

# NEWSLETTER

## RUDOLF STEINER TRUST OTAGO

TERM1 # 10

6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2009

471-2163

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www.dunedin.steiner.school.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
<b>Wednesday 8 April</b>	<b>School Cycle Trip</b>	<b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Fair Meeting</b>
		<b>9am</b>	
<b>Thursday 9 April</b>	<b>Harvest Festival</b>	<b>Wednesday 6 May</b>	<b>KMC</b>
<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Last Day of Term</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	
		<b>At school</b>	
<b>Monday 27 April</b>	<b>First day Term 2</b>		
<b>Monday 4 May</b>	<b>Teacher only day</b>		
	<b>Kindergarten Open</b>		
	<b>School Closed</b>		
<b>Tuesday 5 May</b>	<b>Parent-teacher</b>		
	<b>Interviews</b>		
	<b>1pm - 5pm</b>		
<b>Friday 8 May</b>	<b>Ice Skating starts</b>		
<b>Thursday 28 May</b>	<b>St Michael's Chorale</b>		
<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>City library</b>		

*"If you want to make changes in the world, you're going to have to be there day after day doing the boring, straightforward work of getting a couple of people interested in an issue, building a slightly bigger organization, carrying out the next move, experiencing frustration, and finally getting somewhere. That's how the world changes. That's how you get rid of slavery, that's how you get women's rights, that's how you get the vote. Every gain you can point to came from that kind of effort...." Imperial Ambitions by Noam Chomsky*

### FROM THE OFFICE

#### **The future of the upper classes**

We had a very motivating and uplifting discussion at the Board meeting on the future of the upper classes in the school as there was strong parental support for the school to offer classes up to the end of Intermediate School.

It is really important that this parental wish is translated into active support to carry this through. Our work on this will be two fold – raising funds to ensure that we have the resources for the older classes, and also recruiting children for the school and kindergarten. John Hanson will be contacting families to see who will work with him on the fundraising side. From Term 2 the school will be increasing its visibility – we hope to set up a Playgroup session in town, and spread the word about the school among other groups for parents of younger children such as at Playcentres. If we are offering Intermediate years then children from the West Harbour contributing primary schools may come here for their Intermediate years.

As we welcome new families to the school we need to focus on parent education and what makes a Steiner School different. You are reminded that we have a growing library of books that parents can borrow in reception together with a recommended reading list. We also have two files of interesting articles available for people to copy and borrow. It is worthwhile taking the time to educating yourself about the nature of Steiner education.

### **Parent teacher interviews**

School families are reminded that teachers will be providing verbal feedback on their children at parent teacher meetings on Tuesday 5 May (week 2) . Written reports on the children's progress are provided in Term 4. Parents are also welcome to speak to their child's teacher at the end of the school day or by phoning them at home (before 8.30pm) if there are any matters that they would like to discuss.

### **Stove moving and ditches**

In the holidays we hope to move three stoves to the yurts and bring in the Hen Hilton chicken house and a rolling drum compost barrel. We will be looking for some strong arms to help. We also want to finish off the ditch work that has been started around the yurts. Expect a phone call!

### **Strategic Plan**

We are sending out a draft of our new Strategic Plan later this week for everyone to have a look at and make comment on.

### **Fair 2009 - Date still to be decided**

We would like to have a meeting of those people who would be prepared to be organisers of the fair this year. These jobs entail planning and organising for several months before the big day. There are 5 jobs (at least) we need to fill: co-ordinator, cafe, advertising, children's activities and stalls. We will have a meeting on the first Wednesday of next term at 9am. Please consider becoming part of the team - we cannot have a fair if we don't get these jobs filled!! Phone Linda 4727646 if you have any queries or comments or can't come to the meeting but would like to!!

### **Autumn fundraiser**

A big thank you to all who placed orders for apples, pears and honey. We have enjoyed consuming over a half a tonne of fruit! And we raised \$587.50! This money will go towards the purchase of a unicycle and contribute towards lighting in the yurt. Many thanks to Stan from Harwarden Organics for supporting our school. Stan has a stall on the platform at the Farmers Market.

