Mansfield Steiner School Turns 30

Mansfield Rudolf Steiner School celebrates its 30th birthday this year. The school was established in 1986 in the small hamlet of Maindample, the brainchild of two local teachers who wanted an alternative and independent form of education for their own children. The growth of the school was slow but steady and in 1996 the school was relocated to its present site in the township of Mansfield. The move to the bigger centre encouraged enrolments and more local interest in the school. The school’s reputation as a solid educational institution grew as its graduates excelled in other settings. In 2007, due to parent demand the school extended from a primary school to Class 7 and 8.

Most of the graduates of the school move onto the local secondary college where many have become leaders and have certainly boosted VCE results. Our enrolments come from the town, and other local schools, but mostly our families move to Mansfield specifically to attend the school. The school has had composite classes from Class 1 to 8 until this year where class numbers have allowed single streamed classes to Class 4, thus reducing class sizes. The reduction in student numbers in each class has seen the need for more class rooms. The school has completed a new master plan incorporating the building of new class rooms and other facilities with construction to commence as soon as possible.

The school follows the Australian Steiner Curriculum framework, developed from Dr Steiner’s (Austrian Philosopher) indications. The School fosters an evolving awareness with this specific curriculum. Unique to Steiner schools is the role of the Class Teachers who guide classes through several years as guardians and mentors. The primary years of Mansfield Steiner School are rooted in the ideal that the needs of childhood must be honoured, and progressive and traditional values hereby find their balance. Students gain confidence and can be inspired to a high level when the same teacher is with them year after year. Teachers use a multi-sensory approach to learning and work rhythmically and imaginatively with students. Music plays a key role in the curriculum and all students play recorder together each day and a stringed instrument from Year 3. Respect for the natural environment and seasonal cycles is encouraged through the celebration of a range of festivals (seasonal, cultural and faith) during the year.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES
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