

UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
Friday 18 th April	Last day Term 1	KMC	Thursday 15 May at 7:30pm venue TBA
Sunday 27 th April	Bio Dynamic Field day 10:30am – 3:00pm	Proprietors Meeting	<u>This</u> Thursday 17 th April at 7:00pm at School
Monday 5 th May	First Day Term 2	Board of Trustees Meeting	Thursday 8th May
Mon-Wed 26 - 28 May	Marjorie Theyer Visit		

FROM THE OFFICE

Financial help with transport to school

Are you aware that you can claim financial assistance towards the cost of bringing your child to school? The Ministry of Education offers all parents of children at Special Character schools a mileage rate - this is not means tested.

If you would like to claim please pick up a transport form from the office. Return it to the office with your bank deposit slip. Clare approves the forms and sends them off.

Donations

You can claim tax back on your donations to the Proprietors. Receipts will be out to you by the end of term.

Head Lice...

have been found at school and kindergarten. This is a recurring problem at every school. Please check your child's head weekly and if detected do not send your child to school until the head lice have been treated. If lice or nits are discovered at school, the parents will be called in to take their child home for treatment. The following preventative treatments are effective:

Condition hair and comb through with a nit comb, weekly;

Either diluted tea-tree oil or vinegar combed through the hair twice a week;

- 2 drops of Olbas Oil behind the ears at night.
- Oil Pack - soak the head in a 50/50 mixture of vegetable oil and vinegar for 1 hour and comb out the dead lice.
- Many of the chemical-based treatments are toxic and able to be absorbed through the scalp. Health food shops have effective, natural alternatives.

SCHOOL NEWS

Thanks to all the parents who have helped out with field trips, crafts and transport this term. Your time is much appreciated. A special thank you to Chris and Junko for the beautiful math gnomes you made for us!

This Wednesday 16 April, Mrs Hawke will be away in Christchurch and class 1/2/3 will be taken by Mrs Jocelyn Broughton, who is a cellist. The children will have a special music class with her in the middle session.

Class 1/2/3 As part of their first Maths Main Lesson, the children are finishing a treasured story called The Ten Gems, which created opportunities for a variety of maths and arts activities. Class 1 have been introduced to the qualities of the first 10 numbers; Class 2 have been learning about odd and even numbers and the effect of number 10 in preparation for place value work; Class 3 have been exploring linear metric measurement.

Some of our highlights this term have been:

Our impromptu concerts
Cooking Benny a birthday cake
Solving some very tricky riddles

Mrs MacNeille is away home to the USA with Mr MacNeille for four weeks. We wish them a safe and fruitful journey. Mrs Hawke will teach class 1/2/3 all day while they are away.

Thank you Cecile for the Doll-making session on Sunday. Such beautiful weather we enjoyed as we mastered our craft!

Class 4 have been enjoying finding our cardinal bearings and looking out "As Far As We Can See" in our local geography unit. This has involved lots of observational drawing of our local landscape, an introduction to map-making and, most recently, a trip to the Port of Otago where we were given the full guided tour. The children learned a lot about how the landscape provides us with livelihood here in Otago and how the Port acts as a gateway between what we import and export.

Special thanks must go to Jonothan, who biked to and from Port Chalmers so we could use his van! Cheers, Jono!

Classes 5 and 6 are investigating light, from a science viewpoint. We have made a model of the earth's atmosphere, in a bottle, in order to make sunrises and sunsets! We have made rainbows and we have put a rainbow back together, to make white light. Lots of time has been spent in a dark cave under our desks, mixing light, which is very different to mixing paint pigments. Imagine our surprise to find that, for light beams, red and green make yellow, not brown! So we got the paints out again, just to make sure that what we learned at kindergarten about mixing paint really was right. Red and green paint made brown. Phew!

Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival will be held this Friday 18th April from 11:30 to 2:30pm. It will entail a concert, shared lunch and family harvest games.

The children need to dress in autumn colours and wear a funny hat! Please bring a harvest offering – fruit, vegetables, homemade preserves.

11:30 Concert on the court

12:30 Shared lunch

1:15 Harvest games – egg and spoon races, sack races, three-legged races

2:15 Clean-up

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Dear parents,

I have an opportunity to go to the Christchurch Steiner School Kindergartens as part of my professional development. I would like to take this opportunity while Joe is here. I will be away Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week. Joe and Towa will be running the kindergarten.

