Our continuing journey…..

Over the last few months we have provided all of our students with some fantastic learning opportunities such as hosting Korean students, communicating with our sister schools in China and the Philippines, Adelaide Zoo excursion and workshop, Peasant Prince Performance at Marion Cultural Centre, Science Week visits and activities to Stirling Library, Book Week celebrations and our exciting Glenhaven Park camp. All of these deep learning opportunities would not have been possible without our committed staff which have tirelessly planned, organised and worked to bring them to fruition.

All of this plus preparation for our Dual stream in 2017. As a community we have worked together to realise our vision of Mainstream and Steiner Stream working as one community.

As a school community we have advertised, organised and conducted a number of school tours, an open evening and celebration assembly, designed and distributed flyers, shared information across a range of forums e.g. http://www.steinereducation.edu.au/member-schools/associate-members/, http://uraidla.com/basket-range-primary-school-open-days/ and redesigned our website coming out soon.

Our mission is to promote our community ethos and our progressive approach to learning which offers Mainstream and Steiner curriculum choice and more individualised attention through small class sizes and engaging teaching in an idyllic setting.

Our commitment to a successful transition to a dual stream school is also very evident in the work happening across the school. Rooms and grounds have been transformed to ensure that all students are provided with an environment that best meets their social and academic needs.

I would like to acknowledge and thank some individuals who have generously given their time to bring about this transformation, Sue Gleeson, Simon Cowling, David Keys, Kirsty Keys, Susan Pfeiffer, Mark Parker, Nethica and Stephen Nelsen, Shelley and Mick Lorenz, Nikaela Stephenson, Sandy Hobb and Rosie and Oscar Winter. These are some but not all of the people that have demonstrated our community strength.

For the remainder of the year as a community we continue to promote and prepare our school for 2017.

Nancy Saccoia
Principal
Room 3 News from Sue’s class

This term, with a little more warmth in the air, the children have enjoyed working outside; planning, measuring, cleaning and preparing the undercover area for painting and ‘making more beautiful for our new students next year’. They have been sawing, hammering and sanding to make lantern sticks, and getting down into the garden to build cubbies and rope swings. Whilst sitting under the trees sanding their sticks one student commented that, "this is the best education we have had all year!"

Together the children wrote the following narrative describing one of their outdoor learning activities. "We went to the garden where the big trees are and got a stick the same roundness as our finger and not too long. We screwed it into the clamp and used the saw to cut it to the right length then we sanded it until it was smooth and felt silky. Then we got a hammer and a nail and banged the nail into the end of the stick. We got some copper wire and twisted it around the nail and the handle of our lantern. In the night we had our special assembly and all the parents and our other friends came. When it was our turn to sing we went out and got our lighted lanterns and walked in a line into the room. We sang our lantern song and everyone was happy with our singing."

The younger students learn many things when working together with ‘the big kids’ and vice versa. In our Friday morning sessions the leadership students organise and work with a set group and focus on one or two particular leadership skills each week. There are two aspects to working in a group; being a leader and being a follower. The children learn about the responsibility of supporting and enabling a leader to lead and all the children have the opportunity to experience the frustrations of the group not listening or following instructions as well as the joys of instructions being followed and an activity being successful. This experience has led to better cooperation in group work. We as teachers have also benefited from this.

The high level of engagement in our whole school active outdoor learning program is proof of the benefits for each child at every year level and we are excited about our afternoon programs next year when the children will be building, growing, moving and making. These activities are in
Room 3 News from Sue’s class

collaboration with local community groups with whom we continue to build close working relationships.

This term we were also very fortunate to make a link with Ryota, a Japanese artist working with James Erskine. James approached us with the idea of Ryota doing something creative with the children to make an art piece for the school. Each child has made a beautiful painting on the rib from a wine barrel and we will turn them into an art piece to hang for all to enjoy.

Ryota comes from the town of Saga on the Island of Kyushu in the south of the Japanese Islands. He trained as a professional oil painter but his keen interest in natural wines took him to France where he did his first harvest producing sparkling wines. On a quiet day, whilst working with his first winemaker, Ryota found an old chisel and hammer and started creating wood carvings on one of the barrels.

