

NEWSLETTER

RUDOLF STEINER TRUST

OTAGO

TERM2 #14
17 MAY 2010
471-2163

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| UPCOMING EVENTS | | MEETINGS | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Friday 28th May, 6pm | School Play & Farewell for Brenda Hawke and Menno | Thursday 20 May 7.30pm | Proprietors Meeting |
| Monday May 31st, 2-3pm, Rata room | High School Vision Information Session | Tuesday, June 1st 1pm | Kindergarten Management Committee Meeting |
| Monday 21st June, 7pm Rata room | Marjorie Theyer Talk for kindergarten and playgroup families | | |
| Saturday 26th June, 10am-4pm | Working Bee: school and kindergarten. | | |

FROM THE OFFICE

Board of Trustees

The new Board of Trustees met last Thursday. They welcomed two new members – Jane Plant (Class 4 teacher and Staff rep) and Jane Gibbin (mother of Lilith in Class 1 and parent rep).

Each board member has a portfolio and these are as follows:-

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|------------------|--|
| Manfred Oswald | Board Chair |
| Anne Louie Heath | Personel portfolio and chairs the meetings |
| Christophe Degas | Health and Safety |
| Jane Gibbin | Policy review and development |
| Linda Miles | Curriculum - special character |
| Jane Plant | Curriculum - National curriculum |
| Clare Ridout | Proprietors Rep |
| Alex MacNeille | Principal |

The Board is still looking for someone who can look at financial issues for the whole school community. Last year Clare worked closely with Shelley who had an overview of the finances for the school, kindergarten and proprietors. It would be very useful if there was someone else out there connected to our community who would be prepared to work alongside Clare on this. The person would not have to attend meetings in this role nor do they have to be a school parent. Please speak to Clare.

Parent Teacher Association

Various people have started talking about starting up some form of a Parent Teacher Association. This would look to social events and welcoming of new families and also to some fundraising. If you might be interested in being involved then please let Clare know.

20 Hours free under threat?

The government is indicating that it may reduce funding to the Early Childhood sector in the coming budget. We are concerned that this could affect the 20 hours free funding that kindergarten parents now benefit from. The Labour Party's Early Childhood Education Spokesperson is coming to Dunedin on Monday 24 May to meet with interested parties and to plan a proactive lobbying of the government on this issue. The meeting will be at the Mornington Presbyterian Church Hall, Maryhill Terrace at 10am on Monday 24th. If you may be interested in going then please contact Clare.

Principal recruitment – and interim teacher for Class 2/3

The recruitment is underway with adverts placed in may places. The closing date for applications is the 15 June.

Playground Supervision

This has been amended so we have two adults on duty as there is a large area to cover. We would really appreciate it if a parent could help on Fridays between 1.20 and 2pm. Please let Clare or Leonie know if you can help with this.

We are concerned that outside play is being adversely affected by children's contact with film/TV. This has expressed itself in games that are not appropriate. The parent handbook states:

TV and Computers

Childhood is a time for learning through activity - a time for playing, for interacting with others, for experiencing the wonders of nature, for using the imagination to create all kinds of wonderful worlds, and for using bodies to become strong and adept. When these activities are replaced by the passive act of watching, the child's ability for creativity and imagination is markedly diminished. Television and videos create a passive response to the environment in your child. Their natural instinct to actively seek knowledge is stunted. The child experiences a programmed response instead of being able to create a unique, imaginative response. The School and Kindergarten's ideal is for the young child to see no television and take part in no computer games; parents are asked to censor and strongly limit their child's exposure to television and computer games. Parent evenings will focus on alternatives available to families making the transition to media-free home life.

Before School

To help your child have a happy, successful day please ensure they have a good breakfast and no TV or computer games! Waking your child up early enough so they do not have to rush and having a set morning rhythm will help create smooth, hassle-free mornings.

We also make it clear to children that weapons are not allowed in the school. This includes pretend weapons, swords etc. Please would parents support the school in reinforcing these standards of behaviour.

Playgroup Fundraiser

Please help our growing playgroups to thrive and email me your favourite healthy recipes, soups, vegetarian dishes, baking, puddings, you name it. These recipes will be published in a little booklet to be sold. Feel free to involve your children, they might have some favourite foods too and drawings are very welcome. Email: jorinderapsey@gmail.com

Thank you from Jorinde,

on behalf of the playgroup facilitators Anna, Cecil, Elan, Nalani, Ros, Sally and Tace

Second Hand Clothing Collection

Thanks to Emma Furness (Noah's Mum) who has volunteered to collect clothing for our fair. If you have some washed, 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) please pass them to Emma or leave for her at the office.

