handwork, drawing, painting, sculpture and woodwork
- Specialist movement programs, including Bothmer, Eurythmy and Bluearth

We are truly grateful for your wonderful presence, the gifts of your children and each other, as together we witness and realise our vision each day.

Very best wishes,

*Gerard Tonti-Filippini,
School Administrator*

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

GUNGURRA AND SUNFLOWER KINDYS have embraced the sultry Bunuru weather by gardening with gusto.

Beginning with compost piles combining carbon and nitrogen the children could see the ingredients which break down (with help from our garden creatures) into soil. What starts out as stinky food waste

and straw turns into lovely soil.

We discovered worms, soldier fly maggots, slaters and some yet to be identified other composting creatures. Worms were collected and tended by gentle curious hands. 'Oh, they're so soft and cool'. 'Which end is it's head?'

From these compost piles we have estab-

lished straw bale garden beds into which we planted leafy greens, fennel and cucumber. The potato patch is also on its way to producing some yummy potato goodness two months from now. Make sure as you pass our vegetable beds to give thanks to small creatures who do so much good works for us!



CLASS NEWS

CLASS 2 CELTIC DANCE LEAD UP

The children were in high spirits awaiting the Celtic Dance and practiced with the orchestra each morning of the week prior. It felt very special to have such a brilliant orchestra playing for us, and how beautifully Class 2 have been encouraged and supported by the older children at the school in preparation for this festival.

Many of the children playing in the orchestra have come to the children in Class 2 to say how well they are doing the dances. This has meant a lot to the class!

These weeks have also been cause for reflection; remembering this time last year and how I watched Stephen's class practice and dance and how I wondered at their dexterity and timing and memory. Four seasons have brought to our children great maturity in their memory, timing and

dexterity and they are showing just how much our children develop and grow in these early years of primary school.

I am immensely proud of each child's effort, concentration, attitude and excitement.

It has been a great three weeks for us!

*Renee
Class 2 Teacher*



INCREDIBLE FESTIVAL CLASS 2

WCSS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

DEAR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS,

Please join us for our AGM on Thursday 5th April at 9am in the Hub. You will hear about the activities of WCSSCA in 2017 and can share in some lovely home baked morning tea.

SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS

We have registered for Coles Sports for Schools for 2018. If you have vouchers please drop them into the box at the Hub.

POSITIONS VACANT

WCSSCA are seeking a Communications Coordinator and a Catering Coordinator, or two, or three. So if you love words or food please contact us at wcssca@wcss.wa.edu.au to discuss how you could contribute.

We are also calling on any woodworkers in the community to create a "Community Hub" sign for our Hub.

All hours count toward FCS.

OPEN DAY FAIR

Save the date for our 2018 Open Day Fair to be held on Saturday 19th May. More information to come!

*Melissa Jay, WCSSCA Secretary,
WCSSCA pigeonhole in the School
Office. 0417 977 103
wcssca@wcss.wa.edu.au*

SHOP NEWS

Golden Threads is offering some wonderful pre-loved sterling silver and gemstone jewellery that we are lucky enough to have on consignment. Mostly pendants, but also some necklaces, bracelets, rings and earrings. Gemstones include peridot, garnet, amethyst, citrine, labradorite, moonstone and topaz, to name a few. Prices vary for this unique, quality jewellery, and layby is available. Please feel welcome to come and have a browse, be quick though, as this special jewellery is available for a limited time only.

I am currently setting up a "take what you like" pre-loved clothing and shoes station out the front of Golden Threads. Let's recycle our Eurythmy shoes, school t-shirts, and child and adult clothing to reduce waste, benefit the environment, and reduce our personal carbon footprint.

Clean, wearable donations are welcome, please only donate items that still have life in them, and feel free to take items that you can use. At the end of the year any excess clothing will be donated to the local op shop to benefit the wider community.

A huge thank you to everyone who responded to my call out for volunteers.

All mornings shifts are now covered, however I do not have any afternoon shift volunteers. 2.30pm to 4ish pm. Please let me know if you can help.

