

Kindy 6 Graduation
Tuesday 13th December 2016

Class 6 Graduation Assembly
Wednesday 14th December 2016

Carols Evening
Wednesday 14th December 2016
5pm picnic
Ensemble children to arrive at 4:15pm

Last Day of Term 4
Wednesday 14th December 2016
Children to be picked up at 12:30pm

School Holidays
Thursday 15th December 2016 – Tuesday 31st January 2017

First Day of Term 1 2017
Wednesday 1st February 2017

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Wednesday 30th November 2016
Edition 451

Silver Leaves

News for the Silver Tree Steiner School Community

695 Roland Road, Parkerville WA 6081. Phone: 08 9295 4787 ABN 48 417 551 865

School Email: welcome@silvertree.wa.edu.au School Administrator's email: admin@silvertree.wa.edu.au

Bursar's Email: bursar@silvertree.wa.edu.au Community Development: community@silvertree.wa.edu.au

Enrolments: enquiries@silvertree.wa.edu.au

If a child is absent please ensure an email is sent to the school explaining the absence.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Last Saturday the Silver Tree Steiner School Board of Governors met for the last time this year and worked on our strategic plan for the next three years. I would like to extend thanks, on behalf of the Board, for the presence and input from a number of staff and community members in this very special planning meeting. The Strategic Plan will be in the first newsletter of 2017. Please read the letter below from the Chair of our Board of Governors.

"Dear Parents and Guardians of Silver Tree Steiner School

As we draw near to the end of another school year there is always time for reflection of what has gone before. The year is almost over and we are saying goodbye to some of our students, staff and parents. The year has been filled with events that have brought the school community closer together. The Board would like to thank you for your ongoing support throughout the year. The School could not offer such a rich and caring education to the children without the continuing effort and support that you all give. Your genuine interest in your child's education is evident and the children ultimately benefit.

The Board of Governors also recognise the challenges faced by many families in our school community, especially in the current economic climate. The difficulties associated with the down turn in the economy have not gone unnoticed by the Board and as such a decision was reached that tuition fees will not increase for the 2017 school year.

As a Board, we appreciate the dedication of the teaching faculty, education assistants and administration staff members, and thank them for the contribution to the children's education, their knowledge of policies and astute understanding of issues facing the Board. We appreciate and thank all volunteers for the countless hours involved in so many of the behind the scenes activities such as fundraising, work in the school grounds, assisting in the classrooms or the office. The Board would like to take this opportunity to wish those students and families leaving us this year all the best in their new schools and homes. We want to extend our sincere thanks and best wishes to staff members who will be leaving us for new opportunities in their careers.

As we near the holidays, I want to wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable summer break.

***Bruce Uchiyama-Lee
Chair the Silver Tree Steiner School Board of Governors"***

Blessings on our school and peace upon the earth.

Mark Panaia
Administrator

CALENDAR OF THE SOUL

The waves of warmth
That strongly through the land are radiating, spreading,
Proclaim that we
To glorious, golden days of summer-sun are heading.

"Be filled with light!"
My spirit understands these words which Nature everywhere is showing.
"Let thoughts take flight!"
My heart is told; "Be never earthbound but be always changing, growing!"



EARLY CHILDHOOD CHATTER

Rainbow's Graduation and the Early Childhood Nativity story will be held on **TUESDAY 13TH DECEMBER**
Graduation is at 10.45 and the Nativity story is at midday

This means that there will be no afternoon school for Rainbows and no Kindy Care on that day. PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR TEACHERS FOR CLARIFICATION IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE END OF TERM.

*"Quiet, quiet, make not any noise,
Listen, listen to the holy voice,
Wonder is now coming here, Jesus child will soon be here,
Quiet, quiet make not any noise."*

So begins the Advent ceremony in kindergarten each morning of Advent as the children sit in silence and excited anticipation around the Advent table. This week one candle has been lit. As we move through Advent one more candle will be lit each week until all four are burning. This week the children have been placing treasures from the mineral world on the Advent table and singing Advent songs and Christmas carols. It is lovely when the children hold the ceremony in reverence, and we work very hard to bring that wonder and joy to the occasion. Next week we celebrate the plant world, and the children will place treasures from the plant Kingdom. The morning circles in the kindergartens are also reflecting this time of year, and the stories in their own way are also appropriate to the season. We are also finishing off all sorts of projects for Christmas and proud Rainbows are showing off the results of their handwork! That is such a joy to behold and reminds us again, as if we needed reminding, how lucky we are to work with such delightful children.

