



DANTE NEWS Gold Coast

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Società Dante Alighieri Gold Coast

Dicembre 2011/ Gennaio 2012

Dear Members

Thank you for your support this year. Thank you to my committee who has been busy with the many activities we organised for our members. AGM, Piazza Dante opening, Italian Poetry Competition, Italian film night, Italian Ambassador's visit, Opera nights – thank you Connie, Matta Mattinata in Macchina -thank you June - and thank you to George Minassian for the new look website. Please check out all the photos of the classes and the various activities for 2012. The web site will be continually updated so that any latest news we will put on there so please make it a priority to check out the web site regularly – encourage others to check it out also. We welcome suggestions on how to improve the web site or tips from travellers who have gone to Italy as a tourist or as a student. I will be accompanying a tour in May 2012. (Brochure on the web)

Please make sure you check out the dates for the 2012 Italian language courses and mark your calendars. Thank you Rita for all the work you do to ensure our school runs efficiently and thank you to all the Dante teachers. I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Cordiali saluti,

Giovanna



Teachers: Giovanna, Rita, Gilda, Ursula and Astrid. Absent Charlotte, Gabriel, Luisa L, Luisa W, Martina & Danielle.

*Il Comitato vi augura Buon
Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo*



COMING EVENTS

17th and 28th January
ENROLMENT DATES

6th February
CLASSES COMMENCE
www.dantegoldcoast.com

23rd February
I MUSICI – 60th Anniversary Tour
Concert Hall QPAC
www.qpac.com.au tel. 136246

GOLD COAST ITALO AUSTRALIAN CLUB
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
www.italoaustralianclub.com.au
Ph. 07-55751966

DANTE MEMBERSHIP IS NOW DUE!!

Hanno detto....

Il rimangiarmi le mie parole non mi ha mai dato l'indigestione.

Winston Churchill

Dai un pesce a un uomo e lo nutrirai per un giorno. Insegnagli a pescare e lo nutrirai per tutta la vita.

Confucio

La speranza è un sogno a occhi aperti.

Aristotele

PRESIDENT: Giovanna Santomauro 5539 5528

SCHOOL DIRECTOR: Rita Lo Presti 5527 0797

SCHOOL NEWS

Another year has quickly passed. I would like to thank the students who attended the end of year dinner. It was an enjoyable evening and an opportunity to relax with other fellow Dante students. The poem presentation on Occupations by Astrid's Beginners 3 Friday morning was also a special treat.

I'd like to also thank the teachers for their work and efforts in bringing the language closer to the students.

Corsi Estivi~ Summer Courses

If you put your name down for any of these, please ensure that you have paid for all the classes. Those students who have yet to pay for their course after New Year, please Direct Debit these as soon as possible.

School Info on the Website

Information on Semester 1 2012 is now available on the website. This includes the year calendar, classes and times, fees, Terms and Conditions of enrolment and the Enrolment form. Please take the opportunity to look at the site www.dantegoldcoast.com

Children's Christmas Party

We invite students of the Children's class, Playgroup kids and children of the Dante members to celebrate Christmas together on Saturday 17th Dec 10.30am. Please bring a plate to share for morning tea. Also please bring a small gift with your child's name on it for Santa to give to the children. Please RSVP to Martina 0415406603 or myself 55270797.

Children's Class 2-5 years

There have been some requests for a class for children in these age groups. This class is advertised on the enrolment form-Thursday 3.25 - 3.55pm. Hopefully we will get enough children to start the year.

Children's Class 5-10 years

This class's time will change next year to 4.00- 4.45pm.



Buon

Natale

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
To all Dante students, teachers and
Committee members
Astrid*

Classes for 2012 Semester 1

Enrolment Dates for Semester 1

There are two possible times

- **Tues 17th January**
9:30am-12:00 3:30- 6:30pm
- **Sat 28th January**
9:30- 11:30am

FEES

Special Price – Upfront payment including

Enrolment Fee **\$380**

'Early bird special': 5% discount applies only to upfront payment on tuition received on or before

Friday 13th January SUPER SPECIAL \$361

Mamma Mia!!!!

