

NEWSLETTER

RUDOLF STEINER TRUST OTAGO

TERM2 # 19

22 JUNE 2009

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UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
Sunday 28 th June 10 – 4pm	Working bee	Wednesday 1 st July	KMC
Tuesday 30 th June 9am	Vision & Hearing Testing	Thursday 2nd July 7.15pm	Board meeting
Thursday 2 nd July	Kindergarten Lantern Walk		
Friday 3 rd July	Last day of term – school closing at 1pm School Lantern Walk 5pm		
Monday 20 th July	First day of term 3		

“As the human body pines away when bereft of physical nourishment, so will the man who rightly observes himself feel that his Self is becoming stunted if he does not see working into it the forces from a creative spiritual world outside him.”

- Rudolf Steiner

FROM THE OFFICE

Last day of term

On Friday 3rd July school will finish early in order to allow everyone to rest before the lantern walk that evening. Please collect children at 1pm and return to school with warm clothes and a plate of food for a shared supper at 5pm.

Phone Tree

School families, please read the Kindergarten news in which Rennie gives instructions for the operation of the phone tree. The same method applies to the school, each class having its own separate tree.

Attention all lovers of good food:

Further to my wildly inaccurate email a couple of weeks ago, Taste nature is moving this weekend, with a wheelbarrow parade on Saturday 27th from 3 til 4pm. Please bring your own wheelbarrow.

Nick

Working Bee – This Sunday 10-4pm

Trenching for mains pressure, mulch shifting, adding to pathways, kindergarten maintenance... Please phone Chris 473 6088 if you can help with equipment needed ie. shovels, rakes, spades, wheelbarrows, trailer loads etc.

Fair meeting

If you would like to be involved in organising the fair please phone Linda 472 7646. **We do need more planners.** A fair organisers meeting will be held on Thursday 25th June at 9am.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

I go with my bright little lantern,
My lantern is going with me.
In Heaven the stars are shining ,
On Earth shines my lantern for me.

The last day of the term will be marked by our Lantern Walk, when we will gather at dusk to share the children's performances, our songs, the light from the lanterns we have made as we walk together under the stars (hopefully, but do bring your raincoats) and the warmth of our meal together. The Lantern Walk is a festival which in the southern hemisphere often marks the longest night, or at least the darkness of winter, rather than the dwindling of light as it does North of the equator. It also falls at St. John's tide which has always been a time to acknowledge and nurture the inner life and develop our humanity and higher members of our being.

In the Northern hemisphere it falls on St Martin's day, November 11, and so is one of a series of events that leads up to the Winter Solstice and Christmas. St Martin was a Roman Legionnaire, against his will. As he marched into Amiens, a beggar waited in the bitter cold as the soldiers filed past. When Martin passed, with his sword he slashed his warm cloak in two and gave half to the beggar man. That night as he dreamed, Martin had a vision of the Christ Being who declared that he had been the beggar at the gate. Thus the Lantern Walk is also a time to recognise the meaning and significance of sharing, both for the giver and the receiver.

News from Class Three:

It was exciting last Wednesday to have Rua from Puketeraki Marae teach the whole school the Haka. This particular Haka is not based on war, but is focused on overcoming a challenge. Rua commented on how quickly the children learnt the words and actions. This is a tribute to the fantastic oral training of Steiner Education. Special mention must be made of how quickly Peter assimilated the Haka. Hidden depths and talents there Peter! We look forward to you leading us when class three performs their play.

Thank you Junko for your endless patience in teaching us how to weave a kete. You truly possess magic fingers. This was a Magnus opus for some of us and we are very grateful Junko for your vast experience.

Our main lesson is on how Tane made a kete and placed the stars on the belly of Rangī. This week we will be making stars for our kete. This week there is no spelling or maths homework. Their homework is to learn their lines from the play. On Thursday 25.6.09 class one, two and three will be having a shared lunch in honour of Zoe, Isa and Tamatea travelling to distant shores. Please bring a plate of food.

