Dare to learn...

Mosman Community College Newsletter April 2011

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Drawing from the past

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Lifelong Learning

There are so many happy memories for my family in our long association with Mosman Evening College. In the 1950s my mother had great pleasure in learning to make her own hats and French silk flowers. My aunt and cousin daringly attended what was then an all-male woodwork class. My cousin still has Aunt Olive’s small table.

Leaving school in the 1950s, I enthusiastically joined the classes for tuition in fencing – not the enclosing but the foil kind.

In the 1980s I attended Chinese painting for 7 years with Stephen Cassettari. Some other long-term students may remember the magnificent Chinese dragon Stephen painted on the wall opposite the old college office at Mosman High School. These classes, as well as watercolour techniques with Sarah Aylward and Adrienne Crouch filled in gaps in my art education. The thoughtfulness, discipline and simplicity of Chinese painting combined with the lovely accidental effects of watercolour have led to the development of my personal style and years of enjoying painting almost every day.

Jill Mercer

Taking Care of Business

Callum Evans works quietly behind the scenes to make sure the College classes run smoothly. Each class at the College has some special requirements, and Callum makes sure rooms are arranged as tutors require and with needed equipment installed. Every tutor has appreciated Callum’s ability to fix or replace malfunctioning equipment, carry heavy materials up stairways, and repair the photocopier. Mosman High School has trusted him for the past seven years with securing the school grounds after classes of an evening. Those who have an opportunity to talk with Callum will find he is an authority on the books of Clive Barker, an expert at Grand Theft Auto and Resident Evil and a great fan of The Family Guy, from watching which program he received the general education he should have got at school.

Photo Chris Maait

Early Birds

Congratulations to our Early Bird Prize Winners for Term 1: Prue, Farry & Amanda. These lucky students can use their prize to enrol in any course in either term 2 or term 3. Remember to enrol for Term 2 (which runs from 9 May to 9 July; some classes start 2 May), at least two weeks before the start of term & you could go in the draw for one of three prizes to be used in term 3 or 4.

This would be a great gift idea for friends, relatives, or yourself to do that course you’ve been meaning to do.

Farry is a winner!

Photo Chris Maait

Photo Chris Maait
Flower Power

While it’s been widely recognised that plants make a positive contribution to air quality, a behavioural study conducted at Harvard University has revealed that people feel more compassionate towards others, have less worry and anxiety and feel less depressed when flowers are present in their homes.

“Spending a few days with flowers can affect a wide variety of feelings, from compassion to worry”, said Psychologist, Dr. Nancy Etcoff, Ph.D.

Professor Margaret Burchett from the University of Technology, Sydney, discovered in her research that when plants are present in offices, participants experienced a variety of emotional changes, including a reduction in stress, depression and anger and lowering feelings of fatigue and confusion.

This information confirms what gardeners have always known - why they are reputed to be the happiest and most optimistic.

Judith Sleijpen, MAIH

Judith offers a variety of gardening workshops at the College

He takes the photos

Chris Maait, whose photo of a belly dancer performing at the Sydney Belly Dance Festival is to the right, is an experienced commercial photographer whose subjects have included belly dancers, Santa Claus, and deep sea fish. He is now updating the College image library. Chris teaches photography and Photoshop classes at the College

Destination Milan
Italian Study Trip
1-15 October, 2011

Elena de Felice, who teaches Italian at the College, is organising a study tour. “I am taking students to Milan for 2 weeks next October. There will be four hours of Italian tuition each day plus an excursion, visits to museums, and shopping!! Accommodation is arranged. Students need to organise their flights, (and have money to buy shoes!!)”. Call Elena on 0401 627 665 or email: elena.defelice@optusnet.com.au.

Belly Dance Fun & Fitness

There is something very special about being a part of a belly dancing troupe. For me, there are so many aspects that are appealing it’s hard to pick just one that is my favourite: watching the beautifully coloured veils gliding through the air; hearing the sound of coin belts jingling in time with the rhythm; seeing the smiles on the faces of my fellow dancers or listening to their laughter and chatter in between dances.

Our teacher Midge is a gentle and encouraging instructor who has attracted a diverse range of students both in age and interest and in class we are united on a focus of dance and fun!

Julie Macken

Drumming Students Give the Thumbs Up

Griots are the carriers of history and tradition throughout many west African nations. In Senegal probably the most famous griots are the singers Baaba Maal and Youssou N’Dour. Thiass Mbaye is a griot from Senegal now living in Australia and teaching his traditional culture to the people of Sydney. He comes from the far western coast of Senegal, from the village of Yoff. Thiass teaches African drumming at the College.

Students learn traditional rhythms played on the djembe drum. There’s nothing academic about the experience. Students bring their own drum (though they can arrange to hire one from Thiass) and spend 90 minutes every Monday night during term not only building their knowledge of drumming rhythms, but performing as a group and as a solo drummer, and expressing their creativity.