

# NEWSLETTER

## RUDOLF STEINER TRUST OTAGO

TERM2 # 15

25 MAY 2009

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UPCOMING EVENTS			MEETINGS	
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Kindergarten Closes 2pm		Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> May 7.15pm at school	BOT
Thursday 28 May 12.30pm	St Michael's Chorale City library			
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Kindergarten Re-opens			

*"By the time they reach us at the college and university level, Waldorf students are grounded broadly and deeply and have a remarkable enthusiasm for learning. Such students possess the eye of a discoverer and the compassionate heart of a reformer, which, when joined to a task, can change the planet."*

— *Dr. Arthur Zajonc, Associate Professor of Physics, Amherst College and former General Secretary of the Anthroposophical Society in America.*

### FROM THE OFFICE

#### **Important reminder:**

The Kindergarten is closed this Friday, next Monday (Queen's Birthday) and Tuesday. Kindergarten reopens on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 9am. This Thursday, please collect children by 1pm if possible, or alternately at 2pm if necessary if you are returning from the choir.

#### **Working Bee**

Thank you very much to everyone who turned up yesterday to work at school. Despite the wet and muddy conditions a lot was accomplished. The drainage trench was cleared out, paths laid, firewood stacked, kindergartens cleaned and the heating project taken that bit further.

#### **Shelves**

Would any handy person be able to spare some time to reset the shelves in the back office? We want to move shelves from one wall to the other so that the kindergarten staff have a better space in there for their paperwork. See Clare if you can help.

#### **Kindergarten Chairs – thanks to the Fundraising group**

Thank you to the fundraisers and the Alexander MacMillan Trust for the grant for the ten lovely new wooden chairs which we have had made by Cargill Enterprises. These are very welcome as the number of children increases and some of the older chairs need a little renovation. The rest of the grant has gone towards musical instruments – renovation, hire and some new ones. Thank you also to Colin Rawle for collecting and oiling them.

#### **Bike Raffle**

The lucky winners of our raffle, drawn on Thursday, were Paul and Liz Tuckey. Happy riding Tuckey family. Many thanks to all who supported this fundraiser, especially those who took extra tickets. When all money owed has been paid, we will have raised \$902.00. This will buy a unicycle for the school, among other things.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

### **Camp Naseby**

Lee is still finalising dates and bookings, working around it being in the first week of Term 3 (July 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>). Class 1 will stay for one night only. Parents of Class 1 children have the choice whether they'll accompany their child for this night. If they could indicate whether they'll do this by calling Lee or the office it will help with booking.

### **Class 5**

Cooker successfully installed last Thursday. The children are very excited about the prospect of hot lunches and morning teas. Donations of pots, pans and cooking utensils would be greatly appreciated. Thank you to the fundraisers and to the Nutrition Fund for the grant for the cooker.

### **Reminder: This Thursday: Choir performance at DCC Library.**

The children are taking a bus to and from the library, leaving school at 11.30am.

We perform at 12.30 and leave the library at 1.15 to head back to school. You will hear some favourites and some new songs. Hope to see the community there.

Lee.

### **Class 3**

Some of Class 3's books have been accidentally saturated. I suggest drying them out in a warm place. From now on I will store all their books in a cupboard. We have been playing 'Rain, Rain, Go Away' on the recorders – hope the rain gods are listening.

### **Cellos**

.After ice-skating on Friday, if parents are able to come to the short meeting I would love to share with you some tips on home practice and technique.

Kia ora, Jocelyn

## KINDERGARTEN AND NURSERY NEWS

Hello Everyone - Kia Ora Koutou Katoa

We are enjoying using the potatoes we have been digging from the Kindergarten gardens in our vegetable soup on Tuesdays.

*"Blessings on the blossoms, blessings on the fruit, blessings on the leaves and stems and blessings on the root."*

This week we planted some tulip bulbs in pots and look forward to seeing what happens in the Spring.

Clothing - Please remember to send children with a warm hat, jacket, woollen jerseys, wet weather gear and a complete change of clothes so they can enjoy being outdoors and can be involved in a whole range of activities throughout the season. The change of clothes can be left hung up on their hook at Kindergarten if you prefer. Please name all items of clothing. Suitable footwear is also important – eg. Gumboots. There is plenty of mud around at present!

Naming the staff! - With an increased number of staff now we realise that it can be confusing for the children, especially new ones and the younger ones, if the staff have different titles as well as different names so all of the staff in the Kindergarten and Nursery are happy to accept the title of "Whaea" in front of their name, which Whaea Violet has kindly granted to us, with the exception of Matua Nick of course!

We appreciate the effort those of you who attended our Parent Information Evening on Thursday made to come on that cold, dark night. We realise it is difficult to get away at the children's bedtime. It was nice to get to know you better and to hear your questions. Very many thanks to Mrs MacNeille for giving up her evening to answering the questions for us. It was most informative and we all learnt more about the Steiner methods.

