

# NEWSLETTER

## RUDOLF STEINER TRUST OTAGO

TERM2 #19  
21 JUNE 2010  
471-2163

office@dunedin.steiner.school.nz  
www.dunedin.steiner.school.nz

| UPCOMING EVENTS  |   | MEETINGS  |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June,<br/>7pm Rata room</b>    | <b>Marjorie Theyer Talk<br/>for kindergarten and<br/>playgroup families</b> | <b>Tuesday 3rd August,<br/>1pm<br/>( previously the</b> | <b>Kindergarten Trust<br/>Management committee)</b>        |
| <b>Wednesday – Friday<br/>23<sup>rd</sup> to 25 June</b> | <b>Camp at Naseby for<br/>Classes 3-6</b>                                   | <b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July,<br/>7pm Rata room</b>   | <b>Class 2/3 parents<br/>meeting with David<br/>Jordan</b> |
| <b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June,<br/>10am-4pm</b>       | <b>Working Bee:<br/>kindergarten<br/>insulation.</b>                        |   |  |
| <b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 5pm</b>                   | <b>Lantern Festival<br/>Ravensbourne Hall</b>                               |   |  |
| <b>Saturday 31 July 10-<br/>4pm</b>                      | <b>Working Bee – other<br/>work</b>   |   |  |

*A child should be able to develop sound in body, free in soul and lucid in spirit.  
- Rudolf Steiner.*

### FROM THE OFFICE

#### **Marjorie's Visit**

We welcome Marjorie Theyer, the New Zealand Federation of Rudolf Steiner School's early childhood advisor. She is spending three days with us, mainly with the kindergartens and playgroups. This evening she is giving a talk to the community – all kindergarten and playgroup parents are warmly encouraged to come. This will be at 7pm in the Rata Room. She will be talking about the kindergarten years and also about what the Steiner school offers in the Primary years. It is an opportunity for any questions to be asked and for her to touch on a variety of subjects upon request. On Wednesday she will be out at Waitati with playgroup parents there.

#### **Class 2/3 teacher - David Jordan**

We are very happy to announce that David Jordan will be the new class 2/3 teacher for Terms 3 and 4. David has spent the last 7 years at Taikura School – the Rudolf Steiner School in Hastings. David has taken his class from class one through to class seven and is now in his sabbatical year before he returns to Hastings to take a new class. He has grown up children and a grand daughter who will be entering class one at Taikura next year. David looks forward to meeting the class parents on the evening of the first day of next term. So please come to the Rata Room at 7pm on Monday 19 July. Bring something to share to accompany a cup of tea.

#### **Principal Recruitment update**

We are still continuing the recruitment of the new Principal for 2011.

#### **Farewell to Menno**

The school has benefited hugely from Menno's stay with us over the last year. He has built the treehouse, the playframe in the kindergarten, made the beautiful wooden signs for the office and for the kindergarten. He has been active in countless ways around the property in repairs and maintenance work and he has also been a wonderful presence and help out on the playground and at various school activities. We even had him on stage for the Shepherds' Play. We wish him well as he returns to Germany to start an apprenticeship. Menno leaves on Friday. We would also like to thank all those families who kindly hosted Menno during his stay and to Kirsten for hosting a farewell tea for them on Friday.

It's time to say good bye!

I want to thank the community for everything that every one of you has done for me, and for having a great stay at the school, in the families and my time in New Zealand. I want to send special thanks to the families that hosted me - I was always welcomed and well hosted. I wish the school all the best for the future!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!! *Menno*

PS: I have a surfboard and a suitcase that I need to get to Christchurch by the 16<sup>th</sup> July – if anybody happens to be heading up with some space, please let me know.

A new volunteer is coming in August – Rico. Once again we hope that the community can offer him board and lodgings for the year. Menno quite enjoyed moving round each month and getting to know people. Please let Clare know if you can offer accommodation to Rico for a month or so.

