

NEWSLETTER

RUDOLF STEINER TRUST

OTAGO

TERM2 #12

3 APRIL 2010

471-2163

office@dunedin.steiner.school.nz

www.dunedin.steiner.school.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
7 th May	School Trustees election	Tuesday 4 th May, 1pm	Kindergarten Management Committee
Friday 7 th May, 5.30pm	High School Vision Group	Wednesday 5 th May, 7pm	Parenting Support Group Meeting
		Thursday 13 May 7.15pm	Board meeting

FROM THE OFFICE

We wish to share our gratitude to the craft group for all of their wonderful energy and creations that have enabled them to make a \$1000 donation to the proprietors and \$100 to the climbing wall. Thank you!

Future Staffing

The School Trustees, Proprietors, College Principal's Group and teachers met last week to consider the options available to the school in light of Brenda Hawke's resignation.

It was unanimously agreed that we should begin a recruitment campaign for a School Principal. The school has grown to a point where it needs to attract a teacher with a strong Steiner background who also holds the leadership and management skills that are required to exist within the State School integration structure. Once this person is found Alex MacNeille has offered to step down from the 'Principal' role but continue as a class teacher. This will mean that the staffing costs to the school remain as they are at present, and allows the school the opportunity to develop into a stronger and larger school.

Clearly this recruitment may take a few months and relief staffing needs to be arranged for the interim period. While we have provisionally engaged a reliever teacher, Wendy Russell, for the last three weeks of term to complete lessons as planned by Brenda, we need to consider what is the best solution for term three onward. Alex and Clare will work together with Pamala Walrond, as a parent rep, to ensure that the school is able to provide Steiner teaching that meets the needs of the children with a minimum of disruption. We have also been in touch with our sponsor school in Christchurch who are also looking at interim teaching options available to us.

There is a subgroup working on the recruitment of a new Principal. This includes Violet Hogan, Anne-Louise Heath, Clare Ridout, Alex MacNeille and Colin Rawle. This group is also taking advice from the Federation and Christchurch Steiner School.

The Board, Proprietors and teachers want parents to feel free to raise any concerns and make positive suggestions during this transitional period. If you have any concerns or questions about this decision and the processes to come then please do not hesitate to speak to Alex MacNeille or Clare Ridout. If you want any particular matters addressed before the permanent Principal appointment is made, (ie while we use temporary teachers) then please do speak with Clare or Alex – or alternatively Pamala Walrond who has offered to act as a Parent Rep. We recognise that change can be unsettling but hope that we can use these changes to ensure that the school grows stronger.

Once again, thank you to Brenda for helping to lead the school to where we are at today.

Board Elections

We have received the right number of nominations to make up our Board. The new Board of Trustees is made up of the following parent reps : Manfred Oswald, Christophe Degas, Jane Alger, Anne Louise Heath and Linda Miles. The new staff rep is Jane Plant. Also on the Board are Alex MacNeille as

Principal and Clare Ridout as the Proprietors representative. The Board welcomes the new Board members – Jane Alger (Lilith's mother) and Jane Plant (class 4 teacher) and would also like to thank Shelley Wrigley for her contribution over the past few years on the board and wish her well as she devotes her "spare" time to further studies. If any school family wishes to have matters addressed by the Board of Trustees then do speak with a parent rep who can take issues forward. The Board also welcomes visitors to its meetings – these are on the second Thursday of each month at 7.15 at the school.

Kindergarten Management Committee

A reminder that the kindergarten Management Committee meets on Tuesday 4 May at 1pm in the Rata Room. The parent reps are Kirsten McAuley, Pamala Walrond and Kate Tanner and the playgroup rep is Elan Chenault. Violet and Clare also attend these monthly meetings.

We need more broom for the little hut in the kindergarten playground. Please could people start contributing to a pile by the kindergarten garden gates.

Billet for visiting student

From 24th May we have a student of the AUT Steiner course coming to do a placement in our kindergarten. Fern Wendt-Corfe will be with us for 4 weeks. Is anyone able to provide board and lodgings for Fern for all or part of this time? Please see Clare.

Quiz Night

We had a fabulous time at the quiz night on Friday and more than \$1500 was raised for the school and kindergarten!!! Raffle winners were as follows:

Adventure raffle 1st prize Sarah Stichnoth, 2nd prize Barbara Whitehouse, 3rd prize Catherine Barriga

Weekend Treats raffle 1st prize Anette, 2nd prize Liqin Chen, 3rd prize Tracy Botica

Home & Garden raffle 1st prize Moni, 2nd prize Jason Deans, 3rd prize Kitchingman

Thanks to everyone for contributing to the luscious organic raffle which was won by a team mate of Emily Barriga and a team mate of Jane and Emma.

