

NEWSLETTER

RUDOLF STEINER TRUST OTAGO

TERM2 #22

27 JULY 2009

471-2163

office@dunedin.steiner.school.nz

www.dunedin.steiner.school.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
Thurs 13 th August	Day Camp: Naseby	Thursday 30 th July 7:15pm	Board of Trustees meeting
Friday 25 th Sept	Last day of term 3	Wednesday 5 th August	KMC

"Example is the school of mankind and it will learn at no other."

Edmund Burke

FROM THE OFFICE

Menno's Visit

Menno Luebbers, our young German volunteer, arrives on 9 August. He is coming to work with us in lieu of military service in Germany. His sponsoring organization in Germany gives him an allowance for basic living costs and we provide board and lodging for him. He will be with us for 12 months. Menno is a keen woodworker and we already have several projects planned for him. Our commitment to Menno is to provide him with training for the year, with interesting work projects and with warm, friendly accommodation. To date two families connected to the school have offered to have Menno stay. We need several more offers, so that he really becomes part of family life here at our school. If you have space in your home, please consider hosting Menno for a month. I'm sure he will be an asset to any family. I'm sure Menno would gratefully accept offers for holidays – 2 weeks in October, 6 at Christmas and 2 in April.

Fair

The fair this year is going to have a MEDIEVAL theme!! and the "Medieval Society" is going to be part of it! It is to be held on **Sunday 1st of November** so do put it in your diaries now! We have scheduled it earlier than usual so that it avoids clashes with end of year activities. We need everyone on board for the **whole weekend of 31 October/1 November!!!!** - not to mention the weeks beforehand when all the preparation/creating/cooking have to be done. It's only 14 weeks away and only 3 weeks into the third term - so it's time to dust off your preserving jars, cuttings, seeds, needles, recorder etc and start thinking about what you can contribute. We need to be organised before the next term holidays.

I'm the co-ordinator (Linda), Liselle is in charge of the cafe, Lou is doing the produce stall, Isumi/Junko the craft stall, Sara the clothing stall and Tracy the raffle. Children's activities are being looked after by the kindergarten teachers, entertainment by the school teachers and advertising and decoration by Chris

We need someone to be in charge of a plant stall and need several other people to help the organisers. Please contact Linda if you can join our organising team or have any ideas!!

If you feel so inclined you can start creating your medieval costume to wear on the day (optional!).

Let's make our fair a wonderful community event!

Organic Raffle

There will only be one raffle at the Fair this year which will be the organic hamper. We ask that each family contribute one item, of non-perishable organic goods. Please place your item in the box provided in the office. We are collecting early so that we can put the hamper together and photograph it. We will need something to put the hamper in, eg. a large basket or similar. If anyone has any ideas for obtaining one, please speak to Tracy (4780411). Thanks.

Parent Information

Please find attached the Parent Information form to update the contact information for children. Please complete the form and return it to the office by 7 August 2009. Many thanks.

Reminder

Just a reminder that the second half year Activity Fee is now due - \$50.00 per school child. For those who have already paid, thank you. Also, the fare of \$28.00 for ice skating for last term, if you haven't already paid. Thank you.

THANK YOU!

An enormous and heart felt thank you to Colin, who has been so instrumental in getting the jobs done for us to comply with the Ministry regulations to enable us to apply for our Under 2's licence. We now have a fully equipped and cosy sleep room, a nappy change area in the kindy cloakroom, complete with beautiful shelf, and a heat pump keeping the Rata Room toasty! Many thanks Colin!

KINDERGARTEN AND NURSERY NEWS

Kia Ora Koutou Katoa

Marjorie Theyer's Visit

We are looking forward to Marjorie Theyer's visit from Monday to Thursday with us this week. Marjorie is our Rudolf Steiner Advisor and we are fortunate to have her down from the North Island. It will be a chance for everyone to learn from her vast experience.

We hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend the evening this Wednesday, 29 July, in the Kowhai Kindergarten room starting at 6pm – a chance to hear Marjorie speak about Class One Readiness and to ask her questions if you have any. The evening will finish at 8pm if not earlier. You may bring a friend or another family member if you wish. This evening will also be of interest to parents of playgroup children who would like to find out more about Steiner Education.

**CLASS 1 READINESS
AN EVENING WITH MARJORIE THEYER
WEDNESDAY 29 JULY 2009
6PM - 8PM
KOWHAI ROOM
DUNEDIN RUDOLF STEINER KINDERGARTEN
No charge! All welcome.**

Request from Rata Room teachers: Could you please return your child's journey book to the Rata Room if you have not already done so. Thanks – Lea-Ann, Dianne and Liqin.

The coat hooks, upon which the children's colourful individual towels have previously hung will be removed and reused elsewhere in the kindergarten - either in the Rata Room to help hang the children's spare bags or in the hallway between the staffroom and sleep room to hold teachers' coats and belongings so we can keep the staffroom looking a bit more presentable! The coat hooks are no longer needed in the Rata Room cloakroom as two new roller towel units have been installed in the cloakrooms to comply with early childhood regulations.