Thank you Roslyn

Kindergarten fees – new structure

Thank you to parents for their responses to the new income structure. People are in support of the proposal and the new fees will apply from the start of Term 2. Fees are as follows:-

1. All parents of three and four year olds make a donation that is equivalent to \$1 per hour for up to the 20 hours that they are funded free. The donation will go to the Proprietors who will refund the kindy - thereby ensuring parents can claim tax back and no GST is charged. (\$20 max per week for 20 hours)
2. If parents of 3 and 4 year olds want their children to attend more than 20 hours a week then the \$4 per hour charge applies - as it does now. (\$60 max for attending all mornings and afternoons)
3. Five and six year olds are charged \$40 per week - the same as the other school children. Sibling discounts will be granted for the older children. No charge will be made for afternoons for these children (\$40 max per week)

Parents can always approach the Proprietors if there are difficulties in paying. A direct approach may be made (in writing a sealed confidential letter) or through someone you feel comfortable with.

Our request for a donation based on hours attended is a minimum donation of \$1 per hour. We hope that some families can make additional donations.

We prefer automatic payments for donations direct to the Rudolf Steiner Trust Otago, Account number: 03 1726 0004961-00. Or you can make a cheque out to Rudolf Steiner Trust Otago. Fees should still be payable to the Dunedin Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten.

Kindergarten Management Committee – new member

Pamala Walrond (mother of Anna Saima and Lucas) has just joined the Kindergarten Management Committee. We welcome her as a new parent representative, along with Kirsten McAuley and Karen Pessione. If kindergarten parents have issues that they would like discussed at the meetings, or if they have queries about the kindergarten that they would prefer to discuss with a fellow parent, then they are welcome to contact any of the parent reps.

Personnel policies and procedures review

The personnel policies and procedures are being reviewed by the kindergarten and school in our normal review cycle. Copies of these policies are available on the counter in reception (blue folder). If you would like to take the time to read through these and make any comments then your feedback is very welcome.

CRAFT GROUP NEWS

Tuesday 15 th April	9am to 1pm Meet at Ravensbourne town hall	Flax Weaving with Junko. Please bring 12 leaves of flax (not too straight because it is too hard, not too bendy because it is too soft.) Please bring scissors/boxcutters. Any questions, please phone Junko 467 2243
Tuesday 6 th May (after holidays)	9am to 1pm Meet at the office	Working bee with Marie. We need to price and package items, extend the display... Everyone is welcome as usual!

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

Marie is always looking for glass jars with lids, large or small, please let her know by ringing 471-2181.

Organic Co-op Order

This year I am planning one organic co-op order for each term. The next order will be at the end of the first week of next term - Friday 9th May. I will put a reminder in the next newsletter but this is just to get you planning your orders. If you are not involved in the co-op yet but would like to be, please email me (tracy@sculpture.co.nz) soon so I can get a catalogue and order information to you ASAP.

With winter on its way I am intending to order bulk rolled oats. If we order in 20kg lots we can get Australian rolled oats for about \$3.50 including freight. Please include in your order an oats range - eg: I want 5kg of oats but I will take 3-7kg. This will enable me to round us to 20kg lots - and hopefully they will be in stock! I am happy to do other bulk order combinations if anyone has suggestions.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions: 478 0411 or email. Have a nice term break. Tracy

Bio Dynamic Field Day

Sunday April 27th from 10:30am to 3:00pm, with a shared lunch.

Stir and spread 500, build a compost heap, cow pat pit, garden prep. Talk as we work with Colin Rawle and Warrick Thompson. Entry by donation, please.

CHEESEMAKING WORKSHOP

I would like to organise a cheese making workshop, but before going ahead I need to gauge what, if any, interest there might be. The workshop would be held early in spring and would most likely be in two parts, part one being 'easy' cheeses, mozzarella and the like and the second part cheeses such as cheddar. We would be using fresh organic milk (hopefully from the MacNeille's beautiful Jerseys!) and vegetarian rennet. If you would be interested in taking part in either or both parts of the workshop can you please me know. Many thanks. Paula 4822446.

Community Choir

The next Community Choir is on **Wednesday 14th May at 6:00pm**. Please bring music or a song to share. See you there!

The Spiritual Impulse of Anthroposophy and The Foundation Stone

The annual conference of the Anthroposophical Society in New Zealand will take place from 4-7 July 2008 at Michael Park Rudolf Steiner School, 55 Amy Street, Ellerslie, Auckland.

The Guest Speaker is Sergei Prokofieff, author and lecturer, who will give three lectures.

This conference is open to anyone who seeks knowledge of Anthroposophy. A full registration or casual registration is available with a choice of lectures, workshops and an evening artistic performance. Details of the conference programme and on-line registration is available at www.anthroposophy.org.nz

For enquiries to Vee Noble, phone (09) 627 2044, veenoble@xtra.co.nz