This hobby slowly developed into Ryota traveling and carving all throughout the wine regions of France and Spain and has led him to Australia and New Zealand visiting natural Winemakers. Ryota not only carves barrels but doors and restaurant walls. He is a brilliant artist and we have been very fortunate to have had him visit our community and work with our children.
Room 2 News from Claire’s class...

As usual time is going so fast and we have already crammed so much into term 4. With Swimming week and camp and rehearsing for the school concert I am surprised we have had enough time to do anything else! Despite the craziness of term 4 the children have a good few new things happening.

Firstly the new math’s program we have started working on. Using Tierney Kennedy’s ‘Back to Front Maths’ methodologies we have changed the way maths looks in the classroom. We are working much more from a problem solving base as research tells us that by starting with a problem, teachers are able to diagnose students misconceptions and begin to unpick the ideas they have in their heads that often oppose each other and stop children from learning (and retaining) the maths concepts. Whist more traditional methods occasionally uncover misconceptions, problem-based teaching will both uncover and lead students to self-correct these wrong ideas, forming deep and lasting understanding of mathematical principles.

At first when using this approach students (and parents) can find it a little strange. Often children are not given the answer to a maths problem, which can seem a little odd. They are often also given maths problems to work out which they have never seen before – children usually want to be given the example first so they can follow the formulae and ‘get it right’. Using this teaching methodology instead of providing explanations, algorithms and formulae, the focus changes and the teacher asks leading questions so that students develop mathematical principles for themselves. This forces them to abandon wrong ideas, and to remember previously understood principles. The sequence then builds to develop new mathematical thinking that the children trust as it is based on their own intuitive understanding.

When children develop their own mathematical understanding it lasts. The need for repetition and practice is greatly reduced, and the flexibility and reliability of the concepts is greatly increased. Maths is about patterns, when children uncover these for themselves, learning improves rapidly.

Following 3 days of intensive training with Tierney I am loving teaching maths more than any other aspect of the curriculum at the moment! I think the children have also noticed this - to quote Kalan ‘Claire you are the most enthusiastic maths person I have ever met (not in a bad way)’. If you would like to read more about the methods please visit the website https://www.backtofrontmaths.com.au/

The school production is also taking up a big portion of our time. The children are working really hard on their roles and will have a great performance for the end of year concert. I have challenged them a great deal with the choice of script and language used (A Midsummer Night’s Dream by William Shakespeare) but they are embracing it and working hard. Some of the children are well on their way to knowing their lines but if you would like to help at home their homework this term is to learn lines. The best way for them to do this is to speak the lines out loud over and over (preferably with the actions and the cue lines read in) so having someone to read with them and hear them will be a massive support.

Each of the children in my class have a main part (some two) in the play and we will be asking for you to see what you have at home to use for costume. Please send in anything you think may be suitable for your child’s character – remembering if they play two characters they need to be able to change quickly so a simple change of look would be best.

A huge congratulations to Fred and Charlotte for their hard work in successfully researching, sourcing and arranging for our new guinea pigs to come and set up home at our school. They even managed to negotiate a delivery of them! We managed to get them and their cage etc. for nothing but will be donating the money we had saved to the RSPCA.
Room 2 News from Claire’s class...

We will be looking for volunteers to take the guinea pigs home during the holidays so please let me know if you would like to do this. (We have many of the children volunteering to but it would be great to know if they are also allowed to).

Looking forward to the last few weeks of term, and it seems that the weather is finally catching up with Spring so hopefully we will have lots of outdoor fun!

Swimming...
Whole School Camp...

There was an air of excitement and anticipation as students gathered together on Wednesday morning 9th November. The day of camp had finally arrived. We were heading to Glenhaven Park at Stockport near Gawler for three days of challenges.

The coach arrived, bags were packed in the trailer and we waved goodbye to parents, some with tears in the eyes. Not sure if this was because they were sad, or just happy to have 2 child free nights!

Travelling via Lobethal and Cudlee Creek we made our way across the hills to the camp site. On arrival we were greeted by Chris and Kev who gave us brief instructions and allowed us to settle in before they met us again early afternoon for our first session.