Term Payments (include Enrolment)

Term 1 (8 weeks) \$198.00

Term 2 (10 weeks) \$245.00

Conversation Classes- \$60 per semester or \$10 a lesson

Please take the opportunity to look at the web site www.dantegoldcoast.com and read the *Term and Conditions to Enrolment* which is available on the webpage in regards to refunds etc.

Class times and days

These are on the enrolment form but also available on the web at 'Classes and times'.

Enrolment form

Please find in with this newsletter the Enrolment and Renewal of membership all on the one form.

Commencement Week- 6th February 2012

**** Don't miss the Early Bird Special ****

Payment - Cash / Cheque / * Direct Debit

*BSB 034216 Acct No 862414

*Use Surname as Reference of Payee

Any questions, please call me- 55270797

Rita

School Director

'PRESEPI' (Nativity Scenes) – in NAPLES and ROME

Naples is the top spot in Italy for "presepi". The "Napolitano Style" nativity displays began in the late 17th century when Charles II wanted a "presepe" that included not just the traditional Christmas crib but figures from everyday life. He commissioned master wood carvers to create scenes and intricate figurines showing working people and royal family.

In the 18th century making elaborate "presepi" was popular with rich families and many of them remain and are on display in the San Martino Museum of Naples. The tradition has continued and nearly every family in Naples sets up a nativity scene that includes traditional 18th century pieces often mixed with popular modern figures. Some of these can be quite entertaining.

Via San Gregorio Armeno, in the heart of Naples' old town, is often called the street of nativity workshops. Lining the narrow pedestrian street are artisan workshops making "presepi" and terra cotta figurines. Tiny shops sell these Christmas crib figures as well as souvenirs, with items ranging from very high quality to inexpensive. The "presepe" is an important part of Christmas in Italy and often sits easily alongside the more modern Christmas tree.

Rome lays claim to the oldest nativity scene in Italy, believed to be that of Arnolfo di Cambio, on display in the Museum of the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. The most monumental "presepe" is of course, outside St Peter's Basilica. Other churches in Rome also arrange for spectacular presentations of their own "presepi".

Santa Maria in Aracoeli on the Campidoglio has a glorious centrepiece to its sixteenth century "presepe" - the famous wooden statue of a rather plump baby Jesus who, at midnight on Christmas Eve, is lifted from his bejewelled case to join the ceremony in his honour, on the Capitoline Hill. Romans and tourists alike climb the 124 candlelit steps leading up to Santa Maria in Aracoeli to view the baby in his manger in the church's "presepe" and bestow upon him the traditional Epiphany kiss. You can also visit the *Museo Tipologico Internazionale del Presepio*, located in the basement of an apartment building wedged behind the Roman Forum Hotel on Via Tor de' Conte, just off Via Cavour. **The "presepe" does not only have a religious relevance but transmits to the visitor a sense of creativity, poetry and sensibility.** If you are lucky enough to be in Italy at Christmas time, make sure to visit a "presepe" – it's an experience you will recall every Christmas after that.

Connie Canale



1780703 www.fotosearch.com



**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL
2012 MEMBERSHIPS
ARE NOW DUE FOR
RENEWAL
\$20 SINGLE
\$25 FAMILY**

BIRTHS IN PIAZZA DANTE

The Dante courtyard recently became home to a Mother Honeysucker and two babies. A very efficient and well-constructed nest was built in a couple of days in the potted tree in the corner of Piazza Dante. Mum sat on two eggs and within a couple of weeks, two tiny creatures with huge open mouths appeared as Mum flew back and forth carrying food for them. We tried to keep the births a secret so as not to frighten the birds and now they have all left the nest. Piazza Dante had its own Christmas miracle.

Thursday 23 February, 8pm Concert Hall, QPAC – I Musici - The legendary **I Musici** is the oldest continuously active chamber group in Italy and one of the most respected chamber ensembles in existence today. Founded in 1952, their first recording of **Vivaldi's Four Seasons** sold over 25 million copies and became one of the most famous compositions of the entire musical repertoire. Celebrating sixty years of vibrant and virtuosic music-making, **I Musici** pay homage to their musical heritage with works by Italian masters **Rossini, Donizetti, Paganini and Vivaldi**. Bookings can be made at : www.qpac.com.au ... or Ph. 136246.

