

# CLIPPINGS

TREETOPS MONTESSORI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Volume 1/09 13 February 2009

Dear Parents

A warm welcome back to the 2009 school year and a specially warm welcome to all our new students and their parents as they join Treetops' community

A number of important staff changes have taken place since the end of the last school year. Susan Shenn resigned in order to take up the position of Principal in another school. I extend a warm welcome to Christine Woodhams who has taken Susan's position and also a welcome back to Kaylene Fitzgerald who has returned to teaching following a year's leave taken for health reasons. Anyone visiting Karri-Marri class over the past week will have been impressed at the positive and energetic atmosphere which Christine and Kaylene have brought to the class and I look forward to the coming year with great anticipation. Welcome back also to Joanne Lee who is teaching in Fuchsia Gums, our new 3 Year Old Programme.

I also extend a warm welcome to Shaun Mitchell, our new Jarrah teacher, who was appointed on the first day of term. Shaun comes to us as an experienced and well respected teacher and he has already made a very positive and impressive impact on our middle school students. I look forward to working with Shaun as we continue to develop our middle school.

In addition to these changes I welcome Zoe Neill who has joined the staff as IB and Jarrah Visual Arts teacher. Zoe will work part time and I have every confidence that she will do an outstanding job.

Finally, let me say something about the recently announced increase in fees. Some Parents have expressed disappointment that they were not notified in writing of the increases and the reasons for them. I can only apologise to these parents for having offended them in not having done so. More importantly, however, are the increases themselves. In these days of economic uncertainty and increasing overhead costs substantial fee increases were unavoidable. The main reasons for the increases were:

- Treetops' budget currently runs with a small deficit. This needs to be turned around. I emphasise, however, that the school *is* financially strong
- Treetops' staff, despite their huge commitment and dedicated work, are paid considerably less than staff in State and other independent schools. This gap has increased following the State teacher's pay deal last year. The only way in which to turn this situation around is through increasing fees, staff salaries being the biggest single item in the budget
- The Busy Bee levy increase was the first increase for about 8 years and of course the levy can be avoided altogether by completing your term's Busy Bee either on the allocated day or by contacting the office to arrange an alternative time to come in
- Overhead costs continue to rise as does the cost of text books, stationery and other items of equipment and resource material

I have always believed that every effort should be made to keep Treetops' fees as affordable as possible in order that the education we offer to children is accessible to as many people as possible. However, I have to balance this ideal with the reality that increased costs must be passed on to Parents if the school is to survive.

I thank you in anticipation of your understanding in this matter.

Warm regards,

*Norman Megahey*  
*Principal*

## WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON

Mon	16th February	In Term Swimming continues until Friday, 20th February
Tue	24th February	Wattle Water Sport
Fri	27th February	Pupil Free Day
Mon	2nd March	Labour Day Public Holiday
Tue	3rd March	Wattle Water Sport
Fri	6th March	Tuart Tax File Incursion



## About Karri/Marri

Karri Marri is now one classroom with two teachers, Kaylene and Christine. Each teacher has pastoral care for half the children and we both teach together. Christine teaches Music and Technology & Enterprise. Kaylene teaches Science and Health and Art. Both teachers teach English and Maths and Society & Environment and we help all students not just those in our pastoral groups. By having two teachers in the class room children have twice as much access to help and by having two sets of eyes in the class room we can ensure that all students are not interrupted in their studies.

The theme for this term is Prehistory and Early Man. We have viewed a DVD entitled "Last Man Standing" which looked at the development of hominids from apes to modern man. We will have skulls of hominids from the museum in the classroom and we will study the development of early man to the time of Mesopotamia. We will look at early farming and the development of writing. We will do some cave painting and we hope to do some stone tool making.

We held a meeting at 3pm, last Wednesday 11th February for Karri Marri parents so we could introduce ourselves and explain what happens in the classroom. If you were unable to attend this meeting please see us for a written version of what we said.

We look forward to a great year in Karri Marri

*Kaylene and Christine*

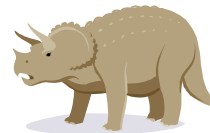
## Fuchsia Gums

Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you to Tim Clegg and Mark Lee for their hard work in getting our classroom ready for the new school year. It looks great!

We would like to welcome our new families. Everyone is settling in well and making new friends.