### **Bicycle Raffle**

Thank you to Cycle Surgery who have added a lovely helmet and lock to the prize package. It is a very valuable prize, details of which will accompany the tickets. Tickets for each family to sell are coming home with your child today. Please return tickets and money to office by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May. If anyone would like more than 10 please contact raffle organiser, Emmeline (454 5191). Thank you for supporting this fundraiser.

### **Kindergarten request**

The Rata Room would really appreciate the use of a hot plate so that their morning tea soup can be cooked in the room – this would mean the children can enjoy all the lovely smells from the cooking and follow the whole process through. Does anyone have a hot plate that they would be prepared to donate or lend to the kindergarten? Please let Clare know.

### **Clare's Absence**

From 11 June to 27 July I will be in the UK. If you are interested in covering my absence then please let me know. The cover required is 12-20 hours per week. Tasks are varied and include financial management, dealing with ministry matters, staffing and administrative work. Clare

### ***Goodbye Evelyn Macey***

*We were sad to hear that a long term friend of the school, Evelyn Macey, passed away. Evelyn was a friend and supporter of the school from its beginning. She is remembered for her elegant arrival each Easter and Christmas at our old school site in North East Valley, bearing a card, a candle and a donation. She regularly helped in the kindergarten on baking days. We gave a performance of the Shepherds' Play in her rest home in Brockville a couple of years ago. We thank her for her support and kindness.*

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

### **The Harvest Festival**

Thursday 9 April

12 noon – 2pm

The primary school festivities begin at noon with a procession of gifts for the harvest table. Each child in the primary school will join the procession to offer their gifts of fresh produce and preserves. Community members may also join the procession if they would like to give of their harvest produce. We will offer our gifts to one of the PACT houses where Joan Rawle works with people with disabilities.

This will be followed by a concert by the St Michael's Chorale and a presentation of individual class items.

Lastly we will have a shared lunch together in the class 1/2 yurt.

### **Volunteer for our school**

In early August, Menno Luebbers, a student from Germany, will be joining our school community for 12 months, as a volunteer. He is giving us a year of voluntary service in lieu of military service in Germany. I've attached information that he sent us about himself. Menno's main interest is woodwork and he will work with Colin Rawle when Colin is at school. He will also, with my class, design and build our class 3/4 building project in terms 3 and 4 of this year. The organization he belongs to, Freunde der Erziehungskunst Rudolf Steiners pays Menno an allowance and we are responsible for providing him with a home and full board, satisfying and appropriate work and opportunities to experience life here outside of school. It would be ideal if Menno could stay with several of our school families over his 12 month period. There is an expression of interest form attached to this newsletter. Please fill it in and return it to the school office if you think you could have Menno to stay for a month or two. Read his attached letter and you will see what Menno brings to us.

### **Class 3/4**

Thank you Linda for your help in the classroom when I was incapacitated this past week and to Merrall for yet more yurt-work.

Class 3 children have worked very hard to master two important skills this term – reading and cursive writing. They have entered this task with their usual enthusiasm and it has been wonderful to watch all the leaps in abilities and understanding and the delight they have shown as they accomplished the challenges of these new skills. Their Main Lesson study of the Creation Story from the Old Testament saw them create books with watercolour paintings of the seven days of creation and a text written in their first attempts at cursive writing. Class 4 have produced Stories of Loki, richly illustrated with colourful paintings. They have reaped the rewards of hard work and persistence and will share these delightful endeavours with you at the Harvest Festival.

### **The Main Lesson**

The second of our parent education articles appears this week – The Main Lesson. It explains the purpose and structure of the main lesson, as well as the rhythm of activities of thinking, feeling and willing in this two hour lesson.

## KINDERGARTEN AND NURSERY NEWS

Dear Parents of all Kindergarten and Nursery Children:

As we enter the last week of Term 1 we are preparing for Harvest Festival on Thursday. Last week the children dyed their windy capes with calendula and marigolds. The wheat the children planted is looking lush and healthy and the children are keen to observe its growth as they water it. The harvest crowns are well under way and we will plant some freesia, grape hyacinth (muscari) and tulip bulbs this week.

You are invited to bring your children at 10.45am on Thursday morning (9-4-09) to join our Harvest Festival celebration when all Kindergarten and Nursery children and parents / whānau will combine for circle and a shared late morning tea.

Children who are booked into Thursday sessions in the Kinder or Nursery may arrive at the normal time if this suits you, with you returning at 10.45am to join them, or if it suits you better the children may arrive at 10.45 with you ready for an 11am start in the Rata Room for circle.