Thank you to everyone who is helping in the kitchen. Outwardly we aim to exude calm and so in these busy Advent weeks we love our helpers even more as your work seems even more necessary. We are especially appreciative when, as a kitchen fairy did early in the week, a little extra dusting and cleaning is done. Thank you. We also are so appreciative of the flowers you share from your gardens. Once the flowers all disappear, which they are doing rapidly, then even greenery is appreciated.

Please keep sending in the changes of clothes. Playtime does not change, and often as it has been hot clothes get just as wet as they did in winter. Thank you. Hats, hats, hats; there are quite a few children without them.

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOM

LIGHT KEEPERS NEWS

The Light Keepers have started the History of Writing Main Lesson and what a better way to start than to receive a pen licence! After loads and loads and lots more practise, the day that many thought would never arrive finally did. It was a tremendous sight-seeing each child proudly 'sign' their fountain pen licence to a thunderous applause from class friends. Now a new and exciting journey begins - Congratulations Light Keepers



Fountain Pen Licence

*With my fountain pen
I solemnly do swear
To always write my best
And forever take good care*

*To carefully craft each word
With beauty, reverence and flair
My graceful wonderful hands
Have a special gift to share*

*From deep within my heart
My writing is free to flow
Leaving a living lasting memory
Where ever I may go*



Light Keepers News cont...

"SIMON IS AMAZING"

We had a wonderful time with local ornithologist, Simon Cherriman, who inspired and amazed us with his wonderful relationship with nature, and in particular the Wedged Tailed Eagle. Here are a just a few of the comments made by the lucky children who got to meet him.

"We had an inspiring scientist, who climbs trees, looking for answers about wild life come to visit our class and he was absolutely amazing."

"I am going to talk about a man, well not just an ordinary man, he was an ornithologist and his name was Simon who taught us how to read the bush for signs of birds."

"Simon told us some very interesting facts about Wedged Tailed Eagles and other birds as well. We learnt how some breeds of duck nest in a tree trunk, but when they hatch their mother calls to them and they all hop and jump out of the tree forever!"

"Since Simon was two he has been interested in all birds, and when he was 13 he built a tree house that was 30 metres above the ground! Through crowd funding, this incredible man raised \$6,000 to buy a transmitter that could keep track of a Wedged Tailed Eagle."

"It was very inspiring when Simon talked about making birdhouses out of plywood that he had recycled from the Midland road bridge."

"It was interesting to learn that it takes anywhere from 200 to 300 years for nature to make a tree hollow big enough for an owl to build a home in."

"Simon has a very big heart; he is such a good reminder of how very important it is to always care and respect the earth we live in."



Light Keepers News cont...



NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

INVOICES

Dear Families, the invoices for term 1 next year will be sent out early next week through our new system. Please let the office know on 9295 4787 or bursar@silvertree.wa.edu.au if you do not receive your invoice. Thankyou.

LOST ESSENTIAL OIL

15ml bottle of essential oils, pink label with "harmony" written on it. Lost in Acacia cottage, or somewhere on the school grounds. Please return to Helen McKenzie, or the school office if you have found this.

News from the School cont...

CAROL'S NIGHT

5pm – 7pm 14th December
In the “Village” Playground

All families are invited to join us in celebrating our Christmas festival at 5pm on 14th December in the primary school's bush playground. Please bring a picnic dinner, something to sit on and your best singing voices. A social time to catch up and picnic will be followed by shared carol singing and the infamous “staff play” a farewell to our graduating class will conclude the evening.

