What’s On This Term

**PMC Meeting:**
Monday, May 9, 7pm

**‘Metamorphosis of Learning’:** Saturday, May 14, 2pm–7pm at Periwinkle. Free admission.

**Craft Day:**
Saturday, June 21, 12.30pm.

**Parent Curriculum Night:**
Wednesday, May 18, 7pm–8.30pm.

**Working Bee:**
Saturday, June 4, 9am–12pm.

**Winter Spiral (half day):**
Thursday, June 23

**Lantern Walk:**
Wednesday, June 29

---

‘Yellow the bracken, golden the sheaves,
Rosy the apples, crimson the leaves,
Mist on the hillside, clouds grey and white,
Autumn good morning, Summer goodnight,
Autumn good morning, Summer goodnight,
Autumn good morning, Summer goodnight . . .’

Around festival time the tunes that our children bring home are heavenly, drifting in from the kitchen, or the bath, or the back seat of the car . . . singing in the seasons.

Autumn is traditionally a time to give thanks for the harvest. The days become shorter and sometimes a melancholy tone emerges in the light as we turn towards winter. Crispy ‘heart’ and ‘animal’ shaped leaves adorn our display of seasonal treasures and just the other day I heard Koa leading his dad, singing so sweetly as they unpacked groceries in the kitchen. In our modern culture unpacking the groceries could be seen as analogous to the cornucopia, it feels timely after all the festivities of Summer to offer some gratitude for all that’s involved in growing the food and preparing it for the market and all that’s involved in bringing it home to the table. This is what the Autumn Harvest festival is all about.

This year’s Autumn Harvest festival at Periwinkle was another simple and beautiful way to appreciate and integrate some of the abundance we have. Periwinkle’s seasonal festivals are in general a great connection point. Firstly, to connect us with this wonderful place where our children are nurtured. Secondly, the festivals are a way to connect with our children where they feel empowered because they have the story to tell, and they have the song to sing, and they have an invitation to give. Thirdly, the festivals are a reminder that we can easily reconnect ourselves with nature, even by taking a moment to witness the passing of another season, noticing nature’s rhythm and pace, to slow a little and take another breath . . .

Finally, the festivals are a really nice way to connect with other parents and celebrate this fortunate life we have here together – to share a special ceremony, some food, stories, ideas and some time together.

This year’s celebration began inside with a quiet circle, puppet story and songs. We moved outside to be blessed by a day of sunshine and the yard filled with excited and proud children showing their skills in the beautiful new playground and sandpit. We joined a circle, sang goodbye to Summer and welcomed Autumn, helped our children plant a flower in the garden, then gave thanks for the harvest and food we were about to enjoy. The tables were filled with an abundance of wholesome and delicious food and treats lovingly prepared by each family, and the harvest table was piled with offerings to donate to The Liberation Larder. The image is still beautiful in my mind and it’s these impressions that are so wonderful for our children. Thank you Kelly, Andrea, Bess, Xiola, Ellon and everyone involved for being so dedicated and present with our children, the space and the experiences provided for them.

By Leone Connable
Hello Everyone,
Welcome back to Term 2. It has been a very lovely start and great to see the children settle back into their daily life at Periwinkle.

Last term was very busy and much was achieved. Through Matt’s amazing workmanship and artistry the playground is now nearing completion, and with all the rain we have been having it has been fantastic to have a roof over the sandpit. The rain has also meant the underground rainwater tank is full for the children to pump their own water for their outdoor play experiences.

Kellie and Bess have also completed ‘The Kingdom of Childhood’ course, which ran for all of Term 1.

For our Parent Curriculum Night we invited Patries Orange, a guest Eurythmist. We explored elements of sympathy, antipathy, and empathy – and how an awareness of them can impact how we meet our children and others.

Aria, Holly’s big sister, joined us for a week for her Year-10 work experience. We all enjoyed her stay with us, and she very quickly became part of our team. The children loved her and Aria was a wonderful ambassador for her school. It was also special to know that Aria herself is a past student of Periwinkle.