With love to all,

Jane Fisher, Shop Manager



CRAFT

Craft Group is on every Wednesday morning in the Hub after drop off. Whether you are a novice or working on a project already drop by to share crafting camaraderie!

SUSTAINABILITY

The WCSS Sustainability Group consists of parents and staff. We are a Waste-Wise school, and would like to see this progressing even more in 2018. If there are any parents or school community members who may like to be a part of this group please email Melissa at melissa.jay@outlook.com.au.

Your participation can be as small or as large as you like but you will definitely be welcomed with open arms. Every little bit of involvement is really appreciated, and is such an essential area to be a part of for each and every one of us living on the planet.

Thank you,

Sustainability Group



Many thanks to our Craft Group for the numerous handmade items for the Celtic Dance raffle - the children were thrilled with these beautiful surprises!

An Easter Perspective

It is at this point, half way through the term that the Kindergarten teachers turn their thoughts to Easter and what that means for their families. Generally we tend to have a connection to Easter through; our own Christian faith experience, a historical understanding, a pagan connection, a non Christian overview or, if you are like my husband, an atheist's appreciation of the excuse to eat more chocolate. But what does it mean in a Steiner school and how, if at all, do we bring this to our youngest in the community, the kindergarten child?

Easter can be such a complex subject and central to the heart of many, including myself. What I offer is not to diminish the Easter experience or to raise it to something that does not already live within you, but rather to offer a perspective, a space for contemplation and reflection.

Easter as a Christian festival is the festival of resurrection. The theme of resurrection is however central to many pre-Christian cultures of the world; Egypt, Greece, Persia and the Celtic lands of Europe to name but a few. We know that many pagan festivals were appropriated into Christianity as a way of smoothing the path of conversion. But what if there is a deeper picture? A story that lives in the mythology of the world, that goes to the heart of who we are as spiritual beings. In pre-Christian times humanity had a deep connection with the Earth. There was an intimacy with the life cycle not only of the land and livestock, but also of man himself. Death was an acknowledged and embraced part of life (unlike what in today's world can be seen as a detachment from death and the aging process). There was a spiritual knowing that death was not the end and this was represented through the festival of autumn (yes autumn, not spring). It was the time when one observed the plants wither and die as one knew that we all must in the end. Within the mystery schools that bridged mythology and history, there was an understanding of the body, soul and spirit of man. An initiation known as the "temple sleep" was a process in which the initiate left his/her body and travelled in soul for 3 days and nights witnessing the immortality of the soul and the wonder of the cosmos. This three day "death" and "resurrection" (returning in full consciousness of the experience) is a story repeated throughout many pre-Christian cultures.

So does our pre-Christian heritage devalue the Christian experience? I do not believe so. Throughout history we have foreshadowing and heralding of that which is yet to come. But what is the significance of the Resurrection of Golgotha in humanities journey? Humanity was losing its connection to nature, deepening it's connection to materialism and losing the ability to connect to the world of spirit. The veil between the earthly and the spiritual was being drawn. This pathway was no longer available to us. The belief in the Earthly mission of Christ, the death, burial and resurrection brought about the ability to have a personal inner connection to spirit. This was the opposite of the spiritual experience of leaving the body to travel in soul. Now an inner experience of the spiritual world was believed possible whilst consciously in the body.

Disconnection with the Earth has continued as is witnessed by climate change, laying waste to our environment and unsustainable practice. A love affair with materialism continues to our detriment and the detriment of our planet. We seem generally divorced from our death and as such travel somewhat numbly through life. No longer does autumn appear relevant to us as a spiritual picture. We have needed over the passage of time to move our focus to Spring and the hope of new life. The symbols of the egg and the hare give us tangible "material" to work with. (Even these however, involve ancient symbols representing the Sun, rebirth and sacrifice)

So what is the festival of Easter asking of us within an Anthroposophical context? When looking at festivals and how they reflect our changing consciousness I think we need to look at place/context, the individual and community.

