

Bahá'í News

February & March 2011

A newsletter of the Hidden Words Bahá'í Books and Information

THE HIDDEN WORDS
HIDDEN WORDS
NEW WORDS
BAHÁ'Í BOOKS & INFORMATION



*O SON OF BEING! With
the hands of power I
made thee and with the
fingers of strength I
created thee; and within
thee have I placed the
essence of My light*

Bahá'í Scripture

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**Hidden Words will
be closed Monday
March 21 to observe
Naw-Rúz**

Bahá'í New Year.

**Sorry for any
inconvenience**

Bahá'í Education Classes



About the Programme

What are Bahá'í Education Classes?

Bahá'í Education Classes (BEC) is a religious education programme offered in government schools during the time allotted for religious representatives to teach about their religion to students. The content and spirit of these classes reflect the teachings of the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, Bahá'u'lláh.

What do children learn about God?

It is a Bahá'í teaching that we cannot begin to understand the concept of God (or 'the Unknowable Essence', as God is referred to in the Bahá'í Writings). We explain that, just as the sun is the source of physical life on the planet, so God is the source of our spiritual life. Spiritual qualities or virtues such as trustworthiness, joyfulness, kindness etc are the signs of God within us. We teach the children that our essence is spiritual and that it needs to be nurtured, fostered and educated just like our bodies and minds do.

What do the students learn about the Bahá'í Faith?

The students will develop an understanding about the fundamental principles of the Bahá'í Faith such as:

- The oneness of God: that irrespective of which religion we adhere to, we worship the same God – only the name and the form of worship differ.
- The oneness of religion: that all the world's major religions are chapters of the one book – a book that is still unfinished. The children learn about the major world religions from a Bahá'í perspective.
- The oneness of humanity: the need for the eradication of prejudices of race, class, creed, nationality, sex.
- The equality of women and men.

Other important aspects of the Bahá'í Faith are also covered:

- Prayer and meditation
- The history of the Bahá'í Faith
- Collective decision making through the process of consultation.
- The importance of fostering good character and the development of spiritual qualities such as honesty, compassion, justice and service which form the foundation of a peaceful world.

They will be encouraged to put in practice what they have learned in the classroom and make a positive contribution to the society in which they live.

Why are the classes being offered?

These classes cater for children from Bahá'í families and other children whose parents wish them to participate. Students from any religious and cultural background are welcome. Children must have written permission from their parents to attend classes.

What experience do the Bahá'ís have in providing children's education?

Bahá'í Education Classes were first offered in Victorian schools in 1998. Since that time, the programme has grown and is now offered to more than 40 schools.

Bahá'ís have also offered religious education classes to children outside school hours for many years at a variety of locations around the state.

Who are the teachers and what is their training?

The teachers are volunteers and members of the Bahá'í Community, attending an intensive 3 day training course followed by Child Protection Accreditation Training and also training in The Peace Pack Curriculum.

How are teachers approved?

Child protection is very important to the Bahá'í Community. All teachers must comply with the legal requirements of Victoria. In addition to this, the national governing body of the Bahá'ís has a child protection policy with which all teachers must comply. Under this policy, all teachers must complete a 5 hour course in child protection, undergo a criminal history check, and complete a statutory declaration confirming that they do not have a criminal conviction for a range of crimes. The relevant Bahá'í governing body must also provide an affirmation that, to its knowledge, there is nothing in the person's history that would cause a concern with regard to authorising the person to teach or supervise children.

Who supervises the programme?

The governing body for the Bahá'ís in the locality where the classes take place supervises the programme. The training of teachers is conducted by the Bahá'í Centre of Learning for Victoria.

The Bahá'í Council for Victoria is responsible for the affairs of the Bahá'í Faith, including the overall supervision of Bahá'í Education Classes.

Who to contact for further information:

An information folder about Bahá'í Education Classes is available at the school office. For further information contact:

Hidden Words Baha'i Books and Information, hiddenwords@vic.bahai.org.au

Bahá'í Holy Days and days of festivities



Baha'is throughout the world will be preparing for **Ayyám-i-Há (The Intercalary Days) February 26 to March 1** inclusive, days of hospitality, charity and the giving of presents these are also the days of preparation for the Bahá'í Fast, sunrise March 2 to sunset March 20.

March 21, Naw-Rúz, the first day of the Bahá'í year. On this day Bahá'ís will be suspending work and school to welcome in the New Year 167 B.E.

Soul Food at the State Library

Soul Food is a monthly event held at the State Library. It provides an opportunity to relax in a tranquil environment and reflect on different themes. It features music, audio-visual pieces & inspirational readings from various Faiths; indigenous, ancient and modern –from the north, south, east & west.

Soul Food is a free community event open to all, we invite you to take some time out and join us.

**1st Sunday of each month
at Village Road Show Theatre,
State Library, Melbourne**

February 6 & March 6
Time: 10.30am – 11.30am

Contact: 9489 3837

Further information about Soul Food programs in Melbourne and Adelaide can be found at www.soulfood.com.au.

**Tranquillity Zones at Hidden
Words
Every Sunday
Commencing 20 February 2011
Time: 11:00am**

To assist with the relaxation and meditation, friends are encouraged to arrive 5 to 10 minutes before the session starts and observe silence.

*Doors will close at 11am sharp.
The sessions are approximately
30 Minutes.*

Sessions are free and open to all

Opening Hours:
Monday to Friday 10am to 6pm
Saturday 10am to 4pm
Closed Sundays

Information Nights at Hidden Words

Be Inspired, Be Informed, Be Enlightened... that and more at the Hidden Words Bahá'í Bookshop. This is your personal invitation! These information evenings provide an opportunity to share in understanding the Bahá'í Writings, principles and teachings. From historical accounts of the Life of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í Faith to the application and practice of His teachings on harmony, community, self-understanding, joyfulness and our personal connection to our creator. These evenings are designed to inspire a glimpse of the principles, practice and spiritual foundations of the Bahá'í Faith.

ALL SESSIONS START AT 7:30PM

- Feb 11:** *What is True Love? (Four Kinds of Love)*
Feb 25: *Why are we here? –
Transforming Neighborhoods.*
Mar 11: *The Greatness Which Could Be Theirs –
Men and Women advancing together
like two wings of a bird*
Mar 25: *Arts - Ladder to Pathways of Unleashing
Innate Potentialities and Spirituality*

For more information contact: Hidden Words 03 9815 2020 or e-mail hiddenwords@vic.bahai.org.au

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