Kia ora, Jocelyn

News from Class Five:

With two weeks before the end of term, Class 5 is very busy. We gave the brand new gas cooker and oven a thorough workout over a period of two weeks, cooking and baking every day; we made pumpkin soup, home-made pizzas and have baked pumpkin pie and cookies.

However, with the Lantern Festival looming, attention has shifted toward becoming performance-ready with the marionette-play, telling the story of how Maui Tamed the Sun. Lines have been practiced daily since the beginning of the last main lesson, Polynesian Migration, and continues with emphasis now being on bringing the puppets to life. Meanwhile, we are in Ancient Egypt now, hearing the story of Isis and Osiris, in which we are being introduced to the grammatical differences between active and passive subjects.

I want to take the opportunity to thank Peter for his help and support these past weeks, particularly for his time relieving me last week, which allowed me some time to reflect and breathe out after what has been a very full schedule so far this year, in particular with the additional work I have taken on with study through Taruna Anthroposophical College. Peter has spent a great number of hours observing in the class, helping around the school and kindergarten and getting to know Class 5 particularly well prior to the four days with them last week and will continue to teach them for one lesson per week on a Monday, alternating between his interests of painting, form-drawing and Eurythmy. Thank you Peter!

The recent Marae visit led to my finding out that Matua Mal has an interest in te taoka puoro (traditional Maori instruments) and he is willing and able to spend a day with our class carving our own flutes.

He has asked that we source either bone or suitable wood for this project, so if anyone in the community may be able to help in this regard, please talk with me directly.

Lee

Winter Camp: Naseby

I am pleased to announce that the much-anticipated dates for our annual winter camp are confirmed for the 18th - 20th of August, this being the fifth week of term 3. Contacts in Naseby assure that the winter weather is shaping up to be perfect for the planned skating, which means the vastly improved skating-skills as a result of our weekly trips to Dunedin Ice Stadium will get a full showing.

Whether Friday skating can continue through term 3 will be discussed by the College today; on the understanding that the support is there from parents for structured lessons to continue.

KINDERGARTEN AND NURSERY NEWS

Please keep this page along with a Kindy / Nursery phone list in your telephone book.

Snow Days and Late Starts: With our first snow day this year followed by a heavy frost the next day, causing one day of closure and the next a late start, it is a reminder to all to listen to the radio for cancellations on suspect days. If the announcement that "All Dunedin primary schools and Kindergartens (or Kindergarten Association Kindergartens) are closed, or starting late, our Kindergarten and Nursery will do likewise. Classic: 89.4FM, More FM: 97.4FM, Radio Dunedin: 13.05AM or you can phone 474 8426 or 471 7555 to hear a recorded message.

If our school alone needs to close then we may use the telephone tree. You may be phoned and asked to ring the next person on the list. If you get no reply leave a message on the answer phone if there is one and ring the next person down on the list.

How the telephone tree works:

A	A phones B to give the message. Late start etc. If A cannot speak directly to B leave a message on the answer phone if there is one and phone C. Ask the parent you speak to to phone the next person on the list. Make sure person has the list of phone numbers. If not please give him / her the numbers he / she may need and report on anyone so far not able to be contacted.
B	B phones C the same way
C	C phones D ...
D	D phones E ... etc
E	The last person on the list phones the first person on the list so we know the message has got through correctly and report on anyone not able to be contacted.

Could children please bring fruit for morning tea on a day with a late (10am) start as they have no time to make their usual morning tea for the day.

Present focus for learning and how you can help us with it:

One of the first things I noticed when I came to the Steiner Kindergarten was the children's beautiful manners. It is something we all need to keep working on, at school and at home, as when all of us – teachers and parents, both work on the same things they become a normal part of the child's life. In the Kindergarten / Nursery we aim for nice table manners, (showing appreciation with a blessing, saying please and thank you when requesting and receiving food, waiting politely and patiently until all are served, not talking with mouth full,) at all times for children to speak respectfully to adults and one another, and when playing for children to share using appropriate language for negotiating. We teachers/adults try to model these behaviours for them as we believe children learn through imitation. Children sometimes also need help to learn appropriate language with which they can communicate and share amicably with others during play. We appreciate it if you can help us with these things by expecting from the children consideration for yourself and others at home.

