

NEWSLETTER

RUDOLF STEINER TRUST OTAGO

TERM3 #24
9 AUGUST 2010
471-2163

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

UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
Monday 16th August	Teacher only day – school and kindergarten closed	Wednesday 11th August, 7.30pm	Parenting Support Group
Wednesday 18th August, 9am	Spring Fair meeting, Staff kitchen	Thursday 12th of August, 7.15pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday 24th August 9:15-3pm	Beeswax candle dipping workshop, Ravensbourne Hall	Friday August 13th, 5.30pm	High School Vision Group
Sunday 7th November 11-3pm	Spring Fair – NOTE REVISED DATE		

FROM THE OFFICE

Teacher Only Day

Please note, that the school and kindergarten will be closed to children next Monday the 16th of August.

Term 4 Swimming

Thank you for returning the swimming surveys. The primary school children will be having swimming on Friday afternoons in term 4, commencing week 2 (22/10/10) for 7 weeks. These will be at the Port Chalmers Swim School and we will use buses for transport.

Spring Fair

Please note the revised and now definite date is Sunday the 7th of November. This year's theme is carnival – think; masks and music and dancing and fabulous costumes - think fun!

Following are the volunteers who will oversee particular aspects of the day, so if you have some suggestions or already know which area you would like to be involved in please speak to the appropriate person:

General coordinator - Linda
Entertainment and Performers - Angela
Savoury Cafe - Ryan
Sweets and drinks cafe - Marie
Advertising - Eliza
Activities and Stalls - Tracy

At this stage, we need someone for the raffle and someone to organise our signs. With so many families in our playgroups now, we would love to offer an activity specifically focused for the younger children - we imagined a fairy dell or suchlike so are looking for some keen, creative folk to manifest this. Please talk to Linda if you can help with any of these jobs. Its great if everyone takes on a role - so get in early for your best pick.

Next meeting; Wednesday, 18th August 9am in the Staff kitchen, all welcome!

Kolisko Conference Report

Whaea Violet attended the Kolisko conference in Cambridge during the last holidays. Five days in the Waikato with beautiful weather. The Kolisko conference is held every 4 years for Anthroposophical Doctors, Nurses and educators. It bears the name of Emile Kolisko, the first anthroposophical doctor associated with a school. The theme for this year's international conference was "Meeting the needs of today's children; Healing Body, Mind and Soul". There were about 400 attendees from around the world. Each day began with a performance; either eurhythmy or a play. The speaker would show aspects of the theme child of the day through an impromptu skit. The themes were autistic child (day 1), the ADHA child (day 2) and the sensitive child

(day 3). There was then a lecture on the subject. The conference members would separate into groups and work on an artwork that they created around the theme of the day. Lunch time was a very busy time and people shared conversations about their schools, work and children.

The afternoons were lectures again from another professional perspective and a workshop followed. I attended the extra curriculum workshop and we learnt different activities to do with children. We had a final lecture from 3.30 – 5pm then dinner and more talking – so it was a very busy time! There were evening lectures for the medical fraternity and these went through to 10.30 at night.

I certainly have found this conference worthwhile and beneficial for meeting children's needs and providing their care.

-Whaea Violet

Message from Menno

I had a good flight back to Germany and arrived safe at home. After landing in Hamburg I had to go to this seminar to make my service complete. It took place for 5 days and then I went home for 2 days. On the Monday after the seminar I went to an interview for the apprenticeship in Berlin. It end up really good, because they invited me for a two week testwork.. It starts next week and then I will see which way I will go in my future. When I went to Berlin I met Rico and told him some things about the school, the life in Dunedin and showed him some pictures. I wish you and the school all the best for the future. Thank you for having me for one year in your community.

Dental Treatment

As the dental clinic at Ravensbourne School is closed parents will now bring their child/ren to George St Normal or Dunedin North Int. (on North Rd) depending where I am working. Directions to the clinic on the school grounds will be put in with the appointments (which will be sent out this term). If you are unable to attend the time you've been allocated please phone or text 027 284 9937 to arrange another time. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you any concerns. **-Margaret Kane, Dental Therapist**
This service is available from birth to 17. If you would like your child enrolled for the service and they are not on the kindergarten/school enrolment then contact Margaret as above.

Parenting Support Group

Please let Nick and/or Joeske know if you are interested in coming along to the Parenting Support Group meeting about balancing parenting and partnership this Wednesday 11th July. Interest is looking fairly low to date, so if we have fewer than 4 people we won't proceed.

Accommodation for Volunteer

Help! – We really need some accommodation for our next volunteer from Germany, Rico. Please speak to the office if you can help with this.

