

NEWSLETTER

RUDOLF STEINER TRUST

OTAGO

TERM2 #13
10 MAY 2010
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UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
Monday May 13th, 2-3pm	High School Vision Information Session	Thursday 13 May 7.15pm	Board meeting
Friday 28th May, 6pm	School Play & Farewell for Brenda Hawke and Menno		

FROM THE OFFICE

Please diary in our upcoming farewell for Brenda Hawke on Friday the 28th of May. We will have a shared meal at 6pm and a school play performance from 7pm. This is a chance to celebrate Brenda's time at the school and to say goodbye before she finishes on June 11th. It's also an opportunity to thank Menno for all of his contributions to our school before he leaves at the end of June.

Thank you to Linda for all her hard work on the Quiz. We have had so much positive feedback from this night and welcome the \$1500 raised which will go to connecting up the electricity to the yurts and also for outside storage space for the kindergarten.

The kindergarten really needs a small lockable shed to store its outside tools. If you have one that you do not need then please let Clare know.

We are looking for a graphic designer to do the odd job for the school. Does anyone have this kind of skill that they are willing to contribute? Contact Clare.

Lost and Found

These items are piling up in the office. Parents please come and have a look through to check if any items from your family are there before we take it all to the op shop in 2 weeks.

Second Hand Clothing Collection

Unfortunately no-one has come forward to take on the role of collecting second hand clothing for our fair later in the year. So, in the meantime please remember to keep the following items for our second hand clothing stall at the fair: Good quality second hand children's clothing and footwear (ie: no bad stains, rips etc) in natural fibres (except rainwear and swim wear where synthetics are OK).

Trade Aid Fundraiser

We are having another order of trade aid products next week. The last order made \$60 for us and has been donated to the proprietors! A sheet showing all products available will be sent home with children over the next few days with an order form. Please get your orders in by the end of next week. If each household in our school bought just one packet of tea or coffee we would make \$100+ for our children! There have been a few price rises since the last order -tea is now \$4.50 a box and olive oil has gone up to \$18. I checked in New World and the tea there sells for \$4.19. 20% of the price we pay with this order goes to our school (by which we mean the school, kindergarten and playgroups – not just the school). If you would prefer to E-mail me your order please do so to robz@ihug.co.nz. There is a box in the office for money and order forms. The more we are able to raise via fundraising, the less pressure there is on parental donations and fees.

High School Vision Group

We held our third High School Vision Group meeting last Friday, and are stepping closer to laying the foundations for our school! We need to get our Expression of Interest Forms back so that we can begin the enrolment forecasts needed in our application to the Ministry of Education for an Integration Agreement (which will allow our high school to receive funding in the same way that the school does, supporting affordability). We are designating a parent from each kindergarten and class to liaise with the other parents in distributing and collecting these forms. We will also be getting the form on the website along with description of our plans. We will be informing the press so the city will have some

knowledge of what is coming! During our discussion on Friday we identified that the current government may be the most sympathetic to supporting the creation of our school, so we are looking to possibly bring our opening date forward from 2015, depending of course on community support. As an opportunity to share with the parent body a bit about our vision, we have planned an information meeting on Monday May 31 in the Rata Room from 2-3. We invite you to come along and share our enthusiasm!

By the strength of our Love
And our unified purpose
Our vision is realized
And brought to fruition

A vessel is formed
By our intention
To support our children
On their path to Adulthood.

Our next High School Vision Group meeting is set for June 18 at 5:30.

Te Aroha Homebased Steiner childcare

There is a huge demand for childcare inspired by the Steiner approach! Please consider if there is room in you life to care for young children in your home. The hours and numbers would be whatever suited you and your family. There is an information sheet for Te Aroha Carers in the office, or speak to Angela 473 0992. Thank you!

Billet for visiting student

We are still looking for board and lodgings for a student of the AUT Steiner course coming to do a placement in our kindergarten from 24th May. Fern Wendt-Corfe will be with us for 4 weeks. Please see Clare.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

News From Class 6

Last week marked the end of our 3 week study of Percentages and Ratios, meaning the children now have the foundation laid for the significant Business Maths block in Term 3. We will continue to practise full fluency in converting between the four main forms of fractions; namely, the common fraction, the decimal fraction, the percentage and the ratio - a skill the class are picking up well.

We continued to hear stories from Roman History during this block, culminating on Friday with the horrendous murder of Julius Caesar by his most-trusted friends. This week we delve deeper into these stories, working through history from Caesar Augustus and life at the time of Jesus Christ through to the fall of the Roman Empire and the rise of the feudal system, using the stories as vehicle for revisiting elements of grammar and exploring the conditional sentence, asking ourselves: "what if...?"

