

NEWSLETTER

RUDOLF STEINER TRUST

OTAGO

TERM3 #23
2 AUGUST 2010
471-2163

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www.dunedin.steiner.school.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
Saturday & Sunday, 7th and 8th August 9-5pm	Storytelling Workshop In the Rata room	Tuesday 3rd August, 1pm (previously the	Kindergarten Trust Management committee)
Wednesday 4th August, 9.15am	Spring Fair meeting. ALL WELCOME!	Wednesday 11th July, 7.30pm	Parenting Support Group
Monday 16th August	Teacher only day – school and kindergarten closed	Friday August 13th, 5.30pm	High School Vision Group
Sunday October 31st 11-3pm	Spring Fair	Thursday 12th of August, 7.15pm	Board of Trustees Meeting

FROM THE OFFICE

Working Bee

Thank you to everyone who did come along and help at the working bee on Saturday. We had an excellent turnout from the Kowhai room families and the jobs for that area were thoroughly completed. There was a lot of work to be done in and around the yurts and with only about a third of the school families coming along, it made for a very long day. We really appreciate the hard work of those who were here and got the yurts cleaned and the waterproofing on, completed the fire installation, dug trenches around the bottom of the yurts and dug drains among other things. If you were unable to come on Saturday please mark your diaries when we announce the next one. Many hands make light work and we don't want to wear out our core crew who diligently show up each time and do not get home till late.

Teacher Only Day

A reminder that the teacher only day is coming up in 2 weeks and the school and kindergarten will be closed to children on Monday the 16th of August.

Yurt Covers

If you are able to help Lee get the tarpaulins back on the Class 6 Yurt this week please phone Lee 467 9940 or Clare at the office.

Storytelling workshop

The storytelling workshop is on this weekend. People must pay cash on the day - \$30 for the morning or \$120 for the whole weekend. The course is full so if you have booked on and can't make it, please call Jooske so that your place can be offered to another person (472 7684 or 021 026 25772). Please bring paper and pen/pencil and food for a shared lunch.

Spring Fair

Our first fair meeting is this **Wednesday the 4th of August at 9.15am** in the staff room/kitchen. Please come along and bring some enthusiasm and ideas to get things rolling. See you there!

Trade Aid

Our order is going in very soon. If you haven't placed your order yet, please bring it Tuesday morning.

Parenting Support Group

Please let Nick and/or Jooske know if you are interested in coming along to the next Parenting Support Group meeting about balancing parenting and partnership on Wednesday 11th July.

Emergency Contact Details Update

Only about half of these forms have been returned. Please check your child's bag or cubby hole and return forms to the office ASAP. Let Clare know if you need a new copy.

Accommodation for Volunteer

We are still looking for accommodation for our next volunteer from Germany, Rico. Please speak to the office if you can help with this.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

We welcome back Mrs MacNeille to Class one after her trip to the United States visiting family and friends. We hope you had a wonderful time and we are pleased to have you back.

Road Safety

John Somerfield of Dunedin Police will be running road safety sessions for the school children on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons this week so there will be no Bothmer. In the following week, Class 4 & 6 will continue road safety on the Tuesday afternoon and for that session they should bring a bike or scooter. The younger classes will be going out on a walk with the police on the Thursday 12 August. Bothmer will resume on Thursday the 12th of August.

Class 2/3

Two weeks have passed since I began teaching at Dunedin Steiner School and I have really enjoyed the time with Classes 2 and 3. It's been five and four years respectively since I taught my "own" class 2 and 3 at Taikura and I've realized that without contact with this age group for so many years, I had forgotten some of their age-related characteristics! So it has been a re-learning curve for me. There is a huge difference between teaching at Taikura and Dunedin. Taikura has a roll of 350 – ten times as many as here and each class averages 30 pupils. Resourcing class lessons out of a reasonably substantial budget is taken for granted and yet it is so refreshing to have only 12 in my class here and be part of a small, welcoming community that has made me feel at home. Wherever I teach, the essence of children is always the same: enlivening, enthusiastic, energetic and eager. Of course, the downside for me is having to leave family behind in Hawkes Bay (my little granddaughter keeps asking "when will Granddad be back?") but modern technology such as cell phones and aeroplanes, makes that aspect more bearable.