Have you lost a coat? A red coat has been found in the Rata Room. It is a ladies L size, Yaks and Yetis brand, made in Nepal, which zips up and has a floral pattern on the front. If it sounds familiar please see Whaea Lea-Ann.

Holiday weekend – Please remember this weekend is your big chance for a long holiday weekend as Kindergarten and Nursery will be closed from Thursday afternoon (28 May) and reopen the following Wednesday morning (3 June) to enable all the Kindergarten and Nursery staff to attend Seminar Two of the inservice Rudolf Steiner training course at Taruna College, Havelock North. We look forward to coming back full of lots of new knowledge and ideas. Early closure Thursday. To enable the staff to catch the plane on Thursday afternoon (28 May) we would like to close the kindergarten early. If you can collect your child at 1pm on Thursday afternoon that would be great – otherwise if

you are at the library listening to the school choir, then please come back to the kindergarten to collect at 2pm to enable the staff to clear up.

Kindergarten / Nursery will be closed Fri 29 May, Mon 1 June and Tues 2 June.

### **Dianne's Biography.**

I grew up in Mt Albert a suburb in the city of Auckland. I lived with my grandparents and parents. Our house was on a half acre sections with the boundary on the Owairaka domain. I was fortunate to have Friesian cows at our back fence and lots of gum trees, so for me I had a bit of the country in the middle of a city. My family still live in Auckland, except my dad who lives in Kaitaia with his second wife.

I attended one of the largest secondary schools – Avondale College where my mother had been a foundation pupil. When I left school I thought I would work with children but chose to be a chair side assistant for a dentist. It wasn't until I had my first son that I involved myself in Early Childhood training. Firstly, in a part time capacity and then full time and as a career. I trained in 1975 and haven't stopped since. I completed my degree in 2004. I was chosen for post graduate study in 2009, but deferred for one year.

While the children were growing up I attended Playcentre and did some playcentre training with my youngest son who attended the sessions. With my older son I was a kindergarten mum and experienced kindergarten. As my youngest son required regular visits to the Wilson Home on the North Shore I chose to work in the area as an Early Childhood teacher. I spent several years at the North Shore Hospital centre and at the three University of Auckland centres.

I had a brief visit to a Steiner centre at a convention I attended and found the centre fascinating. Later when living in Dunedin with my first husband I was able to meet Alex and Heinke at the Steiner School in North East Valley.

Unfortunately the timing wasn't right as my marriage ended and I returned home with the two boys to gather some resources and strength.

Seven years later I met my second husband while living in Auckland and on a trip to Dunedin at Easter. I always had a place in my heart for Dunedin as my maternal grandmother and her family came from Dunedin and we were very close. In the July of 1999 David went to Australia and I joined him in the November. In Australia I worked in the out back in Gilbert River with a family and their two sons and later that year we returned to Dunedin. We were married in the United Kingdom in 2006 and decided Dunedin was to be our home. We have a dear little cottage which we are currently painting and decorating and we are both very passionate about the environment, recycling, organics, free range farming and animal welfare. I love penguins and collect all sorts of penguins except the real thing. I am a member of Forest and Bird and The Yellow Eyed Penguin Trust.

I have six grandchildren who range in age from 18months to nineteen years. There are three boys and three girls. My eldest son and his wife are carers for the elderly on the North Shore and my youngest son is a joiner and carpenter with his partner home with their eighteen month old son in Hamilton.

Over the last nine years I have been involved in management and decided I wanted to have a life and pursue my passion for painting and art. When the position became available at the Steiner kindergarten I couldn't believe it. I am able to work in a beautiful environment very conducive to my needs for colour and space, with natural materials, the seasons and respect for children the families and the environment.

I feel truly blessed and want to thank the teachers and the families for making me feel very welcome. The teachers also for their patience as I learn the rhythm, songs and verses in the classroom.

## PLAYGROUP

An informal meeting will be held on Wednesday from 1:30- 3:30 for the new Wednesday afternoon playgroup. There are still 3 places available for this group, so now is a good time to invite friends who may be interested to come and visit.

## CRAFT GROUP

There is an opportunity for the craft group to have a stall to sell our craft at the midwinter carnival this year (Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June from 4pm to 9pm). Please contact Izumi (472 8598) if you would like to help with this.

The craft group needs 2 gas or electric burners for the candle making. Please call Marie if you can loan one. (471 2181).

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	11am to 3pm	<b>Candle dipping workshop with Junko, Emmeline, Izumi and Marie</b> Bring your friends and family. Children under supervision welcome. Come for 1 hour or the whole session. Bring your lunch.
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	9am to 1pm Ravensbourne Hall	<b>Felting-Colouring with silk tissue paper with Linda</b> Bring sewing needles