Lantern Festival Thursday 2 July: No normal session - Lantern Festival instead.

Late start: 10am. The celebration will begin in the 2 separate rooms with the children doing their mid-winter circle. This will be followed by a shared morning tea for all in the Kowhai Room – please bring a plate of healthy finger food. Apart from when the children are in the circle your children will be your responsibility and with you for the morning. The teachers request that the children don't get the toys out to play with today. Either before morning tea or after we will all take part in a lantern walk. Each child walking with his / her parent, will carefully carry a lantern – outside if the weather is suitable, otherwise inside.

Some of our songs include:

*Spindlewood, spindlewood will you lend me pray,
 A little flaming lantern to light me on my way?
 The fairy folk have vanished from the meadows and the glen
 And I would fain go searching till I find them once again.
 So lend me a lantern that I may bear a light
 To find the hidden pathway in the darkness of the night.
 Spindlewood, spindlewood will you lend me pray,
 A little flaming lantern to light me on my way?*

*The fairy folk have vanished from the meadows and the glen
 And I would fain go searching till I find them once again.
 So lend me a lantern that I may bear a light
 To find the hidden pathway in the darkness of the night.*

Thank you for your donations of wool. These are always needed, useful and appreciated.
 We are looking forward to seeing you all again at our next lantern festival celebration.
 Rennie - on behalf of the Kindergarten / Nursery team.

PLAYGROUP

The playgroup has enjoyed a successful term of growth and change with the introduction of our first off-site playgroup in Waitati and our Wednesday afternoon session in Maia. Enrolment has grown considerably to the point that there is one available space for the Wednesday afternoon and a wait list for the Friday morning sessions. We now have a wonderful circle of co-facilitators sharing the vision of developing our playgroups, and are keen to continue expanding as demand and resources grow.

We marked the end of term 2 last Friday with our lantern festival. It was wonderful to see over twenty of our playgroup children, as well as a few older siblings join together to mark and celebrate midwinter. We shared a puppet show, lantern walk, and a delicious and nourishing lunch, and enjoyed the opportunity for our three groups to spend some time together. Many thanks to all the people who put their energy and time into making this event happen.

The Maia playgroup sessions are finished till term three (beginning the week of July 20) but our enthusiastic Waitati group is having one more session this Wednesday.

The playgroup facilitators meeting is this Friday at 10:00 in the Rata room, when we will plan for next term, select songs and stories, and discuss ideas and issues. Anyone who would like to be a facilitator at some stage, or simply wishes to be more involved is most welcome to come along (children welcome of course).

CRAFT GROUP

This week, we are going to make New Zealand icon - Sheep - with pipe cleaners and natural wool. Easy and very cute project, and we hope we can make a great flock! Once you learn how to make a sheep, you can make other animals as well, using a similar technique. Please note that it will happen on WEDNESDAY and not on the usual Tuesday.

Wednesday 24 th June	9am to 1pm Ravensbourne Hall	Needle Felt Sheep Making with Izumi. Please bring one felting needle (available at office).
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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

Netball Holiday Programme - Netball Otago at Edgar Sports Centre

Age 7-12 year olds

\$60 for three days

7th July - 9th July *or* 13th July - 16th July

See notice on school notice board for further information

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Matariki Celebration

At Port Chalmers Pioneer Hall

Wednesday 24th June 5pm - 6.30pm

Kapa Haka Group, Fire Poi,

Story telling

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Blue House Yarns

Catherine and Junko have an organic wool business. If you would like to see the website, the address is www.bluehouseyarns.co.nz. We will leave some wool for inspection in the office.

Any orders from this advert will attract a donation to the school of 5% of the value of the order.