We will be starting our 'Dinosaur' theme soon and I'm sure it will be popular with the children.

*Joanne & Giselle*



## Coral & Scarlet Gums

Welcome back everyone for Term 1/2009. It was lovely to see all your children back at school last week. They all seem to have grown during the summer holidays. We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and a relaxing holiday.

We would like to welcome all the new children and their parents to Treetops and the Children's House. We hope that you and your children have a very happy association with us.

Thank you to all the parents who have already brought in their requested items. There are still some parents who have not as yet done this. Could you please make sure that all the necessary items are brought in and given to your child's teacher as soon as possible. All children need to have a cup with a handle and a serviette and these items need to be marked with your child's name.

We have an all year round "No Hat/No Play" policy and your child needs to have a hat at school everyday. Please ensure that one is left in your child's bag at all times. Please make sure that you apply sunscreen to your child everyday. More sunscreen is applied to your child before going out to play. It has been extremely hot lately and this weather seems set to continue in this way for a while.

This term's rosters are up on the noticeboards outside your child's classroom. If you are able to volunteer your help, please place your name on the roster. We need parent help to run our classrooms well and your help is very much appreciated by the staff and children.

Our theme this term is 'Dinosaurs', a very popular theme with the children! We will commence this theme in the fourth week of term. We are currently settling in the new children and talking about the rules of the classroom and getting to know each other. We always commence each term with lessons on 'Grace and Courtesy'.

As always, we feel that this year will be a very pleasurable year teaching your children.

*Geraldine, Christina, Sue and Kaylene*

## Donations Needed

This term the Jarrah students are creating prints in their art class and we would greatly appreciate any donation of lino (any shape, size or colour). Please contact Zoe at the school if you are able to assist us.

Thank you

*Zoe Neill*  
*Visual Arts Teacher*



## What's Up In Wattle

We would like to welcome John, Savannah, Quinn, Alida, Monique, Ryan, Emry and Joshua to the Wattle area. They are all settling very well and making new friends.

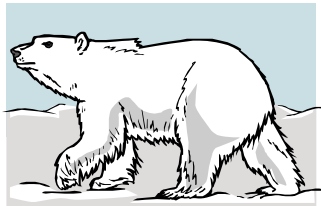
Our themes for this term are 'Dinosaurs' and the 'Polar Regions'. We have some budding paleontologists in our midst!

Swimming lessons are for two weeks and then we will have water sport for four weeks. These water sport sessions will be held at Swan Aquatic Centre on Tuesday afternoons. We will travel there by bus and the children will need their bathers, towel and goggles (if necessary). This is a fun time where the children play different games in the pool, in small, supervised groups, and the activities help them to become more confident in a water environment. We would like a parent, who has their Bronze Life Saving certificate to come with us – any volunteers?

Thank you to all the parents who have put their names down on our rosters, without your help the program could not run. There are a few spaces left!!!!

Please don't hesitate to make an appointment with the teachers if you have something on your mind and also to maybe observe in the classrooms.

*Lynda, Lorraine and Adele*



## TUART

Our first week in Tuart has been very ... interesting. We have one new person in the class named Dylan and he is fitting in well.

We have not been given much work so far but there is much work on the horizon. This is a generally stated fact.

So far all we know about the classes is ... a little bit about what we're doing. On a more serious note (B Flat) we have done some mapping for SOSE and are planning to do much more. In Science we watched a creepy movie called "The Island". It was about clones and the future and it was creepy (as previously stated).

The class is currently tidy (Jodi is happy because her drawer has stayed organised for one whole week!!! This is a new record). We are all hoping the class will stay tidy.

*Written by Caspar (mostly), Dylan and Ben (moral support and ideas)*

## Sugar Gums

Welcome back to our continuing Playgroup families and a warm welcome to our newest members: Rose, Ethan F, Julian, Isabelle, Lilli, Sidney, Zachary, Ethan K, Caitlin, Juniper, Gabriel, Camden, Ezra, Mikaela, Brianna, Zoe, Benjamin and Matthew.

This term we are learning about ourselves and our bodies. We are learning lots of new songs and making place mats for our morning tea table.

On Monday, 16th February at 7.30 pm we will have an Information Evening.

We look forward to a fantastic year ahead!

