

NEWSLETTER

RUDOLF STEINER TRUST OTAGO

TERM2 #15
24 MAY 2010
471-2163

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UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
Friday 28 th May, 6pm	School Play & Farewell for Brenda Hawke and Menno	Thursday 27 May 7.30pm	Proprietors Meeting
Monday May 31st, 2-3pm, Rata room	High School Vision Information Session	Tuesday, June 1 st 1pm	Kindergarten Management Committee Meeting
Monday 21 st June, 7pm Rata room	Marjorie Theyer Talk for kindergarten and playgroup families	Thursday 10 th June, 7.15pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
Saturday 26 th June, 10am-4pm	Working Bee: school and kindergarten.		

"May not Music be described as the Mathematics of Sense, Mathematics as the Music of Reason? The soul of each the same! The musician feels Mathematics, the mathematician thinks Music, - Music is the dream, Mathematics is the working life, - each to receive its consummation from the other."

- JAMES JOSEPH SYLVESTER, 1865

FROM THE OFFICE

Winter Morning

*Winter is the king of showmen,
Turning tree stumps into snow men
And houses into birthday cakes
And spreading sugar over lakes.
Smooth and clean and frost white
The world looks good enough to bite.
That's the season to be young,
Catching snowflakes on your tongue.*

*Snow is snowy when it's snowing
I'm sorry it's slushy when it's going.*

-Ogden Nash

Skating and Winter Camp

The month of June will see the school children enjoying winter with 3 Friday afternoons of Skating lined up at the Dunedin Ice Stadium in St Kilda. Then classes 3,4 and 6 will head off to Naseby for a two night camp on the 23rd and 24th June to skate in the open air, enjoy the night sky, walk in the forest and find what we hope will be a crisper chillier winter than the coastal Dunedin provides. We will be looking for some parent help for the Dunedin Skating and also for the camp. Please read the Primary school section and also please return the permission slips for skating which are going out today.

Grounds Work

Winter is at work in the grounds so we need some people to level off the area of lethally slippery grass on the hill from the kindergarten to the school. Then we will put quarry dust on it to make it safer. Perhaps if you know you will not be able to make the working bee and would like to contribute in advance or if you are happy to help, please see Clare. There will be some spade work and collection of quarry dust.

This Friday night – school performance and farewell

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a fine evening to celebrate Brenda's time at the school, to enjoy a shared evening meal at 6pm and then to see the children perform. The event will be held at Ravensbourne Hall from 6pm. Brenda's leaving date is not until the 11 June. It is also a chance to say goodbye to Menno who leaves after the winter camp in late June.

Cleaning

We are looking for someone to job share the cleaning of the kindergarten. 2 hours paid work per week. Please see the office if you are interested. Also a request from the cleaner to please do the yurt sweeping when you are on duty, as otherwise she ends up doing it. The yurts do get very dusty and we all need to help keep our children's rooms clean for their benefit.

Road Safety

At this time of year, the sun strike as you drive up Manapouri St to approach the school is very strong. Could drivers leaving the school please give way to those arriving as their visibility is limited and they may not see you. Obviously the more people who park at the bottom and walk up the better. It's great to see more families walking up/and or down the hill. We are having road safety sessions from the police in Term 3, so children's awareness while walking and riding is increased.

High School Vision Group

Thanks for all those who have returned their expression of interest forms! Our folder is growing fatter and fatter. Below is a synopsis of the ideas for our high school we have developed so far- the following paragraphs will be on our webpage and form the basis for our press releases. We look forward to seeing many of you next Monday for our community meeting. Bring along your questions and ideas, and we will share what we have been up to so far and the steps ahead! Monday 31st may, 2-3 in the Rata Room.

Dunedin Rudolf Steiner High School Vision Group

The High School Vision Group is in the process of creating a high school to bring Steiner Education to the secondary level in Dunedin. There are currently four successful Steiner High Schools in Aotearoa/New Zealand, and we believe there is an authentic need for this approach to secondary education in Dunedin. The group aims to have our High School open by 2015, though this will depend entirely on the level of community demand.

The vision is to create a high school, based on the Steiner approach, which upholds academic excellence and guides students towards meaningful lives. Students will undertake a broad and varied course of study that is structured to help them develop a sense of competence, responsibility and purpose. As well as achieving national qualifications, graduating students will engage in a year-long senior project. The Group is considering siting the school on a working sustainable farm, and using the Otago Harbour as a point of focus upon which to build the curriculum. It envisions a small school of between 60-90 students, creating a safe environment and ensuring that the needs of each student can be met in a holistic way.