Now this term is also going to be full, with some dates to mark down in your diary – please look at the Calendar on page 8. Coming up first is our PMC meeting this Monday, May 9. Everyone is invited and we are hoping to develop a plan to celebrate Periwinkle’s 25th birthday. This is an exciting time for Periwinkle and a special year to be part of the community. I would like to encourage you all to get involved.

On the May 14 Periwinkle is hosting an initiative of the Cape Byron Bay Group for Anthroposophy and Friends as part of the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Rudolf Steiner. Periwinkle will provide afternoon tea – if you would like to contribute can you please come and see the staff. Your support will be very much appreciated. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to host this afternoon at Periwinkle as I have been told Periwinkle was the 1st Rudolf Steiner educational impulse in this area.

Now we have only got to the end of Week 3 and I hope you are not exhausted at the thought of all that is coming up, for the following weekend we have an exciting craft afternoon. We live in such a creative and artistic community; it is just amazing the opportunities that are being offered through the generosity of our many talented people.

Also please note the festival dates. The Spiral Walk has been changed from the Wednesday to Thursday June 23; it will be a half-day of school for children who attend on the Thursday so the staff can prepare the room.

Please take some time to read the newsletter and mark the dates in your diary. It is so special that we have Jenny to put it together for us and it really is a great communication link.

Looking forward to another rich and rewarding term.
Regards,
Ellon

Dear Periwinkle Teachers and Parents,
My name is Aria Harrington and I recently attended Periwinkle (in the last week of term one) for the purpose of my school’s work experience.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for giving me this wonderfully fulfilling experience, and to have completed my work experience week with the children and teachers of Periwinkle.

Twelve years ago I attended Periwinkle as a three-year-old. It was a beautiful experience to return to a place that I have such fond memories of and view from a different perspective. There has been much change from my time here but the warm, loving environment always remained the same.

Thank you again so very sincerely. I hope one day to return to Periwinkle in a working capacity.

Kindest Regards,

❤ Aria Harrington  (0407 074 668)

---

**THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF PERIWINKLE RUDOLF STEINER PRESCHOOL**

This day is a celebration of the spirit of Periwinkle over the past 25 years, in appreciation of the Children, the Periwinkle Staff and the Parent Community who have supported Periwinkle’s survival and growth.

**Proposed Date:**
Saturday October 22, 2011, probably in the afternoon at Periwinkle.

We need parents who can assist with the planning and help on the day. Please put your name on the volunteer list beside the sign-in sheet if you are interested, and come along to the next PMC meeting where we will be further planning this special celebration.
These are the daily questions asked of me from the always polite and ever patient children of Periwinkle Preschool. They are a delight to be around and have made my time working here a very enjoyable experience. Every day there are stories, jokes, songs and laughter.

It truly is the best environment for a young child to be immersed in, and it shows – the kids are so happy to be there, so reluctant to leave at day’s end.

They are such characters too – each allowed expression of their individual natures, very lucky and nourished children.

So I am really thankful to have been able to share their space and company for a little while – my kids having all grown up I had forgotten how much fun, joy and wonder there is in a young child’s world.

My four boys went to Periwinkle too, way back in the early to mid 1990s, with Susan Perrow, Kate Murray and Sue Gould. It was a special place then too and they enjoyed their days there. It was in about 1992 or ‘93 (hard to remember back that far isn’t it?) that I was asked to design and build the first “bush castle”.

I remember it taking longer than I expected then too, so I should have known this time!

I really like to finish things well and I am a bit obsessed with aesthetic detail. Working with natural bush timber is a bit of an unknown – you have to go with it, be adaptable to what is unfolding, and not be in too much of a hurry! I think it is worth the wait; the children learn from watching and asking, and it is a valuable lesson for them that not everything in life is instant.

It has been an enjoyably varied, creative and long project for me, and these are the jobs I love to get stuck into – structural landscaping can be just plain hot hard work and fairly repetitive at times, so I have been lucky indeed this summer to have been “trapped” at Periwinkle!

It has been a pleasure to work at the preschool. I have been treated very well and offered much encouragement and support from the staff, and parents.

Thank you.