We are especially placed in the Southern Hemisphere, the cosmic timing of Easter means that it occurs in our Autumn. This is not so problematic as it may seem. With the cooler weather and even the occasional rain we see a greening of our landscape and indeed new birth as the autumnal blossoms herald the change of season. It is true that we don't have the spring profusion of colour or baby lambs and rabbits romping through the kindy gardens - but there is a contemplative stillness to autumn, a stillness unlike the unpredictable and often stormy weather of our spring.

Our challenge is to find our own inner meaning for our festivals and then to bring community together to create a shared understanding, a shared experience of the earth and the inner experience of spirit. We need to forge our own and a new relationship with the Earth. Put bluntly the resurrection provided a direct inner spiritual experience that seemingly was not previously possible and an invitation to reconnect with the Earth in a new and deeply spiritual way.

So where does this leave us in a Waldorf school and particularly in the kindergarten. As Waldorf schools we do not teach Anthroposophy. We educate in freedom so that all may choose their own path, whatever that may be. We do however give an overview through the curriculum of the journey of humanity thus far. From the Fairy tales of Class 1, the Saints and Fables of class 2, the Old Testament in Class 3, Man and Animal, The Norse Myths in Class 4, Egypt, Persia, Greece and India in Class 5, The Australian Journey and Rome in Class 6. There are of course, many other Main Lessons in each year but for illustration I have chosen the specifically cultural ones. Throughout the high school years the students continue to learn of world history and in Year 12 the Crucifixion is looked at in the context of world religions.

So, in the early years we do not speak of the Christian experience of Easter, rather we instill a sense of awe, wonder and reverence for nature. We observe our surroundings and the changes that are taking place. We learn of the Hare (not a rabbit) and the characteristics of loyalty and sacrifice of this beautiful creature. We contemplate the wonder of bulbs and flowers and the greening of the environment. We surprise at and treasure the golden sun within the egg. We sing and dance and connect to all that reaffirms us and our connection to our environment. It is truly a wondrous, beautiful, good and truthful world we live in. This is the kindergarten message.

How, if we choose to do so can we celebrate Easter at home? This is your family's choice, but I can offer some direction whether you are Christian or not that will support the work that we do in the kindergarten.

- Stay as much away from the shopping centres as possible. If you must take your child to shop with you, refrain from buying an Easter egg to placate the potentially fractious behaviour of a child. If chocolate Easter eggs are part of your tradition, keep it special and only for Easter morning.

- Same goes for hot cross buns. It was early January 2018, the Christmas decorations were still up in the shopping centres and to my horror there on the shelf were the hot cross buns. Keep it special. These festivals are punctuation in our lives. They give meaning and depth to our experience and our memories. They build resilience, the ability to wait, to anticipate and enjoy. That is a lot to put onto a hot cross bun but I think you know what I mean.

- In my own family the children received one small chocolate rabbit each Easter Sunday but they also found a small handmade gift from mum and dad on Easter morning. I would make a small hare, a chicken, a rooster, a nest, just one small thing, every year. My husband, the resident atheist, took on board the spirit of what I was doing and his contribution was to scour the planet for interesting eggs (one per year). In looking at my children's collections (I borrowed my 27 yr old's collection when writing this), there are stone eggs, hand painted eggs, felted eggs, paper mache eggs, so many, so beautiful and so treasured by my daughter)

- There are many books on Easter craft and nature tables within the Waldorf context, some of which I will list below. Be aware, it is possible to become Waldorf "consumers". Looking back I'd probably spend a little less time making things and more time in nature, experiencing it with my children, but that was my journey.

- We always had a seasonal nature table at home and so it reflected Autumn and often held treasures from Easter's past. As they grew older it simplified and deepened with the simplification.

- Spend time gardening whether it is in the veg patch, potting up bulbs or making a wheat grass garden. Connect with nature as much as possible. It is a lovely time of year for bush walks, camping (backyard or other) or just walking barefoot on the grass.