The Group aims to gain a Ministry of Education Integration agreement which will make this education more accessible to families from a range of income levels. Failing this, the group will explore other ways to fund the school while still maintaining affordability.

Adolescence is a critical time in the development of a human being. Encouraging individual freedom goes hand-in-hand with developing individual responsibility, and the group aims to imbue the High School with a strong ethos of community responsibility and caring for the wellbeing of our planet earth. The group seeks to create a school that brings appreciation of the uniqueness and dignity of each individual student into a setting that provides young people with the tools they need to create their future.

Early Childhood Funding update

The government has confirmed that 20 hours free funding will continue and that it will be extended to five year olds from July this year. This extension is great for a Steiner Kindergarten where funding for five year olds has been limited. Perhaps what has not promoted so much by the government is the cuts they are making with the other hand to early childhood funding. The hourly rate that kindergarten and other early childhood centres receive from the government is being reduced in those centres that have a high ratio of qualified staff (80% or more). It is not clear yet how many places will respond to these funding cuts but it may be that centres have to increase their other fees to parents in order to cope with the reduced rates from the government. We have yet to review how this may impact on our

kindergarten budget – early estimates are that it will not have a significant adverse effect and could even be outweighed by the introduction of 20 hours free for five year olds.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

What a delightful concert the children put on at the library. It is lovely to showcase what the children can achieve from the wonderful music program that a Steiner school provides. Class one were a patient and appreciative audience! Thank you children and teachers.

Class 1

Thank you to the Kindergartens and to Class 6 for welcoming us to perform our first Play! The children were thrilled to share their wonderful Maths play. The children have been giving the birds a helping hand by making little nests and setting them everywhere in the trees. The children were so involved in their spontaneous project that we even made some little felt eggs to go in them!

Class 2/3

*If you were only one inch tall, you'd ride a worm to school.
The teardrop of a crying ant would be your swimming pool....
... A bit of fluff would be your bed,
You'd swing upon a spider's thread,
And wear a thimble on your head
If you were one inch tall. (Shel Silverstein)*

That's right! It's measuring time in math for class 3, who have revised mass and move onto linear measurement this week. Here we will visit some ancient civilisations to experience the history of measurement. If you have time at home, we are working on consolidating the 6,7 and 4 times tables. We are in the second week of our Maths main lesson with class 2 undertaking lots of practice of place value and problem-solving involving groups – through games, drawing and written computations. In English, the class 3 children are developing valuable skills in composing their own text with a partner for their main lesson books whilst class 2 learn lots of sight words through playing a variety of card games. We have been doing a lot of painting this term – warm autumn colour exercises mostly, and as the cold weather creeps in, the children have a yearning for lots of handwork!

Class 2 are moving onto diatonic recorders. Could you please buy a wooden descant diatonic recorder. Trademe has ones for around \$20. The cheapest in town seems to be \$60 at Beggs. Please send the recorder in when you have one. I will lend the children my spare ones in the meantime. .

Our French play is on this Friday evening. We are going to set up the stage and practice on Thursday. There is a permission form coming home with your child. Please send in the reply tomorrow.

-Thanks, Brenda

Yurt Cleaning Roster

The **Tamang, Oswald** and **Tapealava** 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.

Skating

Skating will be on the 4th, 11th and 18th June at the Dunedin Ice Stadium between 1.30 and 2.30pm. We are arranging a bus to take children to the rink The cost is \$6 per session (compared to the normal skate cost of \$10 for a child). The bus costs \$4 per child return. We would like a couple of parent helpers to work with Marie and Lee for the afternoon helping to provide activities on the ice. Skating skills required. Please contact Marie: 471 2181.

Winter Camp

Winter camp is for Class 3,4 and 6, staying at Larchview Holiday camp in Naseby in cabins on the Wednesday and Thursday nights of the 23rd and 24 June. Jane Plant and Lee Noyes are organising the camp but need parent help – 3 or 4 parents who can come along and help organise housekeeping

matters such as food. As we noted at the start of this year, this camp is just for the older children. The main summer camp for all will be in the early part of 2011. While the older children are away, the younger children will have a small "camp" here.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Kowhai Room

Dear friends and family of the kindergarten,

Are any of you interested in relieving when our staff are not well? On rare occasions we need extra help. Please put your name forward with Clare, Ros or Violet.

Please remember to put your ideas forward in the communication book for Marjorie Theyer's evening talk. This enables Marjorie to pitch her korero at the topics/subjects you want.

