

UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
Tues-Wed 13 - 14 May	Rachel Barrington, Sue Russell visit	KMC	Thursday 15 May at 7:30pm venue TBA
Mon-Wed 26 - 28 May	Marjorie Theyer Visit Sue Simpson Visit	Board of Trustees Meeting	Tuesday 13th May at 7:30pm
Tuesday 27th May 7.30pm	Sue Simpson speaking about Temperaments		
Wednesday 28th May 12 noon	St Michael's Chorale Performance at Library		
Wednesday 28th May 7:30 pm	Kindergarten Parent Education on starting school		

FROM THE OFFICE

Roll cap news

We would like to share the good news that the Minister of Education has granted us an extension of our roll cap to 40 students. We are very pleased to be given this extra growing space and will continue to seek a further extension so that the school is a more viable school with at least 60 students.

The Ministry has requested that we finalise our enrolment scheme before the extra places can be taken. This scheme determines how we prioritise children from the waiting list. The priority area that affects most children is for those coming up through the kindergarten. Once the Ministry approves the latest version of our scheme, we need to bring it out to the school community for consultation. We will then send out a copy of the scheme and also invite you to a meeting to discuss it. We anticipate that this meeting will happen in the next few weeks.

The Yurts

It is anticipated that the yurts will arrive and be ready for putting up in June or July. By August the kindergarten should be extending into the current class 1,2 & 3, the younger classes will move to the lower class rooms and the new yurts will provide spaces for the older children, the Playgroup and Craft Group. We will need a good team of people to come and help with this exciting extension to our school. Once we have the dates organised we will put out a call for people to join us on our working bees.

Welcome to new Board members

We would like to welcome two new members of the Board of Trustees. Paula Mullins and Christophe Degas have kindly offered to come and work on the board. They are filling vacancies left by board members who resigned last year.

Paula is the mother of Renee (Class 1), and Harvey (playgroup). The family have recently relocated from Auckland. Paula will take on responsibility for overseeing the Personnel portfolio on the board.

Christophe is the father of Isa (kindergarten) and Zoe (class 2). Christophe and Marie have been active members of the school community for some time. Christophe will take on the Health and Safety portfolio.

Other Board members are Manfred Oswald, Anne Louise Heath, Catherine Barriga, Linda Miles, Alex MacNeille, Lee Noyes and Brenda Hawke.

Meeting with Rachel Barrington and Sue Russell

Sue Russell of the Steiner Federation, and Rachel Barrington from Christchurch Steiner school are with us on Tuesday 13 May and Wednesday the 14th. On the Tuesday evening they will be meeting with the College of Teachers and any interested members of the Board of Trustees, Kindergarten Management Committee and Proprietors to discuss issues around the structure and growth of the school.

Specific topics will include:-

- Management of new enrolments to the school and the focus for growth
- Developing a strong school management and governance model with clear pathways for sound financial decision-making
- Use of home-school groups in Steiner Schools

The meeting will be at the school at 7.30pm

SCHOOL NEWS

A plea from the teachers – Please aim to be at school by 8.50 so that the children are ready for class by 9 am. We have had many children late over this first week back and it puts out our rhythm for the morning. Please put lots of warm layers on the children as the wind up here can really bite this time of year.

The children are busy preparing for our concert for New Zealand Music Month on Wednesday 28th May at 12 noon in the city library. With our new name of Saint Michael's Chorale we have put together a new repertoire.

Class 5 and 6 are busily absorbing the intricacies of the ancient Indian epic the Ramayana, whilst class 4 have fun with words during their Grammar lessons. Class 3 are helping farmer Joe and Class 1/2 creating their first readers!

We are applying for financial grants to help us with our music program, festivals and plays this year.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

The children have settled into the new routine and they are very happy to see each other. They are listening to Little Briar Rose and we are having activities around the theme of farming in the circle.

If you find any old pure wool blankets in the op-shop, or you have one at home you would like to donate, we would be grateful. We can cut them and blanket stitch the outside as a craft activity.