All Steiner schools endeavour to give their pupils an education based on what I would simply call the "Truth". I met anthroposophy back in the late 80's even before I had thought of teaching as a career. The more I learnt, the more it spoke the truth to me about educating children. I put my then 6 and 8 year old children into a Steiner school in England where they went through to Class 10. During that time I completed my State teaching qualification but always knew I would be more at "home" in a Steiner school. That opportunity didn't arrive until 10 years later after having taught at a number of State schools both in England and here. Taking a class through one complete cycle at Taikura has been the most profound experience. Only then did I fully understand the wisdom behind the Waldorf Curriculum in its entirety for lower school pupils. Each Main Lesson has its special role to play in the developing child and is perfectly suited to the age to which it is delivered. The annual progression of each subject is also finely tuned to the developmental stages of the pupils. By and large, the teachers who deliver these lessons have themselves a deeper insight into the developing needs of pupils. More and more, independent mainstream research into child development is confirming that what Waldorf education has been delivering for years is correct! e.g. brain gym = eurhythmy, and that movement is essential for future intellectual development! – a no-brainer really. Unfortunately there is still tremendous ignorance and stigma attached to "alternative" systems of education. Conversely, we are fortunate that historical governments in New Zealand have recognised the value of Waldorf Education and we have been able to integrate into the State system without too much compromise – no mean feat. I look forward to the next 2 terms here and will no doubt meet more of the community as time goes on.

-David Jordan

Yurt Cleaning Roster

The **Dunroy, Stevenson and Noyes** families are on yurt duty this week.

CIs	W1 - 19/7	26/7	2/8	9/8	16/8	23/8	30/8	6/9	13/9	20/9
6	MacDon	Botica	Dunroy	Xu	Barto	Tamang	Funnell	Holmes	Bendall	Henderson
2/3	Cain	Schweik	Stevenson	Cunningh	Oswald	Holloway	Whitehead	Alger	Carter	Walrond
4	Stichnot	Miles	Noyes	Cohen	Degas	Tapealava	Barriga	Dwyer	McMillan	Robson

Please sweep the yurt twice during the week (preferably on Tuesday and Thursday) either before or after school and provide a bag of kindling. Each yurt has its own broom, dustpan and brush.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Kowhai Room

We welcome back Mana into our room for the next 3 weeks. Whaea Sandra is away for a couple of days so we are grateful that Izumi and Auntie Vivien are helping out in the Kowhai room this Monday and Tuesday. Today the children made origami cats and butterflies.

Whaea Ros is joining the Education Review Office group of Anne Louise, Manfred, Alex and Whaea Violet. We meet monthly to prepare the school and kindergarten for our up and coming ERO review. Are there any spare teaspoons at home? They keep disappearing from the kindergarten even though teachers are constantly looking at OP shops to gather them for our rooms.

No need for vegetables tomorrow as we are celebrating Lukas Vandervis's birthday.

Thank you to everyone who came to the working bee and cleaned our room and windows. We are especially enjoying our beautifully clean staff room. The oven and fridge are spotless! The whole staff really love having this clean and organised kitchen. Kia ora koutou e hoa ma.

- Whaea Violet, Whaea Sandra and Julie.

Rata room

We had a strangely quiet week in the Rata room last week with a lot of children away sick. Today we've had some return which has been lovely to see.

Please remember that although it can be tough finding things to keep sick children occupied, television and dvds are harmful to you child's psychic, mental and physical wellbeing. We have articles available at the office for anyone wanting to learn more about this.

- Whaea Liqin, Matua Nick and Whaea Ros

Te Reo	kupu	-	words
	Ngeru	-	cat
	Pepe	-	butterfly
	Kiore	-	rat/mouse
	Hōiho	-	horse
	Pōkiha	-	fox

PLAYGROUP NEWS

Following the playgroup working bee at our Pine Hill site, the proprietors have met at the site and plans are underway to prepare the site for a new playgroup later in the year and our vision of another kindergarten next year.

CRAFTGROUP NEWS

We enjoyed making felt sheep which are now available in the shop at the office. For our next session we are going to have a "finishing" session. Over the weeks/months/years, you might have some projects that you haven't finished..... this is a chance to finish them all up! For people who haven't got any unfinished projects, we will have small projects such as gnome making, carding, puppet making etc.. Come and have a relaxed crafty morning!

Tuesday 10 th August 9:15 – 12:45	Ravensbourne Hall	Finishing felting bag, finishing whatever projects you still haven't, and carding.
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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.

Lost

Last week Eden's coloured jersey (reds and oranges) was lost – please ph Chris 4763 6088

Dance Class

Dear parents

We now have some 14 keen children (including 11 from our school /kindy) on board for Kilda Northcott's dance class in Port - awesome! (any parents still considering please still feel free to give me a call, there is scope for more classes as I mentioned last week in the first notice). Each class will be 45 minutes long, and the town hall is the likely site (tbc) .

So now a request to all parents involved/considering, for your choice of start time for the class: would you like Wednesdays at 4.30 or Fridays at 3.30 pm?

TITIRANGI RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL

An Independent Waldorf School; Class One Teacher, 2011

We are a group of teachers working associatively out of dedication to the Waldorf Curriculum. Anthroposophy is the heart and foundation of our work. If you are an experienced Waldorf Teacher with a deep Anthroposophical understanding of the world and wish to carry out your work in a striving collegial environment and are able to support beginning and developing teachers, we invite you to send your resume and letter expressing your interest to:

**The College of Teachers, Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School,
P.O. Box 60-266, Titirangi, Auckland, 0642.**