This Monday we are celebrating Whitsunday:

*Clouds of rain, blue above
Easter sun and Whitsun dove.*

Wet weather gear is needed for winter weather ahead. Do you have any spare trousers for our spare clothing bin?

Thank you for all the plants for the garden.

Te Reo Māori

Ua rain
Huka snow
Hukapapa frost

- Whaea Violet, Whaea Sandra, Junko and Julie.

Rata room

We welcome Fern who is a student from the Auckland University of Technology, and will be on placement with us for the next few weeks.

We could still really do with more spare underwear and trousers (if anyone has some they no longer need) for our kindergarten spare clothes bin.

Ka kite ano, -Matua Nick and Whaea Ros,

PLAYGROUP NEWS

We wish Jorinde and Elizabeth a joyful visit to summery Holland! Safe travels and we are looking forward to seeing you again in August. Thanks to Jorinde for all her hard work gathering books for playgroup families.

CRAFTGROUP NEWS

Tomorrow 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 talk to Izumi (472-8598) or Marie (471-2181).

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. Bring your sewing kit please
Saturday June 12 th 9:30-12:30	Tace's: 18 Orokonui Rd, Waitati	Doll Making Circle – All welcome! ph 482 1161 if you 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.

Yoga

I am taking over 'The Yoga Studio' on 31st May, 2010. I am very excited about this opportunity! There will be lots of classes during the day, from 50 minute 'express' classes to a luscious 90 minute, fully supported restorative practice. There will also be the usual classes in the evening. For most of these classes NO PREVIOUS YOGA EXPERIENCE REQUIRED! All you need is yourself and a mat if you have one. Check out the website - www.dunedin yoga.co.nz. There will also be a **FREE** class on Sundays at 10am with an optional cup of tea afterwards.

We are opening the studio with a 'Havan' - a yogic fire ceremony - on Sunday 30th May at 7pm, led by Waitati yoga teacher, Deepananda. Following this will be Kirtan - devotional singing in Sanskrit. If this sounds like you, you are welcome to attend. Blessings,
Emma

CLOTH NAPPIES

Clean cloth nappies to give away to baby who needs them. Phone Angela 473 0992

Organic Co-op order

We are placing another organic dry goods order with Chantel, Ceres and a flour supplier. Please email Fran: franclark@clear.net.nz to get an order form. Be quick – she wants the orders in by Tuesday night.

Matariki Exhibition

Come and join the Occupation! It's on, it's here and we're taking over the Octagon! **Oi** is back for 2010 teasing, pleasing and uneasing. June 1st - June 7th, 2010, Lower Octagon. In honour of the Māori New Year **Oi** goes to the heart of Otepoti (Dunedin) with a creative concoction of graffiti art, emotive documentaries, experimental visuals and short flicks. The Film Feast will run day and night (till 10pm) with little breathers in between. See the poster in the office for more information.

Puaka Matariki 2010

Ice Breaker 2010 – *Waka ama at its extreme*

Nau mai haere mai koutou. To celebrate the dawning of a new year and the closing of an old one, Fire in Ice Outrigger Waka ama Club are hosting the southern most long distance extreme waka ama outrigger event in Aotearoa. Come and join us - the venue is warm and sheltered with a tumeke view of the Harbour. Watch some extreme people paddle in our extreme conditions. It might even make you want to take up a new challenge for Matariki! This is a Smokefree-Auahi Kore event.

Date/Time: Friday 11 June, 1.00pm – Men's and Women's 10km single race

Saturday 12 June, 8.00am – start for all-day event including 18km and 21km races and 1000m sprints

Venue: OUSA Aquatic Centre, Magnet Street (Harbour side of the new stadium, down near the harbour cycle track) Cost: Free Contact: Fran, 476 9876

Holiday Gymnastics

Southern Gymnastic Academy is running a school holiday program for all children aged 5-11. Based on our recreational gymnastics program each day will be filled with challenging activities, games, and loads of fun. Even if you have never done gymnastics before, you'll love this program!

The program runs on the 6th, 8th, 13th, and 15th of July. Each session starts at 9:00 AM and finishes at 10:30 AM. A repeat session runs later in the morning, starting at 11:30 AM and finishing at 1:00 PM. Register for all four sessions for \$20, or single days for \$7.50 per session. Bookings essential as places are limited, so get in quick! You can register online at our website, or download an enrollment form from our website and post it to us. Payment can be made online, by cheque, or cash on the day. More information please visit www.southerngymnastics.co.nz/holidayprogram or Ph 477 5885.