Matt Stiebel
As Part of the Worldwide Celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of the Birth of Rudolf Steiner

**METAMORPHOSIS OF LEARNING**

Growth Principles of the Steiner Education Movement
(Presentations of Current Research)

Saturday, 14th May
2pm - 7pm
at Periwinkle, 5 Sunrise Boulevard, Sunrise Beach.

FREE ADMISSION

“Furthermore, I must confide to you that I am very close to discovering the secret of plant generation and organization, and that it is the simplest thing one could imagine... With this model and the key to it, one can then go on inventing plants forever that must follow lawfully; that means: which, even if they don't exist, still could exist, and are not, for example, the shadows and illusions of painters or poets but rather have an inner truth and necessity. The same law can be applied to all other living things.”

Goethe, *Italian Journey.*

2:00pm  Welcome

2:15pm  The Founding of The Free Waldorf School in Stuttgart as a ‘Model’ School
Rod Tomlinson

3:00pm  Sowing the Seeds of All Learning
Steiner’s Early Childhood Educational Praxis and Contemporary Research
Ellon Gold

4:00pm  The Metamorphosis of Learning: Steiner Education in the 21st Century
The Model Freed from Institutions?
Konrad Korobacz

5:00pm  Contemporary Academic Research into Steiner Pedagogy, and Governance and Management of Steiner Schools
Gillian Rogers

6:00pm  The Developing Collaboration of Anthroposophical Medical and Educational Impulses in Steiner Schools
Cristina Rubsamen

AN INITIATIVE OF THE CAPE BYRON BAY GROUP FOR ANTHROPOSOPHIA, AND FRIENDS.
Working Bee Update

Thank you to all the Periwinkle families who came out in the wet on March 12 to be a part of the working bee. We accomplished a good deal despite all the rain, and the grounds and garden are looking splendid. Some of the jobs we worked on included: weeding and brush cutting; getting garden beds tidy and mulched; cleaning the gutters, skylights and blinds; and paper cutting.

According to Rudolf Steiner, play is the child’s “work” and imitation and repetition are one of the keys to the young child’s learning. At a working bee, the children can be seen integrating this “work” into their play, and it is so beautiful to watch. They push wheelbarrows and work together to fill them with clippings. They sweep and scrub with sponges, mix compost and soil, spread mulch with a rake, pull weeds. There is harmony and purpose in their busy work.

As a community-run preschool, working bees are a vital part of on-going maintenance at Periwinkle. They are also a great way to get to know other families, forge friendships and show our children how we care for our school. Hard work is always followed by a delicious morning tea and a relaxing chance to catch up with other Periwinkle families. Please mark your calendars for **Saturday June 4** 9am-12pm for the next working bee. Bring along some work gloves and something to share for morning tea. See you there!

Cyndi Harris (Working Bee Coordinator)

---

PERIWINKLE CRAFT DAY

Saturday, May 21

Our first craft day for 2011 will be held on Saturday, May 21 at 12.30pm in the back garden of Periwinkle.

Hosted by Carolyn (Holly’s Mum) and Toni (Genevieve’s Mum).

PROJECT: Felted horse reigns

COST: $3.00 per item (Material costs)

ATTIRE: Wetable gear and change of clothes.

CHILDREN: Very welcome (Limited supervision provided)

FOOD: Shared plate. Coffee and tea $1.00

The project we will be embarking upon is a joint fundraiser/take home item – meaning, make one to take home and one for Periwinkle to use as a fundraiser.

Please come along for an enjoyable, fun-filled afternoon for all the family, and learn a new craft.

Hope to see you there!

Please call Carolyn (6687 1868) or Toni (6680 4839) for numbers attending.