### **Communication**

We have a busy school and kindergarten but would still like to emphasize that if anyone has concerns about any school matters then please get in touch with the teacher of the class involved. Or speak to Clare and Leonie if it is an administrative matter. If you leave a message at the office then the teacher can return your call. This is probably the best method if you are not able to catch the teacher at the end of the day. We ask that you do not bring non urgent matters to the teachers first thing in the mornings when the teachers are setting up the classrooms and meeting for their morning verse. You may call the teacher in the early evenings if they have made their number available to you. The College Principal's Group (CPG) is the group in the school that oversees the school and kindergarten management. This group meets weekly on Tuesdays so if you have questions regarding school management pass the message through to one of these members to take to the weekly meeting. Or if you feel that your concern has not been addressed by the class teacher then bring it to the CPG's attention.

### **New Venue for Playgroups and future kindergartens**

We are very happy to let you know that we have been successful in our application to the DCC for a long term lease of the former Pine Hill Playcentre. This will be a lovely new venue for playgroup and also for a future kindergarten. We are still in the handover process. There will be some work to be done by the community in getting it prepared and we have yet to talk at the Kindergarten level about how a future offsite kindergarten will be set up. The next meeting of the Kindergarten Trust (Formerly known as the Kindergarten Management Committee) is on Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August.

### **Working Bee**

There is a working Bee this Saturday from 10 am which will focus on the Rata Room and putting up ceiling insulation. This is wool insulation put up with manuka poles and wire netting and calico as in the Rata Room. The lighting will also change. Nick and Merrall will lead the work. As well as getting up high there will be some sewing work to be done. We hope that Rata Room and Playgroup families can be involved. It would be helpful for co-ordinating if we had some idea of who is coming along. Please write your name on the clipboard in the office or let Clare know. If you cannot make it on the day there are a few jobs to be done in advance such as purchasing calico and wire netting, clearing the room on Friday after the playgroup lantern festival. There is also a bag of lily pads in need of repair if anyone would like a home sewing machine job. We hope that any spare people can help to set up the new tin shed – starting with levelling the ground outside. A delivery of gravel would be useful for this too. – see Clare.

### **Proprietors Meeting**

The Proprietors Trust met last week. The Trust is the body that owns the school property and also has a responsibility for the special character of the school. It is a non profit making body and the members of the Trust are volunteers from within the community. The Proprietors Trust is currently planning work on the yurts to waterproof them and also heat them better. There is a working been planned for this on 31 July. However we also hope to have a waterproofing team who is prepared to spring into action when the weather is right to apply this liquid. If you are able to be on this team then let Clare know.

The temporary nature of the some of the school classrooms is something the Proprietors Trust is very conscious of. We have our eye on the future and as building permanent structures is a very expensive option we are also spending the next six months or a year looking around at other options. If anyone would like further information about the Proprietors Trust please speak to Clare.

We are very pleased to let you know that the yurts did indeed light up last week – the power was on. Many thanks to Frank and Colin for their work on this.

We were relieved to hear that Colin and Joan are both fine following a car accident that has written off their vehicle.

### **Parking and Traffic**

Please would people be very careful driving up to the school and returning home. We would like people to use the turning circle on the road at the bottom of the school to avoid reversing in Fern Road where there are always children moving around.

### **Chamber Music Concert**

The next concert in the series is this Friday the 25th. This is an unfortunate day -as we'll have just got back from the 3 day winter camp!! It will be another breathtaking concert of solo and accompanied violin and piano works by NZ pianist Michael Houston and the winner of last year's Michael Hill international violin competition (sorry I can't find his name). Should any children be keen to go despite post camp exhaustion please give me a ring. It starts at 7.30 as usual at the Glenroy and is free to 9 children. If there are any older siblings or friends in the community who would like to attend please take the opportunity -the next day is Saturday so we can all sleep in! Phone Linda 4727646 -but I'm away to camp on Wednesday.

### **Lantern Festival**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July we will hold our Lantern Festival for the School and Kindergarten at Ravensbourne hall. We will have a shared meal at 5pm followed by a lantern procession across to the playing field opposite. We still **need two volunteers** from the community who are prepared to look after road safety at the crossing to the playing field during the Lantern Festival. Please contact Clare if you are willing to do this.

### **High School Vision Group**

We had a productive and enjoyable fourth meeting. Minutes will be emailed out this week to all those who have asked to be included on the email list. We have decided to begin each meeting with a 15 minute session of foundation studies in Steiner teaching to help our future High School Teachers on their journey of learning. Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday July 30th at 5:30 in the Rata Room. See you there!