JOB VACANCY - EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TEACHER



SILVER TREE STEINER SCHOOL Parkerville

Applications are invited for the position of:

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TEACHER

A part time vacancy (0.3 FTE) exists for an Educational Support Teacher from the commencement of Term 1, 2017 and we invite a suitable applicant for this position.

Silver Tree Steiner School is a single stream co-educational Primary School catering for children from Playgroup to Class 6. Silver Tree is a caring, vibrant and growing school with an emphasis on developing the whole child through the head, heart and hands using the ACARA recognised Australian Steiner Curriculum. The school is set in a natural, picturesque bush-land environment in the Perth Hills and enjoys a positive and strong relationship with the community.

The successful applicant will:

- Have a general understanding of Steiner pedagogy and philosophy
- Be able to develop and deliver a student centered Numeracy and Literacy support program
- Be a highly independent and motivated individual
- Have a high degree of professionalism and communication skills
- Have a preparedness to be fully involved in the Schools' activities

Applicants must submit curriculum vitae, including the names and contact numbers of three referees, one of whom must be the current employer if applicable. A Police Clearance Consent Form (<http://det.wa.edu.au/screening/detcms/portal/>), a Working with Children Check and current registration with the Teacher's Registration Board of Western Australia as a teacher must also be included.

Applications close Friday 9th December 2016

Applications should be addressed to the Administrator, Mr. Mark Panaia and should be marked 'Confidential' and mailed or emailed to the address below.
695 Roland Road, Parkerville WA 6081
Phone: 9295 4787
Email: admin@silvertree.wa.edu.au

News from the School cont...

CRAFT LESSONS

It has been such a busy term in Craft with everyone working really hard to complete their projects before the Christmas break. The Minstrels have almost finished knitting their animals and rainbow balls, the Pathfinders are finishing off their spectacular dragons and horses and the Alchemists are finishing their crocheted cushions, water bottle holders and slippers.

In the Upper Primary, the Lightkeepers have worked so hard to create some outstanding cross stitch fountain pen holders just in time to receive their pen licences! Well done Lightkeepers. The Class Five Koordjenangins are working to finish their woodwork and stunning four-needle knitting projects while the Class Six's are making the final touches to their beautiful hand sewn dolls.

It is such a pleasure and a gift to teach the Craft program at Silver Tree and I look forward to continuing the journey with all the children again next year.

Melissa



Why depriving your kids of toys is a great idea



In this new weekly series, writer Madeleine Somerville makes the case for having less, and enjoying life more

My five siblings and I grew up in a cruel wasteland of deprivation that included whole-wheat cereals, secondhand clothing and shared rooms. To add insult to injury, we didn't even have a TV to distract us from our hardship.

My parents weren't poor, so as a child I simply assumed they had a sadistic streak. Looking back now, as a wise old 31-year-old, I get it. And not only do I get it, I've come to realize that depriving your children is wildly underrated.

The road to this realization was long. In my mid-20s, I realized that, although reusing and recycling had become popular, the concept of *reducing* was being left in the dust, largely because no one could figure out how to make money off of it. I began buying less, making more, and taking a critical look at how much I consumed. As I delved further and further into the bizarre world of bamboo-fibers and up-cycling, my austere childhood took on an entirely different slant. I realized with a shock that my parents were cool: they had been mindful about our planet and its resources since the 1970s.

It wasn't a great surprise then, that when I became pregnant with my daughter Olive, I vowed to carry on this family tradition of neglect.

The reasons, in my mind, were simple. Consuming for consumption's sake is an epidemic – especially when it comes to kids. The moment we see that second line on the pregnancy test, the shopping begins. This relentless pursuit is expensive, stressful, takes a devastating toll on the environment, and has become so commonplace that we barely blink when someone suggests a \$30 plastic teething toy as a "must-have" item.

I'm now a single mom and because I make most of the day-to-day decisions in my daughter's life, my demented ideas encounter virtually no opposition. I've become drunk with power. Yet, while focusing on experiences as opposed to material items has been a positive choice, I sometimes have doubts.