The winning quiz team was "Movers and Shakers" comprised of Brenda, Rob, Junko and Pam.

Congratulations to our brainy bunch!

Thanks to everyone who took part and helped with raffles, prizes and preparation and especially to Steve Walker and Lianna our quiz masters.

Please support our generous sponsors: Taste Nature, Monarch, Tairei Gorge Railway, Portobello Aquarium, Discovery World, Olivier Home, Gray's Studio, University Bookshop, Tangente, Nicols, Clifton Wool n Things, Careys Bay Hotel, Small Poppy and Port Chalmers New World. Thanks also to Olive for her gorgeous poster and Elan for doing the raffles and to Pamala, Catherine, Isumi and Elan for help on the night.

I will put plates in the office for collection -thanks for all the extra yummy pizzas and cakes -they went down a treat!

From the winning team:

The school quiz night was a great success with much laughter coming from the tables of the sixteen competing teams. One of the interesting outcomes of the night was the result of the naming of a group of photographs. Naturally one of the photos was of Rudolf Steiner who was variously identified as: William Cargill, William Bell, Samuel Marsden, Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln, Richard Wagner and even Captain James Cook (who must have lived to an extraordinarily long life). - Brenda

Chamber Music Concert

The next Chamber Music NZ concert -NZTrio -is on tomorrow -Tuesday 4 May at 7.30 pm.. We have 9 free tickets for children and only 3 have been taken. It usually finishes about 9.30 but it is also possible for a child to be picked up in the interval -about 8.40. I'll be going from Roseneath so can take 1 more children from this area. The trio consists of piano, violin and cello. They are young, energetic New Zealanders who tour internationally and play a lot of contemporary classical music as well as traditional. The programme includes Mozart, Schumann, Arvo Part and 2 commissioned pieces from New Zealand composers.

Please see me/phone or E-mail (robz@ihug.co.nz) if you want your child to go. -Linda.

Parenting Support group

This Wednesday 5th May from 7-8.30pm. Theme: Carrying rhythms of kindergarten into the home. Also, Kanuka will present Rudolf Steiners "6 exercises" as applied to meetings by Arthys Floride.

Second Hand Clothing Collection

One of the stalls at our annual fair is selling quality second hand clothing from our community. As it is the change of season and many of us may be clearing the drawers of our growing children it would be wonderful if someone could collect clothing and store it until our fair. The last couple of years this has been done by kindergarten parents but any family who has some spare storage and willing to take on the task would be appreciated. Please talk to Tracy 467-9877, if you can help with this.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Class 2/3 and Class 4

The French play is shaping up well indeed. Most of the children know their lines and the songs. A costume list will be coming home this week. Any white clothes would be greatly appreciated as we have 9 white costumes. Both classes will be going to Ravensbourne Hall this Wednesday from 11 am – 1 pm for a play practice and to design our set. A permission note is in the children's bags today. Please return it tomorrow. Transport will be by car - Mrs Plant, Mrs Hawke and Menno. We need one more driver at 11 and 1 if possible.

Thank you Mr Humphries, Kirsten, Pamela and Angela for your continued assistance with reading. We still need a helper for Tuesdays. This very effective programme is seeing class 2 already composing and reading sentences. Thanks also to all families for your punctuality in the mornings.

Yurt Cleaning Roster

The Dunroy, Schweik and Stevenson families are on yurt duty this week.

Cls	W1 -19/4	26/4	3/5	10/5	17/5	24/5	31/5	7/6	14/6	21/6	28/6
1	MacDon	Botica	Dunroy	Xu	Barto	Tamang	Funnell	Holmes	Bendall	Henderson	Nichols
2/3	Walrond	Cain	Schweik	Stevenson	Cunningha	Oswald	Hollowa	Whitehe	Alger	Carter	Walrond
4	Stichnot	Miles	Noyes	Cohen	Degas	Tapealava	Barriga	Dwyer	McMillan	Robson	Szukiel-D

Yurt Cleaning Duty consists of sweeping the yurt twice during the week (preferably on Tuesday and Thursday) either before or after school. Each yurt has its own broom, dustpan and brush. The duty family also needs to bring a bag of kindling for fire starting during the week. For Class 1 duty – could one of the sweeps please be Fri afternoon or Monday morning so the week starts with a clean Yurt.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Kowhai Room

Dear Whanau,

We need boots for our children in the wet weather please.