## Lilly Pillys Afternoon Program

Our afternoon programme is available to children who attend the 3 Year Old Programme or who are part-time at Children's House. Children are able to stay from 12 noon until 3.30 pm. The programme is run by Vicky and Giselle on Monday and Tuesday, Vicky and Joanne on Wednesday, Belinda and Giselle on Thursday and Belinda and Joanne on Friday.

Currently there are spaces available on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please see Sara in the Office if you would like to make a booking.

*Vicky & Belinda*

## Lilly Pillys Invoicing

To make things a bit easier in 2009, Lilly Pillys will be invoiced in Weeks 4 and 8 of the term. The last 2 weeks of term will be invoiced with the next term's fees.

*Georgina*

The Tuart class will be studying "The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams this term but my book order has been delayed another month. Because we are going to see the play at the end of March, we need the books now. So, if anyone has a copy of "The Glass Menagerie" that they could donate or lend, it would be much appreciated.

Thanks,  
Jodi

## JARRAH JOURNALS

It's the first week of term and Jarrah has some new teachers and students. We're welcoming Shaun to Jarrah as our new teacher and Zoe is our new Art teacher. We also have 4 new students. This week we have been learning about the structure of the earth, measurement and writing resumes. In Art we have started to work in our sketchbooks.

### *Sammy Huxtable*

After my first week in Jarrah I feel like I've always been in this class. I've enjoyed Art and English. I've learned a lot of things, such as how to do a resume.

### *Roisin Megahey*

#### **What Happens If We Evacuate The School**

In the event that the school is evacuated we will change the message on our answer phone to let parents know where we have been sent to. We will also individually contact each family to let you know what has happened and where to find us.

## FUNDRAISING 2009

Last year we raised nearly \$30,000! Let's make it another bumper year for our wonderful school.

Want to get in on the act this year? There are 3 ways to join.

1. Come to our first meeting Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb and maybe even take a look at the positions available (eg Coordinator, Finance officer, Marketing and Communications officer).
2. Email, phone or collar one of us in the playground to let us know you're interested in helping. We'll put you on our helper list.
3. Join the Fundraising email list to stay in the Fundraising loop and stick your hand up if and when you can.

Wednesday's meeting is in the library 9-9.45am and we welcome all of you. Come for the chocolate and stay for the planning! Set targets, assign roles and suggest ideas.

To contact us email [fundraising@treetops.wa.edu.au](mailto:fundraising@treetops.wa.edu.au) or phone Sasha 9252 1660.

*The Fundraising Team*

### **Ian Lillico's Recommendations for Boys**

1. Both at home and at school women must be in positions of power—they must not be seen as the nurturers and men as the power brokers. Both men and women must play a rearing role in their sons' lives. The father (or male teacher) must not be seen as the disciplinarian as this tends to further emphasize gender stereotypes.
2. Since boys convert feelings to movement it is essential that parents and teachers realize that boys need to move when faced with emotions and that a good way to open boys up is to do something active with them that they enjoy. In the middle of some physical activity a boy will often reveal what problem he may be facing.
3. There is a concern that both families and society may be prematurely separating boys from their mothers. Many boys and men suffer lifelong problems as they often long to return to the close nurturing relationship they had with their mother. No amount of mother nurturing is harmful for boys or makes them into weaklings or sissies.
4. Boys must have a home in schools—particularly Secondary Schools. Males have territory as their primary need and have to feel there is somewhere within the school that is theirs—their classroom, locker, play area etc. If they feel there is somewhere within the school that is theirs they tend to regard the school as a foreign place to which they show no loyalty or belonging—causing problems of disengagement, discipline, vandalism and graffiti.
5. Our schools must have a focus on getting girls to do and boys to think. Boys are speculative thinkers and often act without forethought. Girls are reflective thinkers, but often need to go beyond reflection and take some risks with their play and, later, their activities in schools.
6. Teachers must change their pedagogy to teach less and facilitate more. Students must do a lot more work in school—both individually and in proximal learning groups. We must not rely too heavily on homework as the sole way that students practice concepts and skills.
7. As writing is a major area of deficiency for boys it is important that boys should communicate before writing something—this should be done at school, or at home, using a variety of techniques and models. When boys talk through things before writing, their writing fluency and volume is dramatically increased.
8. All writing for boys, up to the end of their compulsory school years, should be done within teacher-prepared templates or scaffolds. Teachers should hand out the requisite number of pages required for the boys to fill in with headings and the number of lines required for each section. Eventually boys will intrinsically expand their writing as they enter the post-compulsory schooling years.
9. Programmes should be introduced for boys and girls dealing with gender construction and issues affecting adolescents, such as violence, sexuality, feelings and relationships.
10. The sense of touch has become dirty in our Australian culture but is absolutely essential for connecting with boys—particularly by parents and teachers. Violent and aggressive boys are often the victims of being under-cuddled as young children and touch therapy is one of the techniques used worldwide for bringing these boys back on track. Even though stranger danger is essential we have to allow for boys to be given a pat on the back; a shake of the hand etc when they have done something well. We must allow teachers to do this without fear of recrimination to develop a connection with boys who communicate their feelings for each other in a non-verbal way through wrestling and play fighting.

## COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

**LEE OLIVER'S TENNIS COACHING** Tennis lessons for children age 4-16. Saturday mornings at Darlington and Friday afternoons at Helena Valley. Heaps of fun for all. For more information, contact Lee or Lu on 9252 0209 or e-mail, [lolivers@bigpond.com](mailto:lollivers@bigpond.com)

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### Satyananda Yoga for Children

Satyananda Yoga originates from India and is a classical, integral form of yoga that uses a combination of posture work, breathing techniques and guided meditation. The aim is to induce a steady calmness within to help focus the mind and improve self-awareness. It is a very gentle, non-competitive style of yoga based on listening to the body rather than pushing it too hard into yogic positions and is very effective in building up body strength and suppleness, aiming to lengthen muscles rather than shorten or contract them. This means there is less likelihood of sustaining an injury while practising yoga.

Satyananda Yoga classes for children uses traditional yogic postures and sequences such as the sun salutation (surya namaskara) to enhance cardiovascular fitness, core strength, flexibility and co-ordination as well as using a combination of storytelling, games, partner work and visualisation techniques to improve listening/concentration skills and encourage creativity. All classes end with a guided relaxation.

Satyananda Yoga classes for children will continue on **Fridays at 3.30 - 4.15pm** at the Guide/Scout Hall, Glen Road, Darlington and will be suitable for ages 7+. Term dates are 6<sup>th</sup> February to 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Due to high demand, an additional class for this age group will commence on **Saturday at 10 - 10.45am**, as well as a class for younger children (**4-6**) at **9 - 9.45am**. Both new Saturday classes are at the Guide/Scout Hall, Glen Rd, Darlington and term dates are 7<sup>th</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> April.

The cost of the Yoga classes for children is **\$45 for the nine weeks course**. Places are limited and prior booking is essential. Please ensure your child has a yoga mat, blanket or rug to relax on.

For bookings and further information, contact Karuna (Carol Peglar) on 9299 6902 or [karuna\\_calpeglar@bigpond.com](mailto:karuna_calpeglar@bigpond.com). **It is essential to book formally as class numbers will not tolerate drop-ins.**

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### MUNDARING ARTS CENTRE

From 6 February – 8 March, the Mundaring Arts Centre presents *On Fire* - a variety of artworks contemplating the many different ways we experience, understand and appreciate fire. A full programme of art workshops and artist talks will run throughout the month including sessions on pyrography, lino printing, the use of fire in Indigenous culture, and traditional tool making.

On show simultaneously is *ALL FIRED UP*, a multi-faceted project initiated by members of the Mundaring Shire Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades. It features an historical display of volunteer fire fighting in the hills, curated by the Mundaring and Hills Historical Society; an exhibition of artworks, generously donated for auction by some of WA's most notable artists; and an amazing display of fire fighting helmets, transformed by invited artists and community members, also for auction, both silent and under the hammer, at a gala event from 7pm on Friday 6 March.

All sales proceeds go towards the writing and publication of a history of the Mundaring Shire Bush Fire Brigades. The book will be professionally written and 700 copies will be given away, free, to all schools, libraries and Fire Brigades in the Mundaring Shire, to the State Library and similar venues for easy access by all Western Australians.

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Winter Hockey Registrations for the Old Guildfordians Mundaring Hockey Club will be on the 21st February 2009 at Lilac Park, Guildford between 11am - 2pm. For further information please contact Sandy Lane (Juniors) Ph; 9295 6766 or Rachel Resuggan (Minkey's) Ph: 0401 856 205.