- If it is part of your belief system and is a positive in your life, take your children to church. There is something magical about Easter morning, the joy of community and the pomp and ceremony that Easter morning in community can provide. If you are not Christian but are friends with a Christian family, perhaps you'd consider sharing Easter with them. We made a point of exposing our children to cultures and religions other than our own and would regularly join friends of other religions at the celebrations that punctuated their spiritual calendar.

I have glossed over a topic that is as deep and multi-faceted as there are those who experience it. My intent was to not just give a recipe for a nature table and "Waldorf" Easter gifts in early childhood but to pose a question and open a conversation. You are, to coin a phrase, your child's first teacher. What you believe, they are likely to believe. What you feel, they are likely to feel. Becoming clear on what you believe or feel (whatever your relationship to Easter is or anything else for that matter) will bring clarity, truth and hopefully beauty to your child's experience. There is no one answer but there is the question. Enjoy the question, within it all things are possible.

HAPPY EASTER!

Vanessa Fountain

FURTHER READING:

Festivals Family and Food - Diana Carey and Judy Large
The Children's Year - Stephanie Cooper et al
The Easter Story Book - Collected by Ineke Verschuren
The Easter Craft Book - Thomas and Petra Berger

COMMUNITY NEWS

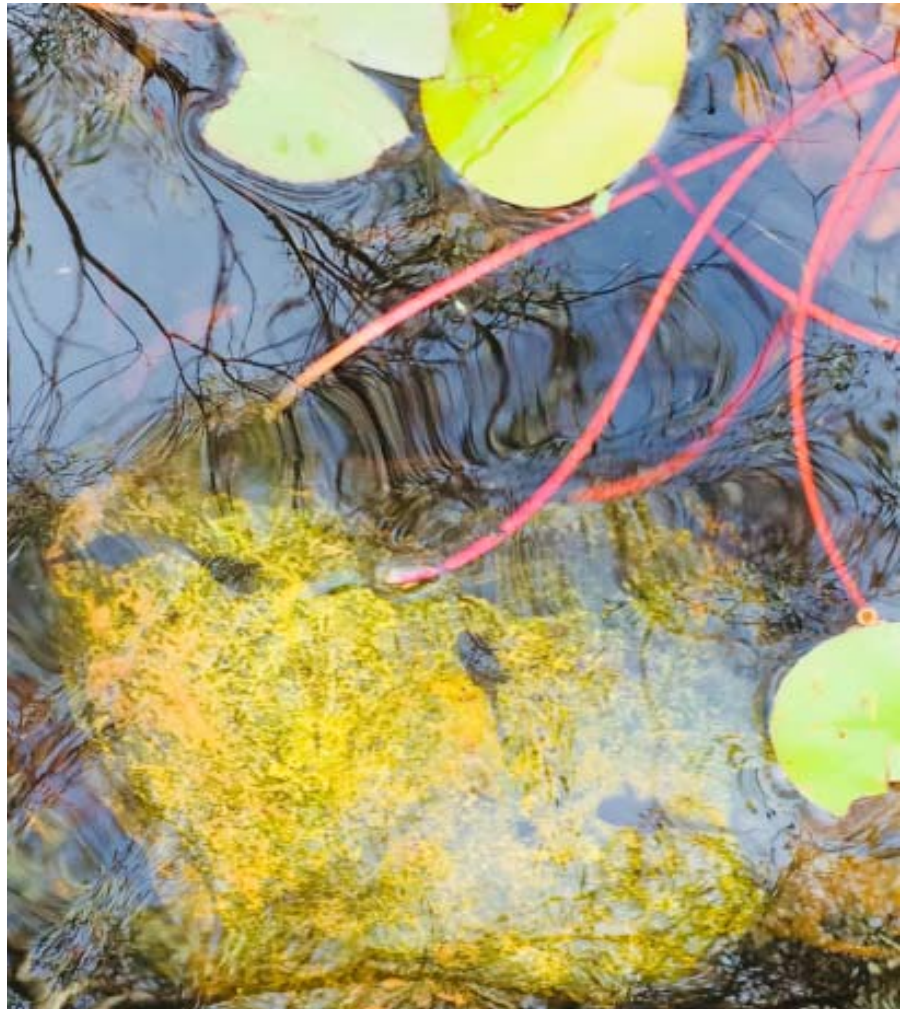
PERTH WALDORF SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION EVENING