I see Olive delight over battery-operated guitars and plastic dolls at friends' houses, and I feel sharp pangs of guilt. I look at her room, all of her toys contained in one meager basket, and I feel an uncomfortable nagging feeling settle into the pit of my stomach. I don't want her to miss out, I don't want to be the mean mom, and what's more, I don't want her to look back at her childhood and see lack, instead of love.

Some drown their mom-guilt with wine, I like to bury it under reams of cold, hard research. So I started digging, and what I discovered is great news not only for the piles of plastic toys slowly suffocating in our landfills, but for our kids, too. In a study designed to identify and prevent addictive patterns in adults, two German researchers (they would be German) somehow convinced a nursery school to remove all toys from the classroom for three months.

Article cont...

Remarkably, the scenario didn't devolve into Lord of the Flies acted out in miniature. Instead, teachers reported that while on the first day the children seemed bewildered and confused, by the end of the third month they were engaged in wildly imaginative play, able to concentrate better and communicate more effectively.

Similarly, a study by American childhood developmental researchers reported that when children under five have too many toys, they can't concentrate on one thing long enough to actually learn from it, instead they feel compelled to rummage through and touch everything without ever fully immersing themselves in any one activity.

It's not just science that recommends you say yes to less; your wallet and the natural world outside your door agree. The average American household has over \$15,000 in credit card debt and Americans generate 254m tons of trash a year. Those in the UK don't fare much better, with an average household consumer debt of £6,454, and 100m tons of waste.

I don't think it's much of a stretch to infer that at least a small portion of that is from all of the paraphernalia we buy for our kids. It's tough on our pocketbooks and it's tragic for the landfills.

This is especially pertinent now, when many of us are headed to the malls with back-to-school shopping lists in hand. If you're feeling ambitious, try to use this shopping hell to try out a new, scaled-back approach: as you shop, try to evaluate whether what you're buying is a want, or a need. Will it add to your child's life or distract from it?

It's time to rethink deprivation as a parenting strategy. Living with less, it turns out, means more. More money in our savings account, more space on our shelves, and best of all, more communication, imagination and concentration from our kids.

If all else fails, I comfort myself with the idea of Olive on a therapist's couch in 15 years. "I wasn't allowed to have balloons at my birthday parties," she'll gasp, through thick sobs, "Because they were plastic."

Sadistic, indeed.

P&F NEWS

P&F MEETING

Last P&F Meeting for 2016 will be held on Monday 5th December at 11.15am, on the verandah of new Class 5 building. All welcome.

Money raised by our community through the P&F has funded recent purchases including...rubbish bins for open day \$269, two gazebos \$398, cushion covers for Silver Blossoms verandah \$440, wooden bags hooks for class 6 \$250, \$356 towards the monkey bars, \$500 for mothers group materials.

SILVER BLOSSOMS NEWS

Second hand clothing

Thank you for your fantastic donations of second hand clothing. It is lovely to see unwanted garments going to a new home to be loved once again. Recycled clothing is one small step to a sustainable future. We accept both children's and adult sized clothing in good, clean condition. Please leave your donations in a bag at the shop door.

Volunteers

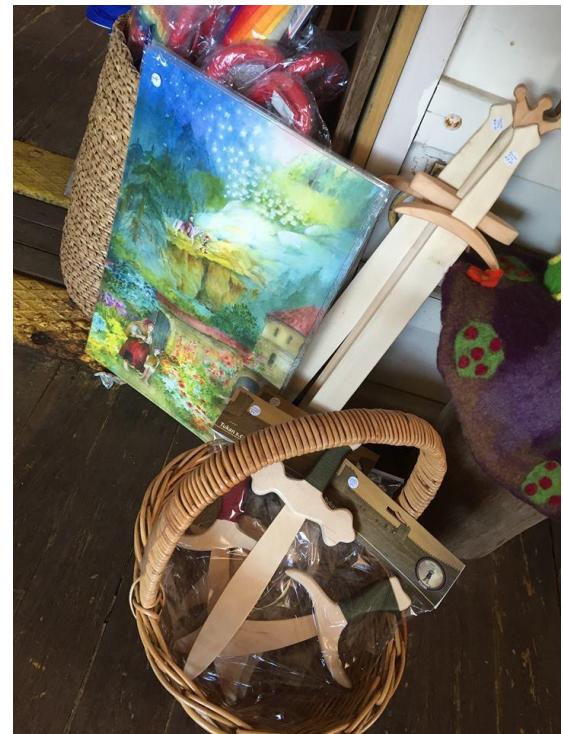
Come and join Crystal and Deb and their small team of merry helpers in the shop. It is a good way of meeting the whole school community. Please consider if you are available to help in any small way. Rosters are in the shop.