This session was ‘Bush Skills’ and after a discussion about how to prepare and care for yourself if out bushwalking or camping we commenced an activity that was tailor made for our Basket Rangers - building shelters (aka cubbies). With the scenario of a serious storm with strong winds and heavy rain due within the hour, students were split into 4 groups and tasked with providing shelter for themselves using what they could find around them. The 2 instructors were very impressed with the efforts, but after all our students do have experience in building shelters.

After this session we were all rather hot and dusty so when students were told that yes they could go for a swim they were ready in no time. A few of them were suddenly reluctant to enter the pool fully though when they realised just how cold the water was. Many were brave however and spent the next half hour or so splashing and having fun.

Later that afternoon we had free time before dinner where some played board games and others explored the area outside. After a delicious dinner of chicken Maryland and vegetables (yes, they all ate their veggies) and apple crumble, free time continued until bedtime was called followed not long after by lights out. After the excitement of the day it did take a while for some to settle but it was not too late when the adults were also able to head for bed.

Thursday morning dawned with voices being heard from the various cabins although only a few braved being outside of their cabins before 7:00am. A breakfast of cereal followed by pancakes and various toppings was enjoyed with many returning for seconds, thirds and more!

Our first activity for the day was making damper. We started by watching Chris light the fire to prepare the coals to cook our damper. Back inside he instructed us as to how to go about making this damper, then everyone had the opportunity to follow these instructions. Placing our offerings into the camp ovens we were back outside to place them in the fire to cook. Fifteen or so minutes later everyone was back inside tasting their masterpieces.

For the next activity of the day we were split into two groups for Low Ropes and Archery. Knowing what was planned for later in the day some students were able to switch groups. So the mostly older group tried their
hand at Archery while the younger students experienced the Low Ropes. Lunch was well earned and the respite from the flies was certainly appreciated. It was then back outside with the groups switching activities however the older group bypassed the Low Ropes heading for the High Ropes with elements 10 metres up. We have some very brave students amongst us with many completing the elements and others overcoming their fears. It was a special experience to hear how supportive and encouraging of each other our students are.

Once again the late afternoon was spent in the pool and then relaxing playing games or exploring. A delicious dinner of lasagne and salad followed by fruit salad was enjoyed with many again returning for second, third and more helpings. Once our meal was cleaned up we headed out to the campfire where marshmallows were toasted followed by a game of hide and seek in the dark. After a very active and successful day of personal achievements students did not take too long to settle off to sleep; neither did the adults.

Friday arrived with most students sleeping a little later although the call for breakfast saw everyone ready for the day ahead. Again groups were split and while the older group had free time the younger students headed for the giant swing which was an instant hit. After morning tea the groups switched and it was the older groups opportunity to experience the rush of being pulled high in the air and then releasing themselves to swing over the ground.

All too soon lunch was over; we were all packed and thanked our hosts for a fantastic experience. Our students were complimented on their good behaviour, their willingness to listen to instructions, to participate and to challenge themselves, and their strong support and encouragement of each other.

We arrived home late Friday afternoon to a crowd of parents very pleased to see their children and ready to hear all about the adventures of the past few days.

A big thank you is given to Mick Lorenz and Oscar Winter for their assistance during the camp; it was greatly appreciated. Also to our staff for their commitment, although it didn’t seem to be a chore at all for the 2 who really enjoyed themselves experiencing the high ropes and giant swing! And a final thank you to our students who made us proud.

Where to next year…

More photos of our days at camp are on the next pages.
Whole School Camp...
Glenhaven Park, Stockport...
Whole School Camp...
Glenhaven Park, Stockport...
Basket Range Primary School

School Pride Award 2016

Presented to

Madeline Stephenson

Madeline has demonstrated that she is a worthy candidate for the School Pride Award. Her maturity is evident in her confidence and the active responsibility and awareness she shows towards others.

She is a thoughtful and considerate student.

29 September 2016

Upcoming Dates...

Wednesday 16 November
School Open Day—Prospective Students (5:00-6:00pm)

Friday 25 November
Pupil Free Day

Friday 2 December
Aquatics (Year 6,7 students)

Wednesday 14 December
School End of Year Concert and Celebration

Thursday 15 December
School Picnic Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens (To be confirmed)

Friday 16 December
Last day of 2016 school year. 2:15pm dismissal

Don’t forget to check our page:
https://www.facebook.com/basketrangeps