Trade Aid Orders

Thanks everyone for so many orders already put in! The box will be there until Friday to collect more orders. If all families buy only 1 item each it'll make a real difference! -ask your neighbours too by the way! There are more order forms in the office -or E-mail me your order (paper free -I'd really like us to try it this way in future!) robz@ihug.co.nz. Payment can be by cash, cheque or direct to my account if you'd prefer- Account no 03 1729 0021601 00. I'll give you back change -if you don't need it immediately -then we don't have to involve our hard working office staff in the process. - Linda

Report on NZ Trio Concert

On the 4 May another excited group of class 4s and 6s and I attended another concert at the Glenroy. This time we got better seats nearer the front and were able to feel closer to the music and the young and exhilarating musicians. After I had told them all about the programme of Mozart, Arvo Part etc that I thought we were going to hear the concert turned around and gave us a completely different programme! -3 contemporary works -from NZ, Australia and US, a wonderful Spanish work and Schumann to finish off. The Australian work was about the eruption of Mt Tambora in Indonesia in the early 1800's. For 2 years afterwards there was virtually no summer. The music was intensely dramatic! The children really loved this concert, the music, sense of occasion and togetherness. The next one is Michael Houston on piano and Josef Scacek violin on the 25 June -Friday night. - Linda

High School Vision Group

A reminder to all those families who have received an Expression of Interest Form to please return them as soon as possible, either to Matua Nick, Izumi, or the office. We are aware that not all the school families have received the forms yet and we will try to get onto that this week. Forms are available in the office. We are also in the process of getting the form on our website so it can be filled in electronically. We have an information session on Monday 31st from 2-3pm in the Rata if you would like to come along and find out more.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

News From Class 4

“And then the blue eyed Norseman told

A saga of the days of old”

Yes, at long last, we are entering the world of Norse Mythology. Exploring the Creation story and tackling some interesting pronunciation. We are continuing to use independent reading strategies successfully – and boy can Class 4 read!

We are looking at different ways of writing – creative and book reports. We are using oral language through retelling what they have discovered to the class. We are working with number knowledge and about to begin Geometry. Of course, we are working hard with the play and library performances. It's all go!

Yurt Cleaning Roster

The Barton, Cunningham and Degas 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

Kindergarten

Marjorie Theyer will be visiting the school, kindergarten and playgroup later this term. Marjorie is the Rudolf Steiner Federation's advisor on early childhood and has decades of experience working with Steiner kindergartens and playgroups. We would love to see full attendance from the kindergarten families to her evening korero. Please put any questions you have for her or topics you would like her to discuss in the communication booklet. This will be your opportunity to have specific questions answered by a knowledgeable kuia.

We are looking forward to celebrating Whitsun next Monday, when we will be making paper doves.

Please remember to close the wooden gate when picking up children at 1pm.

Kowhai Room

Thank you whanau for the plants and seedlings for our garden. We would still like to receive some silver beet and perpetual spinach. Our children will need warm hats, gumboots and waterproof jackets. We are enjoying the warm sun when its here but our weather can turn any day at any time. With the cooler weather, our chickens may need some extra care too. We are looking for someone or a family to check them during the weekends. This is only for the cold, wet winter months. Please contact Whaea Sandra if you are able to help.

Whaea Violet is still available for home visits.

Te Reo Māori

Kei te pēhea koe?

Mōrena

Horoi nga ringaringa

How are you?

Morning

wash your hands

- Whaea Violet, Whaea Sandra, Junko and Julie.

Rata room

We welcome Eli Johnson who has been having his first visits with us over the last couple of weeks. We look forward to hosting the Kowhai room on Wednesday when Class 1 will come to do a small play for the kindergarten.

If you have any spare underwear or trousers you'd be able to donate to our kindergarten clothes bin, they would be very much appreciated

Ka kite ano, -Matua Nick and Whaea Ros,

PLAYGROUP NEWS

Mark your diaries! Our midwinter Lantern Festival is planned for Friday June 25 from 11-1 in the Rata Room. Please bring some nourishing egg-free food for our shared lunch!

Please also note Marjorie Theyer's visit on Monday the 21st June (see kindergarten news). The evening talk will be great for playgroup families as well. She may be able to do an afternoon talk specifically for playgroup – we will see closer to the time.

CRAFTGROUP NEWS

On 25th May, we will make king's and queen's crowns out of the sheet felt (and possibly other things too). These felt crowns are very popular for even bigger kids ---- come and make your own!

Volunteers wanted

Do you have some time to spare at home, doing craft project? Our shop is constantly running out of felt gnomes. Can you help? We provide materials and instructions, so if you can, please let Izumi (472-8598) or Marie (471-2181) know.

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 25 th May 9:00 – 12:45 | Ravensbourne Hall | Making King's and Queen's crown. Bring your sawing kit please. |
| Tuesday 8 th June 9:00 – 12:45 | Ravensbourne Hall | Silk finger puppet making with Cecil. |
| Saturday June 12 th 9:30-12:30 | Tace's: 18 Orokonui Rd, Waitati | Doll Making Circle – All welcome! ph 482 1161 if need directions. |

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.

Whilst ordering books for playgroup, I have discovered a great website. If you are looking at buying books, check out this website: www.bookdepository.co.uk. They offer free worldwide shipping and because of the low English pound, books tend to be significantly cheaper at the moment! - Jorinde.