PGF News cont...

Shop Hours for rest of Term 4

The shop is aiming to be open every day for the last 2 weeks of term so you can do your Christmas shopping and also stock up on cleaning products and school bags, hats, lunch boxes, birthday presents for the holiday period and some slices.

We look forward to seeing you there!



CRAFT GROUP

Craft group will have a stall at the last after school market on Thursday December 8th from 2pm. We have lovely handmade gifts for sale and also some craft kits to keep you busy in the school holidays.

This includes wool for felting, doll making fabric, cross stitch kits and more! Come take a look!



COURSES/WORKSHOPS/EVENTS

GUEST SPEAKER

This is an opportunity not to be missed

Horst Hellman is a wonderful man, Steiner teacher, Mentor, and World Wide Lecturer on his way to W.A. from Singapore to share with us his rich and diverse understanding and knowledge of Anthroposophy.

Horst came to Western Australia in the early 80's on his sabbatical, to holiday with his family in the south-west. During this trip he planted many a seed that helped grow into the fruit of our Waldorf Education here in W. A. today. He later returned to train some of our teachers in the art of Steiner education.

He has offered a range of exciting topics as shown.

Give yourself the best Christmas present ever

Horst arrives in Perth 6:10pm 18th December.

Monday 19/12 7:30pm Evening talk at the Anthroposophical Society, 41 Foyle Road, Bayswater
“The task to understand Lucifer and Ahriman”

Wednesday 28/12 7:30pm Evening talk at River Blossom Steiner School (Midland)
“Give your kids the best chance to grow- the importance of the first 7 years”

Friday 30/12 7:30pm Evening talk at Perth Waldorf School
“Adolescent years and the development towards freedom”

Sunday 1/1 12pm Lunch and (1pm) afternoon talk at the Anthroposophical Society, 41 Foyle Road, Bayswater
“The attack of the Asuras under the leadership of Sorat”

Monday 2/1 7:30pm Evening talk at West Coast Steiner School (Nollamara)
“The changing role of mother and father in a family – The education of children in a family needs very different attitudes if one wants to keep the “peace”.”

Wednesday 4/1 7:30pm Evening talk at Silver Tree Steiner School (Parkerville)
“Value education by caring for our 12 senses”

Each events \$15, or \$10 for society members.

CLASSIFIEDS

DISCLAIMER: The articles, advertisements and community notices in this newsletter are provided as a service to the school community. The carrying of an article, advertisement or community notice does not imply endorsement by Silver Tree Steiner School.

PARKERVILLE VOLUNTEER BUSH FIRE BRIGADE



Parkerville Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade are super excited that Santa and his elves have asked us to help spread the good cheer of Christmas around the streets of Parkerville on the afternoon of Saturday 17th December. Santa hasn't decided exactly what route we'll take yet but we will put the details up at Sam Drucker's and our Facebook page a little closer to the day. So save the date, stayed tuned and we hope to see you waving on the day.

Classifieds cont...

ALTUS REAL ESTATE - HOUSE FOR SALE

New to the Market!

16 Coleridge Place, North Lake - Offers from \$710,000



Imagine awakening to the sound of birdsong and gazing out onto your own private courtyard that's just waiting for that first quiet cup of mindfulness?

I have a beautifully presented and serene home which is newly ready for sale.

Renovated with love and care this home has 4/5 bedrooms all of which offer refreshing garden views, 2 sparkling bathrooms and 2 living areas. The family room is warmed by a pot belly stove for Winter and has doors that open out onto a covered alfresco for casual Summer living.