The new heat pump in the Rata Room makes the beautiful nursery room lovely and warm. Thank you to Colin for helping with the installation of the heat pump for us, for installing the new nappy change table for use by the playgroup mothers, for making the porthole window in the sleep room door so sleeping babies can be checked and for altering the sleep room window so it now opens for ventilation and fire safety.

The teachers for their Steiner training are invited to visit another Kindergarten and are mentored by Steiner teachers. Our teachers are arranging visits with the Christchurch Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten.

Since last August with our sudden expansion with the addition of a nursery room and now with the addition of three playgroups we have had to make many alterations in order to upgrade our licence to accommodate the nursery and playgroups. It has been a time of working hard on making changes to meet requirements for the early childhood regulations. We are well on the way. A big thank you to all of you who have had a part in this. It is behind-the-scenes type work and why we are always so busy on extraneous projects! An especially big thank you this week to Paula for all her efforts in taking charge of everything in such a professional manner while Clare has been overseas and for continuing on with Clare's hard work to get the regulations met for the new licence.

We look forward to seeing the travellers all return from their holidays away this week!

Please welcome April who has been visiting in the Rata Room and will have her first day on Monday.

Wishing you all a lovely week -
Rennie

It is with much sadness that we announce Rennie's resignation. We thought we would share with you the content of her letter, as she shared with us some lovely observations of her time here.

Because of family commitments the time has come when I can no longer keep travelling the long distance required to work at Maia and the long hours required working as a supervisor. Thank you for the opportunity of working at your very special kindergarten and nursery. It is with regret that I hand in my resignation. In the Steiner setting I have met wonderful people and been part of a magical and very special place and I thank you for that. I love the links with nature, the care for the environment, the healthy food eaten, the use of natural health remedies, the holistic type of education not found in any other early childhood centre, the beauty of the classrooms and the care, effort and love that is put into every task by a group of kind and dedicated people. I have been amazed to find a place for children to attend where so many of the aspects that made my own childhood so special is available in Dunedin. I am glad to see it is doing so well and shows signs of a really healthy future.

We will obviously be advertising shortly for the vacancy and will keep the community up to date with progress.

Playground

Mark Cain has kindly donated a surfboard and wetsuit (near new) to be sold or raffled to raise money to pay for the wooden framework to edge the slide and swing area and for bark to fill it to 300mm thick. This will allow us to build a climbing frame between the two swings and the slide. The current suggestion is an A-frame wooden structure with slats so that the children can climb up and over. Mark is also happy to do the landscaping work, with help, when required. This is a fantastic contribution to the kindergarten playground. We think we could get around \$500.00 for the surfboard and wetsuit, possibly more if raffled. Is anyone prepared to organise a raffle? Obviously it would need to target the surfing community or at least those wanting to get into surfing. If no-one is keen to take this on, we will sell it. Contact Kirsten.

PLAYGROUP

Welcome back to term 3! Playgroup children are excited to be back after a good winter holiday. We welcome several new families, and are pleased that both Maia sessions are now fully enrolled. We are aiming to get our town session up and running over the next few months to accommodate the families on the waiting list. We appreciate all the kind donations we have received to help set up a new playgroup space, as well as the assistance in raising our profile through placing our flyers out in the community.

CRAFT GROUP

Spring is in the air, and we are going to make colourful flowery hair accessories tomorrow. Crochet beginners welcome! Bring your lunch and holiday stories... After this project, we will make classic Steiner fairies.

Tuesday 28 th July	9am to 1 pm Ravensbourne Hall	Crochet Hair Accessories with Izumi. Please bring crochet needle, around 3.5mm.
Tuesday 11 th Aug	9am to 1 pm Ravensbourne Hall	Needle Felt Fairies with Liqin. Please bring felting needle (also available at office).

Dollmaking Circle

Join us to make Steiner dolls on Saturday August 29th from 10:30-1 at Leigh's place. All are welcome to come along and either work on your own doll with your own materials, help finish playgroup dolls for the new playgroup room, or work on dolls for the fair and office display with craft group materials. Any questions to Cecil 472-8683.

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

Organic Co-op

This term we will be placing an order with Chantel in week 4. We will also be ordering flour from Terrace Farm in Canterbury. We are giving two weeks notice to give people a bit longer to organise their orders. Please e-mail me if you intend to place an order and I will e-mail you an order form. Please let me know in your e-mail if you require a catalogue as well.

We are considering ordering some butter and cheese in bulk. If you would be interested in portions 5kg or larger please let me know and we will see if this is a viable option.

Orders to Tracy by 10 August please. tracy@sculpture.co.nz
Don't forget to get something to put in the raffle hamper too!

INTRO TO ARTS COURSE

For those that are interested in art and Maori culture there is the following course available. Catherine Te Wananga o Aotearoa Introduction to Arts (Level 3)/Kawai Raupapa, course available at Te Whare Wananga, Waitati, July 2009. Contact Alex 4822525 0211387967