



## Community Newsletter – Week 8, Term 1, 2020

Dear WCSS Community,

We hope this newsletter finds you safe and well. As you may be aware, the National Cabinet met last night and advised that schools will remain open. This was further confirmed in WA Premier Mark McGowan's address this morning, in which he stated that all schools will remain open until the end of Term 1. He also informed us that education laws will be relaxed for parents choosing not to send their children to school during this time. West Coast Steiner School continues to adhere to government directives and as such our school will remain open, providing educational opportunities for all students who wish to attend.

Our School Council will meet this evening to discuss how best to support our families and keep our school strong in the weeks and months ahead. We will send an update tomorrow regarding the outcomes of this meeting.

Our teachers are dedicated to the education of the children in their class community and are preparing for remote learning, for if and when school closures are mandated. In the event of a school closure, our class teachers and specialist subject teachers will send out meaningful work and tasks that reflect the rich, varied and deep content of our unique curriculum. This will vary from class to class depending on the age of the children and the nature of the subject they are working on at the time. Steiner teachers are inherently creative, imaginative and proactive educators who strive to present content that nurtures children's needs on many levels. All staff at WCSS have reflected comprehensively on how they will continue to nurture, guide and care for their students' wellbeing, even if schooling looks a little different for a little while. Now more than ever will the light of Steiner education that shines for us all be so necessary and significant.

For those parents with children already at home, we offer the following advice:

Every day, the children need to be active in their bodies. Go outside with them and make sure they run, skip and climb, and get out-of-breath at some point. Breathe in the autumn air. A long-term practical project would be beneficial - build a bird box, bat house or even a cubby house!

Every day, the children should be nourished in their souls, in their emotional being. We enrich, balance and humanise ourselves through music, colour and story. It would help the children immeasurably during this time to continue to sing, practise their instruments, paint and draw.



Fear shrinks and freezes the soul; try to keep the endless news cycle turned down. A hundred years ago Rudolf Steiner told us that our fearful thoughts make us much more susceptible to epidemics. Keep your children's hearts warm; and yours.

Engage them, more than perhaps you usually can, in the business of your home. So much of what the children do at school is about inhabiting the school as a home, about caring for our gardens and classrooms. It is healthy and educational for the children to cook with you (lots of maths happens in the kitchen!), to carry out chores, and to tend the garden. Plant seeds if you have them (an avocado seed, carrot tops) place them on the windowsill and watch them grow.

If the children are met on these levels, they will then be able to learn, to be engaged with their spirits, and with their thinking.

To keep to a rhythm of learning (a timetable) would be of benefit and, depending on the children's age, up to two hours of academic work per day would be appropriate, followed by artistic work. Then they need to "breathe out" and play.

We will continue to keep you informed as this situation progresses, and look forward to updating you further as soon as we can.

In the meantime, we appreciate your continued support, love and care for all those in our wonderful community.

With warmth,  
*Thomasina Henriquez*  
School Administrator (Acting)

***In the Light of a Child – Michael Hedley Burton***  
*O Nature, you are as a mother to me,  
Giving me strength and nourishing me.  
I feel you near me and nearer still.  
You fill me with fire – how strong is my will!  
To be doing what's good is what I desire,  
And I shall, for I'm filled with God's heavenly fire.*