

NEWSLETTER

RUDOLF STEINER TRUST

OTAGO

TERM1 #1
 2 FEBRUARY 2010
 471-2163
 office@dunedin.steiner.school.nz
 www.dunedin.steiner.school.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
Tuesday 9th February, 7.30- 8.30pm	Parent Education evening, Class 1 and 6	Wednesday 10th February, 9am	Kindergarten Management Committee meeting.
Tuesday 16th February, 7.30- 8.30pm	Parent Education evening, Class 2 & 3	Thursday 11th February, 7.15pm	Board of trustees meeting.
Wednesday 17th February, 7.30- 8.30pm	Parent Education evening, Class 4	Thursday 18th February, 7.30pm	Proprietors meeting.
Monday 22nd and	Otago Anniversary day.		
Tuesday 23rd March	Teacher only day.		

FROM THE OFFICE

Welcome back to school to everyone – it was lovely to see refreshed smiling faces at the Rose Ceremony this morning and to see the thirteen children forming a new Class 1. We would also like to welcome new families to the school and kindergarten – Andrew Whitehead joins Class 4 and Casey Henderson joins Class 1. Seda and Lucas are new children in the Kindergarten Rata Room.

We have a calendar for the school year - as attached. The first events are the parent education evenings over the next two weeks when teachers will speak to their class parents as a whole to tell them about what their children will be working on in the year.

The calendar shows the term dates and also a couple of teacher only days for the primary school. The kindergarten will advise later on whether they will follow the same teacher only days. We have also agreed that working bees are to be on the last Saturday of each term – the weekend before school breaks up. We do expect every family to be able to contribute to these.

Please remember to set up your automatic payments for the school and kindergarten. We are asking for \$65 per school week (\$50 for each week of the year) as a contribution to the Proprietors Trust for teaching and for buildings. Tax can be reclaimed on this at the end of the tax year, so in effect this is \$40 per week in a 52 week year. This contribution is what parents agreed to in our meeting last year when we looked at providing a full curriculum to all children. Activity Fees of \$50 per semester are also requested to cover the costs of some art materials and activities.

Kindergarten funding remains the same for 3 and 4 year olds with parents paying \$1 per hour attended. The hourly fee for children not covered by 20 hours free is \$4.50. Kindergarten five and six year olds pay \$50 per week attended – again this amount can be set against tax.

Where to pay your contributions?

School weekly donations : Rudolf Steiner School Trust Otago 03 1726 0004961 02
 School Activity Fee : Dunedin Rudolf Steiner School 03 0903 0437318 00
 Kindergarten hourly \$1 or weekly \$50 : Rudolf Steiner School Trust Otago 03 1726 0004961 03
 (please note different account suffix for school and kindergarten).
 Paying into the separate accounts will really help our administration.

Kindergarten part time teacher assistant

We have a few hours each day available to a teacher's assistant who will be working in the Kowhai Room. A knowledge of working with young children and a commitment to the Steiner approach are

essential. Please let Clare know if you are interested and to find out more information. This position will probably be for one year.

Phone List

An updated phone list will be coming out soon. If you have any changes to your current contact details, please let the office know.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Please do come to the parent education evenings. This is an excellent opportunity to sit with the other parents and hear about what your child will be doing this year and to ask questions of the teacher.

The calendar is drafted for the year. This year the only camp is a two night camp at Naseby at the start of Term 3 for Classes 3,4 and 6. We have decided that the excellent Camp at Whare Flat will be held at the end of the summer – in Term One from 2011. This timing suits the school year better and might bring better weather. Thank you to Kirsten and Paula for organising such a wonderful camp in 2010.

We plan to skate in Term 2 on Friday afternoons. Some other expeditions may be arranged on a class by class basis as the year progresses – for example Class 6 will be having a field Trip in December.