Does anyone have any spare carrot seed or any spare plants for our kindy garden? We would appreciate them.

Thank you friends and family, be well and warm –

Whaea Violet, Whaea Sandra, Junko and Julie.

Rata room

We are introducing more te reo Maori into the room. Some new phrases are:

Me whakarongo koe ki tō hoa - You should listen to your friend
Me whakarongo koe ki tō kaiako - You should listen to your teacher
Me noho koe ki runga i te turu - You should sit on your chair

We welcome 2nd year Otago University College of Education student Sandra Wylie who is on placement with us for the next two weeks.

-Matua Nick, Whaea Ros, Whaea Liqin

PLAYGROUP NEWS

Our playgroups have been humming with so many children having birthdays! It has also been a busy time welcoming many new families. We possibly have up to 3 spaces for the yacht club playgroup from 10-12 on Thursday s. Phone Cecil 472 8683 or Elan 454 4483 to arrange a visit.

CRAFTGROUP NEWS

The craft group is delighted to have made a donation of \$1000 to the proprietors and also to have contributed \$100 towards the new climbing wall.

Thank you for all the people who helped finishing Class 1 felt cushions and carding. Next session will be on 11th May, and we will make rainbow felt sheets using carded wool. Then, on 25th May, we will make king's and queen's crown out of the sheet felt (and possibly other stuff too).

We now have colour tissue available for wrapping your purchases from the office craft shop. You will find it in drawer by the "Honesty Box". Please use one sheet for each purchase (unless the purchased product is very big!).

Tuesday 11 th May 9:00 – 12:45	Ravensbourne Hall	Sheet felt making. Bring 2 big towels, a soap, and a pair of plastic gloves please.
Tuesday 25 th May 9:00 – 12:45	Ravensbourne Hall	Making King's and Queen's crown. Bring your sewing kit please.
Tuesday 8 th June 9:00 – 12:45	Ravensbourne Hall	Silk finger puppet making with Cecil.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Community notices in our newsletter will normally 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.

SCHOOL FUNDRAISER - UNIQUE EARTHMAKER COMPOSTERS

- Removes lots of green waste, keeping your garden tidy.
- Helps your plants grow, saves money on compost and helps the planet too.
- The Earthmaker composter is easy to use. Add kitchen and garden waste in the top at anytime and take compost out of the bottom.
- \$10 per composter is donated to our school.
- No need for heavy lifting or compost heaps.
- FREE DELIVERY, plus 30 day money back and usual guarantees.
- Very popular, great 466 litre size and Made in New Zealand.
- The RRP is \$200, but you can pay \$185 as the fundraiser price.
- The Earthmaker composter can be viewed at www.earthmaker.co.nz .

Order Form Please make cheques payable to Yourfastshop Ltd and send with this form to Yourfastshop Ltd , PO Box 180, Lincoln 7640, Canterbury.

If you prefer to use Internet banking please pay ASB 12-3153-0060403-00 and email dave@yourfastshop.co.nz with your delivery address, payment date and fundraiser name.

Contact Dave on 027 351 2538 or dave@yourfastshop.co.nz for further information.

Quantity	Item	Total
	Earthmaker composter @ \$185 each (FREE delivery)	
Name		
Address		
Phone/email		
Your Fundraiser		

Celebrating the Spirit in 70 years of Biodynamics in New Zealand, 4-6th June 2010.

The Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association in New Zealand would like to invite all past and present members, as well as interested persons, to help celebrate 70 years of association.

The conference will be held in Havelock North, Hawke's Bay and will be looking at the spirit in biodynamics. It is recognized that there is something different about biodynamic methods that sets them apart from other organic farming and gardening practices. Most people understand that this comes from using the biodynamic preparations that Rudolf Steiner indicated in his Agriculture lectures in 1924. But there is more to biodynamics than meets the eye, and it is this that we wish to explore throughout the conference and also in a sponsored workshop on Friday the 4th June at Taruna.

We will take a look at a bit of history, talk to some of the current practitioners, visit some properties around Hawke's Bay, and then look forward to the future. Guest speaker Jon Tanner, CEO of Organics Aotearoa NZ, will address the issue of the future of organics on Sunday.