GLI STUDENTI SCRIVONO

Tre anni fa ho avuto l'opportunità di visitare l'Italia per sei settimane durante la stagione di Natale. Ho frequentato due diverse scuole-una a Verona e poi l'altra a Camerino. Tutte e due le scuole sono state esperienze meravigliose e mi hanno dato molte memorie con dei ricordi bellissimi che non dimenticherò mai. Le classi a Verona hanno avuto un massimo di sei studenti in ogni aula-un'ottima opportunità per capire ed imparare la lingua e la cultura di questa bella città. Ho trascorso il mese da sola in un appartamento vicino alla scuola, nel Centro Storico. Ogni mattina camminavo lungo le strade e le piazze famose- Piazza Erbe a Piazza Bra, durante la mia passeggiata per andare a scuola. Infatti ogni giorno passavo il balcone famoso di Giulietta e Romeo, dove molti turisti facevano le foto! Ho fatto molte piccole gite in autobus ed in treno da Verona ad altre città vicine, come Vicenza, Trento, Bolzano e il Lago di Garda. Mi sono divertita sulla funivia da Malcesine a Monte Baldo, dove ho visto una veduta panoramica delle montagne ed i laghi - era meravigliosa! Sono stata molto fortunata di poter visitare questo bel posto! Ho trascorso il giorno di Natale a casa di una nuova amica-Fatma, una donna che ho incontrato il mio primo giorno in Italia, in treno da Roma a Verona, quando ha offerto di aiutarmi con il mio bagaglio. Guardando i pattinatori sulla pista nella Piazza Bra bevendo vin brulee sono due dei bei ricordi affezionati che sono rimasti con me tre anni dopo. Dopo un mese a Verona sono partita in treno per Camerino, un viaggio di sette ore in totale. Fortunatamente ho prenotato un posto accanto al finestrino, così ho potuto vedere parecchio della campagna fra Verona e Le Marche. Ho passato due settimane alla scuola Dante Alighieri a Camerino, che era un'esperienza completamente diversa dalla prima scuola. Le classi erano più grandi- c'erano diciassette persone nella mia classe, la maggior parte di persone erano dal Sud America ed erano anche molto rumorose ed allegre!. Ho incontrato molti nuovi amici e mi sono divertita in tutte le escursioni ed esperienze della scuola. Ricorderò sempre l'amicizia e la compagnia del mio tempo speciale in Italia, e raccomanderei una visita in Italia per un'ottima vacanza!

Barbara Roughan

Luisa e il suo gruppo hanno passato due bellissime settimane a Venezia e a Udine in ottobre 2011.

**GLI STUDENTI SCRIVONO**

Quest'anno, la nostra classe "Lingua, cultura e società" di mercoledì sera, ha deciso di usare un film "La Meglio Gioventù" come uno strumento per studiare la lingua italiana mentre imparava di più della società, la storia, e la cultura d'Italia.

Il film racconta la storia di una famiglia dei ceti medi dagli anni sessanta a oggi. Attraverso i personaggi, in particolare i fratelli Nicola e Matteo, il film tocca gli avvenimenti cruciali della società italiana che sono risultati dal processo rapido di modernizzazione e secolarizzazione in Italia durante questo periodo. I temi rappresentati nel film includono:

l'alluvione di Firenze nel 1966; la lotta contro la mafia in Sicilia; la passione nazionale per il calcio; la crisi dei valori del 1968 che è stata manifestata nella protesta sociale degli studenti e degli operai negli anni sessanta, e il terrorismo di estremisti come le Brigate Rosse fino agli anni ottanta.

Martina ci ha presentato esercizi da un libro che ha accompagnato il film e penso che sia un'esperienza piacevole fare la grammatica nel contesto del film.

Dawn Behan

VIAGGI 2012

**10 Maggio 2012 Campania,
Puglia, Calabria e Sicilia
16 giorni con Giovanna.
Pochi posti rimasti.
Tel. 07-55395528 o email:
gianna52@hotmail.com**

**OTTOBRE 2012
SAPERE E SAPORI TOUR
VENEZIA e SARDEGNA**

**PER INFORMAZIONI :
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luisaliussi@gmail.com**