Parent Education evenings with the class teachers are at the star of the year. We then hope to bring in some outside speakers – including Sue Simpson of the Anthroposophical Society, later in the year. There will be two written reports sent out to parents – one near the end of term 2 and then one at the end of the year. The term 2 reports will be followed by parent teacher interviews on the afternoon of 24 June. Please note that you will need to take your child that afternoon as classes will not be running.

We have a new playground supervision procedure that ensures that all children know which teachers are on duty at break times. The teacher will circulate around all the playing areas. Class 1 and 2 will play in different areas to class 4 and 6. The year starts with the younger children in the top playing field and tree house and they will swap at the start of March and move to the court and lower playground.

Do not forget sunhats for your children. Class teachers will have sunscreen available for all – let them know if your child should not use it or bring your own if you prefer.

Music

String music begins next week for class 3,4 and 6. Instrument lessons will be on Tuesdays. Orchestra will be on Fridays. No instruments this week but please remember to bring violins, cellos and guitars next Tuesday.

If any parent would like to discuss their child's instrument learning please ring Linda 472 7646 or Jocelyn 453 0317. We are attempting to hire some more cellos for new learners.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

A warm welcome to the kindergarten year from the kindergarten staff; Whaea Violet, Whaea Sandra, Matua Nick, Whaea Ros and Whaea Le Chen.

Here is an overview of the weekly rhythm for the kindergarten rooms:

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Activity/morning tea	Painting/ rice	Vegetable soup	Bread buns	Fruit	Popcorn
Please bring		A vegetable		A piece of fruit	A piece of fruit

Hooray for glorious sunshine. Please remember sunhats and outside shoes each day. We will put sunblock on children. If you have a special sun block you would like for your child, please send a named tube/bottle along for them.

The kindergarten management committee meets next Wednesday at 9am and then on the first Wednesday of each month. This committee is comprised of Claire (from the office), Whaea violet and the parent reps. The parent reps are Kirsten McAuley (Louis's Mum), Pamala Walrond (Lucas's Mum)

and Kate Turner (Sarah's Mum). If you have any questions, comments or thoughts to share please speak with the reps.

PLAYGROUP NEWS

We look forward to welcoming our families back to your playgroups this week. Once we have seen who is returning we can determine our spaces available for new families to join us.

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.

House Available

My house at Hunt St, Andersons Bay is vacant. If anyone needs any short term accommodation at negligible cost, please give Linda a call 472 7646.

Gymnastics

Gymnastics is a fantastic sport for anyone who loves to jump, swing, run and spin. Children can build strength, flexibility and confidence at gymnastics as well as developing skills that are fundamental to all sports. The Southern Gymnastic Academy has classes to suit everyone - Sportgym on Monday and Fridays for school age children, classes for under 5s on Thursday and Saturdays, tumbling on Fridays and competitive classes for boys and girls throughout the week. Contact us by phone on 4775885 or email on dunedin@southerngymnastics.co.nz. Check out our website www.southerngymnastics.co.nz for more information.

Southern Children's Choir

The Southern Children's Choir is actively seeking new members.

Who: Children who love to sing. Girls from 8 to 18. Boys 8 and over with unbroken voices.

When: Wednesday evenings from 7 pm - 8.15 pm

Where: Marama Hall, University of Otago

The choir sings in a variety of styles (classical, folk, popular) and languages. The ability to read music is an advantage. The ability to sing in tune is essential.

Informal auditions will be held on Wednesday Feb 10th from 6.30pm. Phone Sandy Garner or Anthony Ritchie 4762541 for further information or to book an audition.

Walking Bus 2010?

Thanks to those who emailed me expressing interest in a walking bus from the bottom of the hill so that our children (and some parents) can enjoy the physical, social and mental benefits of walking to school and to reduce congestion at drop-off and pick up times. I am still keen to get something happening but not sure yet how and when. Watch this space or contact me if you have any thoughts or suggestions or wish to be involved. Tracy 467 9877 or tracy@sculpture.co.nz.