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

### **Class One**

Mrs MacNeille will be travelling to the States in the Winter break and returning on the 28 July. She will therefore not be here for the first ten days of term. Jocelyn Broughton will take her class for those days. The remaining members of the College Principal Group, Clare and Violet, will hold the Principal responsibility in her absence.

Many apologies from Clare that the sleepover permission slip stated that it would take place in the yurt. It will be in the Lower Classroom. If any parents would like to have further information about it or if they have questions about it then please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs MacNeille.

### **News from Class Six**

Geo-graphy is literally a 'drawing of the Earth' - and so have Class Six been doing these past weeks as we've looked deep into the history of the subject: from the time of Eratosthenes and his inspired and remarkably accurate estimation of the Earth's circumference, through to the calculation of latitude lines; the angle and tracing of the sun's path at various positions of the globe, the reason for the seasons and contemplation of our position in Dunedin, New Zealand being almost precisely half-way between the equator and the South Pole. We've also joined Galileo and John Harrison in their 'timely' search for longitude, finally accomplished with the invention of precision clocks (without pendulums - they just wouldn't work at sea!) and find ourselves turning attention to water and its role, with help of Sun and Moon, on weather and climate. Today, June 21, is particularly significant in that it is the Solstice - the shortest day of the year in the Southern Hemisphere. Class Six have been keeping a close watch on the time, staking out on the top field each half hour of the school day as the Sun traces its daily path and the shadow of the Maypole in turn tracks its course. We will be keeping a very close watch during the remaining two weeks of the term how shadow lengths and, by consequence, the

accuracy of our sun-dial changes as day-lengths begin to increase. Our trip to Naseby (and its relative lack of light-pollution) allows us also this week to look closer at the stars, and to verify for ourselves the truth of a large gap in the heavens, right above the great continent of Antarctica, and learn thus how we, in the Southern Hemisphere, might navigate our way on Earth without the Southern equivalent of a 'Pole Star'.

### **Class Six parent/teacher interviews**

A reminder that Class Six parent interviews will take place on Tuesday, 29 June. Note that this is a different day than other classes at the school. Also, meetings are usually scheduled during school hours, but I have decided to open the possibility of evening interviews also, if that turns out to be more convenient for families. Please take time to mark an appointment time on the schedule in the office, or talk to me in person to arrange a time.

### **Ice Hockey helmet-fitting**

A reminder also that this evening, Monday 21st June, all Class Six children (and those select Class Four children) are invited to meet at the Dunedin Ice Stadium at 5:30pm for a fitting of helmets and pads for Thursday's Ice Hockey session at Naseby Camp. We are extremely fortunate to have access to the needed safety equipment (at no charge) thanks to the close association of the MacMillan family to the Dunedin Ice Hockey Club - a large 'thank you' go to Kyle and Alex. We would do well to take advantage of a perfect fit in helmet, though if not possible for children to be there in person, we can attempt to secure a good helmet by way of head-measurements.

### **Mountain Biking at Naseby**

An important reminder to parents of all children wishing to take part in the Mountain Biking at Naseby to **bring bikes to school tomorrow, Tuesday 22nd June for a safety-check**. We will be examining wheels, tyres, brakes, gears and helmets and issuing a 'warrant-of-fitness for the trip. Bicycles will then be able to be safely locked in the classroom overnight, ready to be loaded into the trailer for the journey to Naseby camp on Wednesday.

-Lee Noyes

### **Yurt Cleaning Roster**

The **Henderson, Carter and Robson** families are on yurt duty this week.

| <b>Cls</b> | <b>W1 -19/4</b> | <b>26/4</b> | <b>3/5</b> | <b>10/5</b> | <b>17/5</b> | <b>24/5</b> | <b>31/5</b> | <b>7/6</b> | <b>14/6</b> | <b>21/6</b> | <b>28/6</b> |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>1</b>   | MacDon          | Botica      | Dunroy     | Xu          | Barto       | Tamang      | Funnell     | Holmes     | Bendall     | Henderson   | Nichols     |
| <b>2/3</b> | Walrond         | Cain        | Schweik    | Stevenson   | Cunningha   | Oswald      | Hollowa     | Whitehe    | Alger       | Carter      | Walrond     |
| <b>4</b>   | 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

Both the Rata and Kowhai rooms welcome Marjorie Theyer who will be observing in the rooms during her visit. We look forward to seeing many parents at Marjorie's talk tonight at 7pm.