Monk Visit

Last week Class Six were incredibly fortunate to be visited three days running by guests from Christchurch. Harsarani and her son Narottam (a child in Class Six at Christchurch Rudolf Steiner School) were South Island travelling-companions to Sannyasi Teacher, Tridandi Maharaja on a tour that included a three day stay in Dunedin. On Wednesday, Narottam joined our class for morning circle and was thrilled to see how different it was from his own class, particularly in the physical and mental challenges our class are compelled to take each day before book work.

Thursday saw Tridandi visit and speak to the class about God, love and service to others - a thoroughly inspiring talk that left a strong impression on the class. His manner was engaging and the children were riveted by his words of wisdom. Afterward we sang and played recorder for him, and then he sang to us before teaching us the Krisna mantra that we then all sang together. The good will and good feeling generated over these two days inspired Tridundi and come again on Friday morning, this time with 3 more guests (including Narottam's father who played a most interesting keyboard instrument – the harmonium) to whom we played our raga 'Bajan', learned last year through our Ancient India studies. We then all of us together had a rousing jam-session that left everyone beaming... and ended with our guests gifting us morning tea of gigantic homemade biscuits!

Tridandi is an incessant world-traveller who spends time throughout New Zealand, Australia, Asia and India, so it was more than a little humbling for him to share with me afterward that, of all the places he has visited and all the children he had met in his travels, he had never met a class so respectful, attentive, engaged or talented. All involved felt blessed and we look forward to their return, which is promised for next year.

- Lee

Yurt Cleaning Roster

The Xu, Stevenson and Cohen families are on yurt duty this week. (sorry I said Stevenson instead of Noyes last week – swap as needed).

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

From the Kindergarten Management Committee

We wish to clarify why it is that we request a donation of a dollar an hour for the three and four year olds even while the 20 hours free is available for that age group. Our kindergartens offer a harmonious and peaceful environment where childhood is protected. The outdoor space is fantastic and the rooms are equipped with quality natural toys in an aesthetically pleasing setting. We ensure that staff ratios are higher than required in kindergarten settings and that we provide wholesome organic foods for your children. All this costs money and this is why we ask parents to contribute. We hope that the special character of the kindergarten is valued. However, we also understand that for some families this financial commitment might be hard. Please remember that you can speak to Clare or Leonie if you are unable to make this donation.

A reminder that the parent representatives to the Kindergarten Management Committee are Kirsten McAuley, Pamala Walrond, Kate Tanner and Elan Chenault. Please feel free to talk to them if you have any questions, concerns or feedback.

Kindergarten

The staff and children of the Kowhai and Rata rooms would love to thank Joan for all her wonderful work in the garden. Our garden has blossomed and changed during the last two years and we are so pleased with the new garden beds and fine wall that encircles our gardens. We will miss seeing you with your overalls, visor, gloves, spades and wheelbarrows. Thank you also to Colin and the school children who have contributed their hard work and energy.

Kowhai Room

Thank you to those families who have contributed dried fruits. We are now looking for seeds and nuts; pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, nuts to provide for the children's mid morning snack.

Whaea Sandra is available for home visits again. Please speak to her to time table these in. Whaea Violet will also aim to do a few more visits this term within the next few weeks.

Te Reo

Fruit	Hua Rākau
Apple	āporo
Banana	panaa
Pear	pia
Quince	kuinihi
Grape	hua wāina

- Whaea Violet, Whaea Sandra, Junko and Julie.

Rata room

The Rata room is filling up and the teachers will soon begin considering which children may be ready to transition into the Kowhai Room. This assessment is made looking at the maturity of the child (rather than the chronological age) and the social groups involved. If the teachers consider that your child is ready to move then this will be discussed with you prior to any change. We will ensure that all parents are informed of any changes in advance.

We welcome Lucy Wilson (Ocean's sister) who is beginning visiting the Rata room this week.

-Matua Nick, Whaea Ros, Whaea Liqin

PLAYGROUP NEWS

We express our appreciation to Tace and Clare for their hard work in getting ministry accreditation for the Waitati Playgroup. They are having their final ministry visit this week! The funding we will then be eligible to receive will help us pay back our loan to the proprietors (which enabled us to set up the yacht club playgroup), as well as help us enrich our offerings of books for parents, playthings etc. It is wonderful having our hard-earned tax dollars coming back to help support Steiner Education! Thanks to all those involved, to the Ministry of Education, and the people of Aotearoa/New Zealand.

CRAFTGROUP NEWS

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.

Found

Last Wednesday morning a yellow crystal was found on the pavement going down to kindergarten. Please see Whaea Violet or Whaea Sandra in the Kowhai room if you think this may be yours.

Dunedin Public Art Gallery

May 12 Wednesday 11:15am *Tours for Tots*. Parents and caregivers: take part in a free baby-friendly half-hour tour of an exhibition at the Gallery followed by a chat and a cup of tea on the mezzanine floor. Nappy-changing facilities are located just off the foyer.

Jars for Marie

Marie is always keen to receive empty glass jars with lids. For every 10-15 (not 5 as Tracy said last week – sorry!) 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.