TUESDAY MARCH 27, 7-8.30PM
WCSS PERFORMANCE ROOM

PWS Secondary School Coordinator, Mark Phillips will speak of the High School Journey and answer any questions you may have. He will be joined by past WCSS students now at Perth Waldorf High School who will share stories of their transition to high school. A beneficial night for all, but highly recommended for parents/carers of Class 4-6 who have either already accepted a place or are considering applying.

POLLIWOGS IN THE POND

Have you stopped by the fishpond recently? Many eyes are tracking the daily metamorphosis of our resident tadpoles who now have rear legs and are almost frogs! Thanks to our dedicated gardener, Chris for the addition of lotus plants which provide shelter and beauty.



A JOURNEY OF BECOMING

UNDERSTANDING HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY AS AN
INNER PATHWAY TO WALDORF PEDAGOGY.

A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY AS DR. LAKSHMI PRASANNA AND
CURATIVE EURYTHMIST PATRIES ORANGE JOIN FORCES

JULY 16TH - 20TH 2018

**WHEN: MONDAY JULY 16TH TO
FRIDAY 20TH**

**WHERE: PERTH WALDORF SCHOOL,
GWILLIAM DRIVE, BIBRA LAKE**

FEE: \$625

For more information see the Rudolf Steiner College
website www.rudolfsteinercollege.com.au
For enquiries email or call Jenny Hill: jennyhill@inet.net.au
au 0432 735 744



Singing in Bali 28 Sep - 4 Oct 2018

Singing in Bali 2018 will take place at the Ubud Heaven Villas, in Bali's lush cultural heartland. Paul and Nicole Lawrence have been 'part of the village' for 30 years and would love to show you 'their' Bali. You will receive a unique, local, non-touristy experience of the real Bali : its culture, religion, language, music, art and daily life... a rare opportunity.

A typical day will include:

- * morning ~ optional yoga, leisurely breakfast in the beautiful gardens*
- * 2.5 hours of singing*
- * an amazing lunch (own expense) at one of our favourite spots*
- * afternoon ~ tours, cultural activities, leisurely walks through rice fields, villages and jungles, relaxing by the pool*
- * evenings ~ free to stay in at Ubud Heaven Villas or go out with new friends*

Ubud Heaven Villas, Sayan is a short walk to restaurants and a short drive to downtown Ubud

Our singing repertoire will include local Indonesian songs, world and sacred music, toning and improvising. My intention, as always, is to open all in the group to a shared experience of universal harmony through the voice, breath and heart.

Prices include 6 nights accommodation, breakfasts and taxes, welcome dinner, daily singing sessions, group activities & tours and a massage

Starting at \$1,470 for single person
and \$2,370 per couple

**for more information and booking form
contact Nicole at nipabese@hotmail.com
or on 0468 391 806**

We invite you to join us in August as the WA Branch of the Anthroposophical Society hosts

Anthroposophical Society in Australia 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

at Point Walter, PERTH

from 5pm Thursday 16th – 3pm Sunday 19th August
Please save the dates!

Searching for a Vertical Horizon

In dialogue with special guests from the Goetheanum
Bodo von Plato and Constanza Kaliks

we will explore the theme of **Heart Thinking** in delicious depth, including:



Constanza Kaliks

- Perceiving with the heart
- When knowing becomes love

*Alone and Together
Many and One
Always connecting
Parting, re-connecting
So sings
The Choir of the New*



Bodo Von Plato



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION ASSISTANT

West Coast Steiner School is seeking an Education Assistant (Part Time), responsible for support of the Class teachers in Early Childhood and with duties specific to disability and child development. The continuation of this role is dependent on the child(ren) with the 'specified care' being enrolled at the school.