Lovingly prepare meals in a beautifully appointed kitchen with solid beech oiled benchtops and forget about cleaning up with the ease of an integrated dishwasher.

Let your children enjoy a healthy positive connection to the natural world with chickens, space for a veggie garden and acres of bush and parklands on your doorstep.

With a mixture of native and cottage gardens providing a tranquil outlook and views to the hills you will feel like you're living the country life.

Perfectly positioned with easy access to Fiona Stanley & St John's Murdoch Hospitals, Murdoch University, and five minutes to the freeway and ten minutes to Fremantle.

Only minutes from Perth Waldorf School, the current owners would love a Waldorf family to be the next to enjoy the natural beauty of their home.

For more information, please contact Angela
0422 893 859/angela@altusrealestate.com.au



Classifieds cont...

WALDORF FURNITURE FOR EDUCATION AND PLAY

WALDORF FURNITURE FOR EDUCATION AND PLAY



WOODEN DESK

Height adjustable (5 presets).
Large compartment for storage.
Lids have two settings: declined for writing and level for wet painting.
Used in the primary school of the Perth Waldorf School, WA.

Price: \$450



WOODEN PLAY FRAME

Wooden play frames inspire free play for early childhood.
Large wooden pegs allow for effective creation of cubbies with muslin, cotton or silk cloths.
Set includes one play frame and two pegs.

Price: \$80



WOODEN PLAY STAND

Wooden play stands encourage endless play spaces for early childhood including theatre for puppet shows, shop and café.
Play stands can be used for nature tables encourage seasonal displays.

Price: \$180

For more information and to place an order:

call Christian on **0409 267178** or visit www.christiangeyer.net

TENNIS COACHING

08 9252 0209
www.loliverstennis.com.au
lolivers@bigpond.com

Lolivers Tennis

Tennis Coaching for Children age 3 - 16

Saturday mornings and Tuesday afternoons at Darlington
Thursday afternoons at Mundaring
Friday afternoons at Helena Valley
"Enjoy your first lesson, or your money back!"

Adult Tennis Lessons
Visit www.loliverstennis.com.au for current sessions

Cardio Tennis - First Lesson FREE!
Friday mornings (9.15am) at Darlington
Monday evenings (6pm) at Darlington
Tuesdays evenings (6pm) at Mundaring

Private Lessons - By Appointment
Fully Insured and Fully Qualified
Over 25 years of Tennis Coaching Experience

Silver Tree Steiner School Calendar – Term 1, 2017

Term 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 1	30 TH Jan	31 st Jan	1 st Feb	2 nd Feb	3 rd Feb	4 th Feb	5 th Feb
			First Day of School				
Week 2	6 th Feb	7 th Feb	8 th Feb	9 th Feb	10 th Feb	11 th Feb	12 th Feb
Week 3	13 th Feb	14 th feb	15 th feb	16 th Feb	17 th Feb	18 th Feb	19 th Feb
Week 4	20 th Feb	21 st Feb	22 nd Feb	23 rd Feb	24 th Feb	25 th Feb	26 th Feb
			Class 3 Camp	Class 3 Camp	Class 3 Camp		
Week 5	27 th Feb	28 th Feb	1 st March	2 nd March	3 rd March	4 th March	5 th March
					Mid-term Break		
Week 6	6 th March	7 th March	8 th March	9 th March	10 th March	11 th March	12 th March
	Mid-term Break						
Week 7	13 th March	14 th March	15 th March	16 th March	17 th March	18 th March	19 th March
	Class 6 Camp	Class 6 Camp	Class 6 Camp	Class 6 Camp			
Week 8	20 th March	21 st March	22 nd March	23 rd March	24 th March	25 th March	26 th March
Week 9	27 th March	28 th March	29 th March	30 th March	31 st March	1 st April	2 nd April
Week 10	3 rd April	4 th April	5 th April	6 th April	7 th April	8 th April	9 th April

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
 Monday 10th April – Friday 21st April
 2017. Term 2 commences on
 Wednesday 26th April