---

The Autumn Star Fairy

*The Autumn Star Fairies put stars everywhere,*
*In starfruits and seed pods*
*And apples and pears.*

*Little stars woven*
*To shine their light*
*And guide the Earth’s children*
*Through Autumn night.*

This little song has become a favourite of teachers and children alike at Periwinkle this season. It was taught to me by my friend Kat who is the assistant at the Rainbow Ridge Steiner Kindergarten at Lillian Rock. In Steiner early childhood education we have a strong tradition of sharing these songs orally and as such the writer’s name is often not passed on. If you know who wrote this lovely little song please let us know so we can credit them! Xiola
The Kingdom of Childhood

By Periwinkle staff members Bess and Kellie

Throughout Term 1 we attended the ‘Kingdom of Childhood’, a course on early childhood encompassing birth to seven years. It was held at Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School on Friday evenings and Saturdays. As we all know, extra-curricular activities add a layer to our already busy lives, and with a little commitment so much is to be gained with the sharing of knowledge.

These lectures enable us to delve deeper into the ‘Kingdom of Childhood’ and enrich the children’s daily experiences.

A highlight was a series of lectures delivered by Dr Lakshmi Prasanna, a pediatrician and neonatology specialist, along with Michael Kokinos covering Life Before Birth to Seven Years with a big focus on the senses, and our director Ellon Gold speaking about Self-Directed Play. These presenters hold kudos in working with children from an anthroposophical perspective.

Other areas covered included Story Telling with Susan Perrow, Seasonal Mandalas with Sonya Davidian, Seasonal Circles and Birthdays with Jana D’Arville and Festivals with Kristy Brake and Sandra Frain. The practical days were full of fun and laughter whilst learning new skills, ideas and information, and even making our very own slippers with our lovely Sandra Frain.

Discovering Eurythmy

By Jenny Henderson

As a new parent to Steiner education and one who was wanting more experiences and knowledge of anthroposophy in general, I was drawn to the Term 1 Parent Curriculum Night, which focussed on Eurythmy. Actually, I knew nothing about Eurythmy and wanted to learn more! I arrived and was pleasantly surprised to find a mixed group of about 14 or so mums, dads, staff and the facilitator Patries Orange.

Throughout the evening we participated in a number of gentle exercises and movements. The emphasis was on the direction of movement in space – forward, backward, up, down, left and right, all as a means of connection and expression. We experienced, through movement, sympathy, antipathy and empathy, and how this can impact on the ‘other’.

Overall, I found the movement interesting and effortless. I was also surprised to find it soothing and almost entrancing. The movement enhanced inner stillness and focus and I discovered that this is the intention of Eurythmy – to create inner balance, harmony and a sense of connectedness.

Thank you Patries, Ellon and staff for this very worthwhile opportunity.

Why Use Chocolate In Our Bliss Balls?

Some parents have asked why we use chocolate in our bliss balls (served for morning tea on Tuesdays and Thursdays). This is a valid question. Chocolate gets quite a bad rap these days, and often for good reason.

First, let me explain that we use raw cocoa powder, which is very different to commercial cocoa powder or chocolate. Raw cocoa powder is full of antioxidants, high in magnesium, and considered to have numerous other nutritional benefits.

Second, we only use a small quantity of raw cocoa powder. It is by no means a predominant ingredient or flavour in the bliss balls. I think we have to ask ourselves where this small amount of quality cocoa powder sits in relation to other times our children are exposed to chocolate.

Third, we can see the value in children being introduced to the taste of real, bitter cocoa – which is very different to highly sweetened commercial chocolate. It actually makes the flavour of the bliss balls less sweet.

I have to confess, also, that part of me likes to challenge mis-information and dogmatic thinking when it comes to food. The bliss balls are thoroughly nutritious and nourishing, containing activated nuts and organic dried fruit – and, yes, a small amount of raw cocoa powder.

All that said, raw cocoa powder is not an essential ingredient – bliss balls can be made to include anything we want. The raw cocoa could be substituted with carob powder (which is also very nutritious) or simply omitted. We are always open to further discussion with our parents!

Kindly, Jenny

It was great working and connecting with new people, even a couple of our Periwinkle parents – Josh (Arrow’s dad) and Sonya (Macushla’s mum) attended and it was lovely to spend time with them.

The Kingdom of Childhood was a very nourishing course where we could reflect on our teaching and incorporate many aspects into our program and our own lives.