The kindergarten will join with the school for our Lantern festival as outlined in the office news above.

### **Kowhai Room**

Thank you parents, for your attendance at the parent teacher interviews. It was a lovely experience for Whaea Sandra and myself to sit and talk to you all individually about your child. We hope that you enjoy the Journey Books and we would love for you to add a story to it. If possible we would like to have them back in the kindergarten before the holidays.

This morning we have had a visiting teacher in the Kowhai room. Edith from Germany is visiting a number of schools and kindergartens in New Zealand and then attending the Kolisko Conference later this year. Welcome Edith.

Whaea Sandra will be away next week and Julie and Junko will be assisting in the Kowhai Room  
- Whaea Violet, Whaea Sandra, Junko and Julie.

## Rata room

We look forward to seeing parents on Saturday for the insulation working bee. Ros will be available from 9-3 to help supervise children at the working bee. Please write on the clipboard in the office or let Clare know if you are able to come.

- Matua Nick and Whaea Ros,

## PLAYGROUP NEWS

We are looking forward to our Playgroup Lantern Festival this Friday from 11-1 in the Rata Room. Please bring some nutritious **egg-free** food for our shared lunch! In order to protect the health of Harriet, who has cystic fibrosis, we ask that all children with colds and coughs **please stay at home**. Also please note that there is no Friday 9-11 session.

A reminder for all playgroup families about the upcoming working bee to insulate the ceiling of the Rata Room. For anyone who cannot come on Saturday 26th from 10-4, if we can stay for a bit after the lantern festival we could get the room all packed away and ready for work.

Playgroup families are warmly invited to come along to hear Marjorie Theyer (the early-childhood advisor from the federation of Steiner Schools of New Zealand) give an evening information session tonight at 7 in the Rata room. For those who cannot manage evening outings, she will also be coming to speak at the Waitati Hall on Wednesday morning from 10-12.

Ann-Louise, mother of Rowan in Class 1, is undertaking a pilot study through the university nutrition department to explore baby-led weaning, (which is the practice of introducing children to solids in such a way that the child self-feeds on 'finger food' rather than being spoon-fed on puree). She is looking for two groups of families to participate in her research: families who have used the principles of baby-led weaning and would be happy to share their experiences, and families who are keen to use that approach with their baby and would like support with the process. If you can help, please ring Ann-Louise on 471-2300 hm or 479 8379 work. Thank you!

Our playgroup facilitators meeting is scheduled for Friday July 9 from 10-12 in the Rata Room. Anyone who wishes to be a bit more involved behind the scenes, or would consider becoming a facilitator one day is warmly invited to come along- children welcome!

## CRAFTGROUP NEWS

Our last workshop for this term is tomorrow -- felt bag making. Learn a new technique of wet felting! Beginners welcome. Bring your lunch/snack, craft work makes you hungry!

### Holiday Projects

Almost all our gnomes, donkeys, sheep and seals have found homes during the term --- thank you for your patronage. Now we are looking for volunteers who can make these items during the coming holiday to replenish the shelves. All simple projects, and instructions will be given. Please contact Izumi (03 472 8598).

### New product at the craft shop

SLIPPERS FOR KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN – All natural material, handmade slippers. Please try them at the craft shop at the office. SM \$25, M \$28. If you cannot find the size you want, a pair can be made to order.

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June<br>9:15 – 12:45 | Ravensbourne Hall                      | Felt bag making. Bring one big towel, some soap and a pair of rubber gloves. |
| Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> July,<br>9.30-12.30 | Miriam's house; 307<br>Ravensbourne Rd | Doll Making  |

## 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](mailto:office@dunedin.steiner.school.nz).*

As you know, Isla and Janneke have now left to come to the North Island with us on placement until October, but we are missing a blue merino icebreaker jersey that we couldn't find before we left, if it is found at kindy or anyone has taken it home by mistake it would really be appreciated if we could get it back :)

Our address in Warkworth is 57a Sharp Rd, Matakana, RD2, Warkworth.

We will miss you all! Vicky, Tom, Isla, Janneke