On Thursday 9 April parents /caregivers and children please take to the Kowhai Kindergarten Room (10.45-10.55):

- ~ Ready to eat healthy finger food for shared morning tea (to be set out in Kowhai Room 10.45.10-55)
- ~ Harvest offering eg. preserves, jam, bread, fruit, vegetables.  
(These offerings will be given to charity.)

Please be ready for an 11am start to our combined circle for both classes in the Nursery Room or maybe outside depending on weather and space required.

After circle we will eat morning tea together in the Kowhai Room which will be followed by children receiving their harvest crowns, windy capes and Easter eggs. There will be time afterwards for children to take part in an egg hunt. There will be one egg for each child to place in their growing wheat and take home.

*Some flowers or autumn leaves on Tuesday or Wednesday, if you have any to spare, to decorate the rooms for Harvest Festival would be very welcome.*

We look forward to having you with us on Thursday this week.

Sunhats: A reminder that it is Kindergarten policy for hats to be worn outside. Please remember to provide a sunhat. There are very few spare sunhats at Kindergarten and for health reasons it is better for each child to have his / her own.

This week between us we will be covering for Nick during his absence.

Wishing you all a blessed and special Easter and holiday time together.

Rennie, Violet, Lea-Ann, Nick, Liqin

## PLAYGROUP

The playgroup has had a good term, welcoming several enthusiastic new families on board. And thanks to Terry, Maple and Jampa we have maintained some continuity as our new group grows. Our next session will be Friday 1 may 9- 11.

Some exciting changes will be happening starting next term. Thanks to the support and involvement of the kindergarten staff we will now be able to offer three sessions a week- Wednesday from 1:30- 3:30 and Friday from 9:00- 11:00 at school, and a Wednesday morning session at a location yet to be confirmed. We are considering a few locations for our first off-site group, and if you know of a suitable community space, or have space in your home you would be able to offer, please talk to Clare.

This also means we need another collection of playgroup toys. If your older children have outgrown any early childhood Steiner toys, please consider making an extended loan or donation to the playgroup. we will be needing the following items:

Natural wood blocks and lengths of branch  
Steiner dolls, large and small  
Natural fibre cloth in pastel colours, all sizes for draping and play  
house-corner items- small wooden spoons, bowls, cups etc  
wooden animals  
wooden trains and pull toys  
Baskets- many and of all sizes!  
Many thanks for your help- Cecil

## CRAFT GROUP

Thank you to Izumi for the last craft group meeting; felting on stone was really interesting. If some of you would like to do some crafts at home I have some little projects, please let me know. I will be in the office on Tuesday 9 to 10.30 (tomorrow) or give me a call (471 2181) – I hope to hear from you, Marie

## Community Notices

Community notices in our newsletter will appear for one week only and may be edited to accommodate space. If you wish to place a notice please email your notice to [office@dunedin.steiner.school.nz](mailto:office@dunedin.steiner.school.nz)

*Marie is always looking for jars. Please put them in the office for her to collect.*

Gymnastics classes with Northern Gymnastic Club. Affordable recreational and competitive classes for girls and boys in a supportive environment. Ph. Erin: 4771410, Ph. Jenny 4764909, Email us: [northerngym@gmail.com](mailto:northerngym@gmail.com)

Ma-Fi Arts – see notice board at school for details of holiday programme and classes for next term.

### **Biodynamic Association**

**3 April, Waikato. Training for mentors.** Organics Aotearoa NZ seeks applications both from those who want to be mentors and those who'd like to be mentored. Mentors need to be experienced certified organic farmers and attendance at a course is encouraged. Mentees need to be commercial farmers or growers. Course for mentors will run in the Waikato on 3rd April and in Canterbury and Southland in May. Further information from OANZ organic advisory programme, 0800 Future, [oap@oanz.co.nz](mailto:oap@oanz.co.nz) or [www.ruralmentor.co.nz](http://www.ruralmentor.co.nz)

### **26<sup>th</sup> April, Timaru. Change of date from that in FiveHundredFootNote**

Fieldday at Nathan & Steph Davis property Treehugger Organics/Brendan and Alvina Murphy's orchard and Organic Vegetable growers AGM is now moved from Anzac Day to 26<sup>th</sup> April

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Gisborne area.** Talks, workshops, fielddays and social time with Peter Proctor and Rachel Pomeroy including preparation making, public talk, astronomical observations, and a dinner. Geoff Wright 0-6-868 0967, [geoff@wrightswines.co.nz](mailto:geoff@wrightswines.co.nz). Reservations essential for some events.