As a special treat we are making simple pizzas on Tuesday for morning tea. These are wholemeal pita bread, organic tinned tomato and grated cheese. We can omit cheese for dairy sensitive children, but if you would like to bring your own child's ingredients please do.

Remember – a piece of fruit each day.
Roslyn

Warm Woolly Socks for Icy Cold Feet - Kindergarten Sock Fundraiser

It is time for our feet to be warm and cosy for the colder weather. The kindergarten is selling a range of socks from the Sock Lady (New Zealand made). The socks are a merino/nylon blend and are for both adults and children. The testimonials on her website (www.thesocklady.co.nz) are all positive:

"Warm, comfortable, hard wearing, don't slip down.....what more could you ask for"

"For socks that stay still in your boots"

As a fundraiser the kindergarten will receive 20% of the total sales. Order forms with more details and a couple of samples for you to view and try on are in the office.

There will be a box on the office counter for orders to go in. Please include payment with your orders and please make cheques payable to Dunedin Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten.

Let's have our feet cosy and warm this winter. Many thanks for your support.

Last day for orders – Wednesday 21st May

CRAFT GROUP NEWS

The doll making workshop is a week later than the date previously advertised.

Tuesday 6 th May	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! Please bring items to include in the display such as branches, flax, shells, cones etc.
Tuesday 20 th May	9am to 1pm At Ravensbourne hall	Wet felting with Junko. Make a merino children's scarf. Bring your lunch.
Sunday 1 st June PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE	10am to 3pm	Make a doll with Cecil. Free workshop if you donate your doll to the craft group, or \$25 if you keep it. Bring some food to share.
Sunday 29 th June	10am to 3pm	Candle making with 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

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

Community Choir

The next Community Choir is on **Wednesday 28th May at 6:00pm**. Please bring music or a song to share. See you there! Too many meetings to fit in this week!

Welcome to the Enchanting World of Needle Felting. Waldorf inspired artist Marie Pickering. Ph 06 856 5712

Email: Softearth@clear.net.nz Website: www.virtualgallery.co.nz

Fluoride action network Dunedin

Active opposition to the addition of artificial fluoride into public water supplies.

Fannz currently have "The fluoride deception" DVD for sale - \$30 for ten copies.

This 'G' rated DVD is an interview with BBC award winning producer & author Christopher Bryson.

Informative & affordable, this DVD is a great way to educate friends & family through their medium.

Help support Fluoride action network protect public water supplies from medication & pollution. stickers also available, format available on request- \$10 for 10

Olive McRae

Ph: 4821347 email nomassmedication@gmail.com

Northern Gymnastics and Trampolining Club – Fun, affordable classes for boy and girls. Recreational and competitive classes for trampoline, men's artistic gymnastics and women's artistic gymnastics.

Ph. Erin (gymnastics) 477 1410

Ph. Jenny (trampoline) 476 4909

EM BOKASHI Composting Workshop

4.00 – 5.00 pm Wednesday, 14 May, Skeggs gallery, Civic Chambers

Find out all you need to know to work this simple system in your workplace or at home. For further information see

www.cityofdunedin.com/recycle or www.bokashi.co.nz

Register with jneilson@dcc.govt.nz phone 477 4000

CAR SAFETY FOR SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

Dr. Elizabeth Segedin and Dr. Gabrielle Nuthall
Intensive Care Unit,
Starship

May 2007

There is not a parent amongst us who would not do the utmost to keep our children safe. New Zealand has some of the worst statistics in the world with respect to child safety and road traffic safety, with at least 20 children dying and more than ten times that number seriously injured each year as a passenger in a car. It will therefore come as a surprise to many to learn that most of us could do a lot more for our school-aged children to reduce their risk of death and serious injury when they travel as a passenger in the family car.