We would like to thank Gerry Josephson and Kristy Brake for putting the course together, and express our sincere gratitude to the Periwinkle Management Committee who funded our attendance, and Ellon who encouraged us to go.

Warm Regards,
Bess and Kellie

Bess’s felted slippers, made under the guidance of Sandra Frain as part of the ‘Kingdom of Childhood’ course.

PERIWINKLE PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MAY 2011, PAGE 6
PERIWINKLE 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Note: This calendar will be updated throughout the year and included in each newsletter.

TERM 2: April 27 – July 1

Monday, May 9: PMC Meeting, 7pm.
Saturday, May 14: ‘Metamorphosis of Learning’ presentations of current research into Steiner education. 2pm–7pm at Periwinkle. Free admission.
Saturday, May 21: Periwinkle Craft Day. 12.30pm.
Wednesday, May 18: Parent Curriculum Night, 7pm–8.30pm.
Saturday, June 4: Working Bee, 9am–12pm.
Thursday, June 23: Winter Spiral (half day)
Wednesday, June 29: Lantern Walk

Term 3: July 18 – September 23

Wednesday, August 10: Parent Curriculum Night, 7pm–8.30pm.
Sunday, August 7: Byron Bay Community Market – Charity of the Day. 8am–2pm.
Saturday, August 27: Working Bee, 9am–12pm.
Wednesday, September 21: Spring Festival

Term 4: October 10 – December 16

Wednesday, November 2: Parent Curriculum Night, 7pm–8.30pm
Saturday November 19: Working Bee, 9am–12pm.
Tuesday, December 13: End-of-year Celebration for Monday–Tuesday–Wednesday group
Thursday, December 16: End-of-year Celebration for Wednesday–Thursday–Friday group
Friday, December 17: Pupil-free Day

NOTICES

Diary Note: Sunday, August 7
Periwinkle fundraising at Byron Bay Community Markets
Periwinkle has been allocated as a ‘Charity of the Day’ at the markets. This is a wonderfully simple and profitable fundraising opportunity for Periwinkle. Families will be allocated half-hour time slots to stand at the Somerset Street market entrance, with buckets, collecting donations for Periwinkle as people enter. A roster will be provided closer to the date.
We need a volunteer/s to coordinate the day, including preparing the roster and arranging a small Periwinkle display. Please speak to Ellon or Jackie if you can help.

Articles on Play-Based Learning
Alliance For Childhood is an organisation that researches and advocates strongly for the rights of the child to play and play freely and actively from the imagination. Parents who are interested in learning more about the benefits of Periwinkle’s play-based curriculum may enjoy reading some of the articles available on this site.
http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/
home
Thanks Xiola for this link.

Periwinkle Parking
Please kindly leave a free car space on the left side of the Periwinkle carpark (which is usually in the shade) for parents with sleeping babies/children that they wish to leave in the car during pick up/drop off. Thank you everyone.

Babysitting
Aria Harrington (Holly’s big sister, and a past student of Periwinkle), who completed Year-10 work experience at Periwinkle last term, is available for babysitting. She comes with the recommendation of the Periwinkle staff! Aria’s phone number is 0407 074 668.
PERIWINKLE CONTACT DETAILS

Periwinkle Preschool
Sunrise Boulevard,
Sunrise Beach Estate,
Byron Bay NSW 2481
(02) 6685 8898
periwinkle@linknet.com.au
www.periwinkle.nsw.edu.au

Director: Ellon Gold

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Periwinkle parents and friends are invited to submit articles and photographs for the newsletter. Please email submissions to frenchpress@bigpond.com.

Editor: Jenny Edney

SPONSORSHIP WELCOME!

Newsletter sponsorship is $10 per edition, to be prepaid by EFT or cheque and content emailed to frenchpress@bigpond.com.

Account details:
Periwinkle Preschool
BSB: 082489
Account: 570447998

DISTRIBUTION

This newsletter is distributed by email. Past families and others interested in Periwinkle are invited to join the distribution list. Please email frenchpress@bigpond.com.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A special thank you to professional photographer and past Periwinkle parent Nick Burrows for the playground photographs.

Other images by James Edney.