Lea-Ann is looking to purchase some Agee jars. If anyone is aware of any in need of a home could they please let her know. Many thanks.

See school notice board for information about an opportunity for children age 10 and above to sing with the New Zealand Youth Choir at an open rehearsal on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April

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Name: Freerk Menno Lübbers  
Born: 11<sup>th</sup> of April 1989 in Emden  
Address: Stallingslust 4  
26605 Aurich  
phone: +49 4941 18180  
Parents: Dr. Eildert Lübbers, 56 years, pediatrician  
Silvia Lübbers, geb. Frank, 55 years, teacher  
Siblings: Eske Lübbers, 22 years, student  
Lübbert Lübbers, 20 years, student  
Exchange year: 2005 Héreas del Atlántico Sur, Resistencia, Argentinien



2006 Don Bosco, Resistencia, Argentinien

High school: for agriculture and farming in Realschule Aurich (high school examination in June 2009)

Knowledge: drivers licence, referee in handball, group leader for teenagers

Hobbies: handball, boy scouts, woodworking and travelling

Practical training: practical course at the airport LFH – Lufverkehr Friesland Harle in Carolinensiel – Wittmund, March 2004  
practical training at the Volkswagen factory in Emden, April 2004

Languages: German, English and Spanish

Jobs: For four years I worked at the pharmacy "Am Pferdemarkt" in Aurich and brought medications to old help needed people.

Student exchanges: I spent one year in Argentina in a family and visited two schools in that time. I went to Wroclaw/Poland for two weeks.

### **Voluntary social year motivation letter**

My name is Menno Lübbers and I am 19 years old. At the moment I visit the high school for agriculture and farming in my hometown Aurich. Sometimes on weekends I help on a farm in our area. In June 2009 I will write my examination (Abitur). After that I have to absolve my civil service. Instead of going to the military and kill humans I prefer the civil service to help humans. I want to do this in a foreign country, because its my favourite hobby to be in an other part of the world. If I have the chance to stay in another country I would make it true. In 2005/06 I was for one year in Argentina as an exchange student. I had an awesome time and I made a lot of experiences. I got to learn a different culture and met many people. If I absolve my voluntary social year in a foreign country, I hope that I learn more about different cultures, countries, ways of life and meet more interesting people. I think that these experiences are useful for my further life.

In the future I wish to be a teacher for woodworking, because I like to work with wood and to teach young people to be good in that traditional craft. This is also a reason why I want to do my civil service in a social-therapeutic institution. I hope that I can do some woodworking. Helping people in other countries is a work that is very interesting for me. I hope that I can do this in my voluntary social year.

The basis of antroposophie is good and I wanted to go to a Waldorf school, but I haven't, because the next Waldorf school is about 100 kilometers from where I live.

Once a week I bring medications for a pharmacy to people, who can't go to the pharmacy and buy medicaments for themselves. I do it by car and in this job I meet a lot of older people. Often they tell me about their problems and I just listen. They are glad to have someone who helps them.

My favourite hobby is boy scouting. I am active in scouting since 1997, and I spend about 4-5 hours a week with that. During the last 3 years I was the leader of a small scout group of five 13 up to 15 years old boys and girls. I have to organize weekend trips and weekly meetings. I also do trips with the scouts in holidays and on weekends. With the scouts I have been in Sweden, France, Ireland, Finland, Czech republic, Lithuania, Poland and Thailand. In Thailand I was at the world scout jamboree together with about 30.000 scouts. It was the best thing I ever did in my life and I met scouts from all over the world.

I'm interested in sports and do as much sport as I can in my free time. On the fact that I am a group leader in scouting I have an official Youth leader card. I made it together with a first aid certificate. I also used this first aid certificate for my driver license (Europe classes: B, BE, M, L and T/S).

I would be happy, if I could do my voluntary social year in your place, because the description about your institution and about the work sounds interesting for me