If you take the time to look at your child sitting in their seat in your car with an adult seat belt across them, it soon becomes obvious that they don't fit. While it may be true that come 5 years of age our kids have "grown out" of their car seat age, it is not true that they are now ok without anything except the adult seat belt - a restraint that is designed for adult dimensions. Until they reach puberty, children have some shape issues. First and foremost the length of the top part of their leg is too short to sit with their knees comfortably bent over the edge of the seat and their bottom against the back of the seat – so they slouch back allowing the lap part of the belt to ride up over their tummy. Secondly, their sitting height doesn't allow them to reach the shoulder anchor so that the sash part of the belt crosses the neck instead of the shoulder and breast bone. Sometimes the kids will hook their arm over the belt as this is uncomfortable. Both situations are dangerous. Thirdly, until puberty the child's pelvic bones are underdeveloped and not big enough to be the anchor for the lap part of the belt which is how it is designed to work in us adults. Finally, this mismatch is much worse if they fall asleep which, of course, they do.

So what should we be doing and why? There is a large and consistent body of evidence confirming that children have up to 3 and ½ times reduction in serious injuries and deaths in car crashes if they use a booster seat than they do just in an adult seat belt. Boosters protect from serious head injury, broken necks and lower spines and particularly abdominal injury such as ruptured liver or spleen. This is because they channel the lap part of the belt over the top part of the legs/ lower pelvis and not over the abdomen and they raise the child up so that the top part of the belt is over the bony strength of the breast bone and shoulder, not the neck. In this way the forces in a crash are taken first by the stronger bony parts of the child's body.

At the Starship we have just done a study which confirms overseas findings that children up to as old as 11 or 12 are not ready for adult seat belts alone and should be using booster seats. We found that all 4 and 5 year olds, 90% of all 6, 7 and 8 year olds, 50% of 9 and 10 year olds and 10% of 11 and 12 year olds still needed to be in booster seats. Children are safe in an adult seat belt when they reach a height of 148 cm tall. The reason most laws and recommendations talk about ages and heights is because most parents know their children's age and weight and not their height, and it makes law enforcement easier. Kids in New Zealand reach this height on average around 10 to 11 years, and on average this equates to around 36kg. body weight but this obviously varies with build.

How do you sell this one to your kids? Our experience is that children are logical beings and a straight explanation that makes sense is usually sufficient. Other than significantly reducing injury and death in a crash, being higher up in the car has other benefits. They can see more and may be less likely to throw up. In a booster seat, if they fall asleep they don't fall out of their restraint and are safer and more comfortable. They also want to do what their peers are doing, so if everyone had to be in a booster, until they reached 148cm tall, it wouldn't be an issue.

We are working on our law, but realistically this could take a while and in the meantime there is no reason why the parents of NZ should be kept from the facts regardless of the law. The British changed their law last September to include up to age 12 or 135cm tall and the RoSPA parents website has a very good summary and recommendations for best practice.

(www.childcarseats.org.uk/)

Another couple of important points.

Firstly, primary school children are safer in the back regardless of restraint.

Secondly, airbags deploy at the height of an adult chest. When a child is sitting in the front passenger seat with an airbag this is at head height and risks head and neck injury which may be fatal. If you have absolutely no choice and a child has to sit in the front, the front seat should be moved back as far as possible and a booster should still be used.

Put them in the back in a booster!

IN SUMMARY - PUT YOUR SCHOOL KIDS IN THE BACK IN A BOOSTER

- **School aged children are not travelling as safely as they could.**
- **This age of child does not fit the adult seat belt. Their legs are too short and they don't sit up far enough. They slouch down to get their knees comfortable over the edge of the seat. The belt rides up over their abdomen and lies across the neck instead of the shoulder. They are not held firmly in place against the seat and move more in a crash.**
- **This result of this is head and spinal cord injuries and injuries to the abdomen including ruptured livers and spleens.**
- **Booster seats sit them up straight with their bottoms firmly against the back of the seat. They keep the lap part of the belt low over the top of the legs and allow them to be high enough for the sash part of the belt to go over the shoulder and breast bone and away from the neck. They also can see more!**
- **To be safe children need to be in booster seats until they are 148cm tall. For the majority of children this is somewhere between 9 and 12 years of age.**
- **Children risk head and neck injuries from airbags and are safer in the rear seat. If you have absolutely no choice and a child has to sit in the front, the front seat should be moved back as far as possible and a booster should still be used.**