Once, few heard about, and even fewer practised biodynamics. However that is not the case today. Many people have heard about biodynamics and many are now successfully using the methods Steiner indicated. The conference to be held at Queen's Birthday weekend will celebrate the biodynamic farmer and his land, and what makes it very, very special. The Association would like to invite anyone who is interested to attend to contact the BD Association office for more details.

Our contact details:

Bio Dynamic Farming and Gardening Association

Telephone: 0-4-589 5366

E-mail: info@biodynamic.org.nz For full conference information and online registration:

<http://www.biodynamic.org.nz/conf.html>.

New Free Health Service in Dunedin

Servants Health Centre, 100 Princess St. ph 477 7040. Full range of GP health services – no fees.

Find out more at www.shc.org.nz

Jars for Marie

Marie is always keen to receive empty glass jars with lids. For every 5-10 empty jars you receive one filled with jam. Either pass directly to Marie or leave them in the office with your name so she knows who to give the jam to.

Train Day

The Walk2Work train was a resounding success with 235 people catching it into Dunedin and 155 home. Thank you everybody for supporting it. Now we would like a train for Car Free Day 22 Sept 2010!! We need to get funding from the NZ Land Transport Authority for this.

We had a meeting with Charlotte Flaherty from the DCC, Grant and Lynette from Taieri Gorge who have been amazing organising the Walk2Work train. We talked about doing our own feasibility study for a train, developing a relationship with KiwiRail, organising continuing Walk2Work and Car Free day trains, or maybe combining one of these with the suburban rail day, fixing up stations along the route (Port Chalmers have a wonderful sign at Upper Port Chalmers station now) maybe we can put signs at the other stations. We also talked about writing to MP's for support.

If anybody would like to help out writing letters and coming to meetings please call me - Danielle: 482 1233. There is a review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy, for the next 30 years, going on now. Submissions will be called for later this year by the ORC. The Regional Public Transport Plan will be reviewed next year!

So a bit to think about!

Best wishes,

Danielle

Urgent Assistance Required. Shearwater Steiner School needs your help or it will close!

I am writing to you as a fellow member of the International Steiner Community. Our Steiner School, Shearwater, in Mullumbimby, New South Wales, Australia is in imminent danger of closing. Our school is strong and vibrant, but historical debt and a previous lack of good governance has led to us being placed into voluntary administration. The administrators have determined that our school is viable into the future. However, our debt needs to be reduced by AUD\$1.3 million dollars. The school has made major governance changes to ensure that the historical problems do not continue. Our school community is vibrant and dynamic. We are determined to save our school. However, we can't do it alone. That is why we are asking for your help. We know that you, as members of the Steiner community, are absolutely committed to Steiner Education. Imagine if your school was about to close.

We are determined to raise the money we need to save our school. We are asking for Steiner families around the world to help us in this plight. If all of us around the world contribute what we can, we can save the school. The 650 students who glow with the wonder of a Steiner education will be able to continue to grow and prosper.

Please use your network to distribute our plea for help. Please use your school newsletter, your notice boards, your email lists, everything to give every Steiner family in your community the opportunity to do something great and contribute to saving one of the greatest assets available in a community, a Steiner School. Donating is easy and safe, all that people need to do is go to <http://www.saveshearwater.com/donate> and click on the Paypal button. They can then donate as little or as much as they can. Even \$5 from every Steiner family in your community would make a massive difference to our school. Much more information including pictures etc are available on our website at <http://www.saveshearwater.com>.

Thank you for your support. We value your amazing contribution. Now is the time for all Steiner schools to stand united. Together, we will save our school! Next year, let's save another school! (This is the school that Leigh, Jamai and Maple O'Malley moved to this year).

Amnesty International Lecture

The Otago University Amnesty International group is very pleased to announce that Paul Oestreicher, one of the co-founding members and former chair of Amnesty International, will be speaking at the University of Otago, Archway lecture theatre 2, at 6pm on Monday 10th May. Paul will be speaking about his own experiences as a refugee from Germany to Dunedin in 1939, his work with Amnesty and why we should all care, and take action, on human rights abuses around the world. If you are part of any other networks or have access to any emailing lists, please help spread the message by forwarding this email on. Also please note that this talk is not restricted to Amnesty International members - far from it in fact - there is no point in singing to the choir! Please extend a warm invitation to family, whanau, friends and complete strangers to attend what promises to be a fascinating talk.

There will be time for questions at the end of the evening. Any queries, please address to stefthekiwi@gmail.com