Hours of Work: 8.30am-12.30pm Monday to Thursday.

Applications close: 06.04.2018

For more information visit www.wcss.wa.edu.au



West Coast
Steiner School
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION

You are invited to hear about how we can benefit from the
“Champion” Dads’ Group
West Coast Guardians

Enjoy a fantastic opportunity for dads and father figures to meet up, chat and be supported.

It WILL be an informal yet informative event for all Parents, especially Dads and Father Figures. It will provide information about the important role of Dads, what The Fathering Project is and how they can help us in starting a group at the West Coast Steiner School.

It WON’T be someone lecturing you on what you’re doing wrong or trying to get you to do something you don’t want to do.

What is a “Champion” Dads’ Group: An opportunity to have fun with your kids and become part of a strong and supportive network of Dads connected to your school.



The Community Information Night is for all Parents, not just Fathers.

Date: 5th April 2018

Time: 6.00 PM

Venue: WCSS Main Hall

RSVP: 30th March 2018

Finger Foods, Tea and Coffee provided.

The Fathering Project is brilliant and inspires me as a dad.
Justin Langer AM, Father of 4 Girls, Australian Cricketer, WA

The Champion Dads’ group has been a wonderful initiative for our school to be involved in. These Dad’s form a very important part of their children’s experiences, and we celebrate that with a wide range of enjoyable and meaningful school and family-based events.”
Greg, School Principal, WA

For husbands to be more involved in their children’s lives, I encourage you to get involved with The Fathering Project. It will make such a massive difference to your children’s lives; your relationship, your husband’s life, and you will all be better off as a family unit.”
Georgeie, Mother to 3 children,
Loving wife of a Dad involved in The Fathering Project, WA

For More Info: David Thomas, West Coast Guardians Fathering Project’s coordinator on 0417910036 or email salsamad@inet.net.au

www.thefatheringproject.org



Annual General Meeting (AGM) 10 April 2018 Request for Nominations for Council

The WCSS Council plays a really important role in our school. “The role of the Governing body is to “watch the far horizon” to set the direction for the school, and to ensure it arrives safely, within the law. It sets guidelines and parameters within which the staff can manage the school.” The Steiner Education Australia (SEA) 2008 Handbook.

The School would love to welcome new councillors with a strong desire to take the school forward on the next stage of its journey. As our valued Treasurer is leaving council, we are very interested in hearing from people with a Finance or Accountancy background, or general financial aptitude.

If you are interested in nominating for WCSS Council in 2018, we would really like to hear from you as soon as possible (preferably before the end of February).

We are looking for people with skills in the following areas:

- ACCOUNTANCY & FINANCE
- GOVERNANCE
- STRATEGIC, BUSINESS AND/OR FINANCIAL PLANNING OR MANAGEMENT
- LAW
- STEINER EDUCATION OR ANTHROPOSOPHY
- EDUCATION/EDUCATION MANAGEMENT
- HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT/PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, OR
- PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

If you would like to find out more, please catch me at drop-off or pick up or give myself or Yolanda, the vice Chair of the council a call.

Yolanda Millar on 0438 250 872 or via email at jymillar@inet.net.au
Arnoud 0406 020 805 or via email at arnoudgernaat@gmail.com

**W: www.wcss.wa.edu.au
Facebook: @WestCoastSteinerSchoolOfficial
Instagram: [westcoaststeinerschool](https://www.instagram.com/westcoaststeinerschool)**

The Gazette is the fortnightly newsletter of the West Coast Steiner School, Nollamara, Western Australia. Advertising in this publication is via application and is open to persons or organisations working in fields complimentary to and supportive of Steiner / Waldorf education. Advertising is accepted at the discretion of the school's management but is not necessarily endorsed by the school. The cost is \$20 donation to the WCSS building fund per ad (business card size), per edition. For more information or to submit an ad for consideration, please email reception@wcss.wa.edu.au. Gazette's Editor: Julia Nevols <julianevoles@gmail.com>. Gazette's Design: Marijo Murillo <marijomurillo@inet.net.au>