Kindergarten Waiting Lists

We would like the community to be aware that we have no children moving up from the Kowhai room next year so the kindergarten waiting lists will be growing until spaces are freed up either as families move away from the area or perhaps as sessions can be rescheduled. Otherwise we wait for the potential opening up of the new Pine Hill Steiner Kindergarten for the start of 2011.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Road Safety

We welcomed John Summerville – our Community Police Education officer last week and this week. He spoke about road safety – about ensuring children were safely seated in cars

- none of the class 1-3s are tall enough yet to be seated without booster seats
- children should be placed in the back seat before the front
- if they go in the front and there is an airbag then ensure the seat is as far back as possible
- children should always exit on the footpath side of the car

He also looked at road safety and bikes with the class 2-6s for which the **Class 2 – 6 children need to bring their bikes this Tuesday**. On Thursday the class 1-3 s will go on a neighbourhood walk with him. We are sending out a permission slip that authorises the class teacher to take their class out on neighbourhood walks.

Class 1

Out of the bosom of the air,
Out of the cloud folds of her garment shaken,
Over the woodlands brown and bare,
Over the harvest fields forsaken,
Silent and soft and slow,
Descends the snow.

We've been trying to conjure winter for ages, and finally, success! It's hard to stay in your seat when there's snow in the air. To keep moving, we've been practicing tables with the lily pads. And now that it is finally cold and we need our slippers, several children have outgrown them. I've sent home the two small pairs- please replace. Thanks, Alex

Yurt Cleaning Roster

The **Xu, Cunningham and Cohen** families are on yurt duty this week.

Cls	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

This Monday Hazel, Fynn and Sarah moved into the Kowhai Room from the Rata Room.

Since our Steiner Federation advisor visit in June, the Kindergarten teachers and the Kindergarten Trust looked again at transitioning some children from the Rata Room. Marjorie Theyer offered advice on optimum numbers in the rooms and having a spread of ages. It was also agreed that it would be more settling for the transitioning children to have two terms in their new room rather than just Term 4 before the long summer break. Teachers therefore looked at the ages of the children and how ready they were to move and discussed this with the parents.

We do not envisage that there will be more moves from the Rata Room to the Kowhai Room this year, but the future is always somewhat unpredictable! Parents should also be aware that there are no children moving up to Class one from the Kowhai Room at the end of the year and therefore our waiting list will grow. Spaces will be freed up as families move away from the area and perhaps as sessions can be rescheduled. Otherwise we wait for the potential opening up of the new Pine Hill Steiner Kindergarten for the start of 2011.

Kowhai Room

We welcome the new children who are joining us from the Rata room. Thank you to Kate and Keita for helping with the settling in time. We also welcome back Whaea Sandra - so good to have you back on board. The Kowhai room is making a plea for sturdy small baskets please. Some of ours have lasted a long time but are now falling to pieces. Any spares from home or ones from the op shops gratefully received

Rata room

Congratulations to Anna and Wayne who have recently welcomed Eli's little brother Niwha into the world.

We were very excited to see a wee flurry of snow today, the first in what has been a relatively mild and dry winter to date.

- Whaea Liqin, Matua Nick and Whaea Ros

PLAYGROUP NEWS

Playgroups are all going well. Only the Yacht Club group has official spaces but visitors are welcome at most groups – please call the office to arrange these.

CRAFTGROUP NEWS

This week we will finish different projects such as gnome making, felt bag handle, carding, puppet making etc. You are welcome to bring craft from the craft group that needs to be finished.

In 2 weeks, the craft group is delighted to invite all the members of our Steiner Community (also welcome family, friend and kids) to our annual: BEESWAX CANDLE DIPPING WORKSHOP
 Tuesday 24 August 2010 at the Ravensbourne Town Hall

Experienced people : Can come at any time, from 9.15am until 3pm.

Beginner's: There will be 2 beginners sessions, please join at the start times and stay as long as you want .Beginners sessions will start at 10 am and 1.15pm.

Come along for the whole session bringing your lunch or pop in for a couple of hours.
 Children over 3-4 years old are welcome-under parental supervision **all of the time**.
 We will use the big room for the candle making, and the small carpet room will be available for tea, food and kids playroom (please organize parents turn to look after kids, we will provide some toys and mats).

You will be able to buy 5 candles per person (at discount because you made them!).
 For more information, call Marie 03 471 21 81.

Tuesday 10 th August 9:15 – 12:45	Ravensbourne Hall	Finishing felting bag, carding etc. Bring your unfinished project and your sewing tools.
Tuesday 24 th August 9:15-3pm	Ravensbourne Hall	Beeswax candle dipping workshop Experienced: 9:15-3pm Beginner start times: 10am and 1.15pm

INTERESTING ARTICLE

Title: **Screens 'damaging young brains'** By Simon Collins. From www.nzherakld.co.nz Monday Aug 2

A psychologist who made his name on the evils of television is now warning against computers as well, saying they are bad for the brains of young children. Dr Aric Sigman, an American-born British psychologist who is in Auckland for a forum organised by Family First, says computers should not be used in schools by any children under 9. He says research shows that young children's social and educational development is retarded by screens of all kinds - "TV, educational TV, DVDs, computers, social networking, computer games".

"Children are adults [legally] at 18 but their brains are not adult till they're 24 and a half," he said. "Because of that, things that we know may have a negative impact should be limited till the brain has set in stone. So ideally, quite frankly, with children, wait as long as possible before they use technology for too many hours. There will be intellectual advantages for them."

In a seminal book in 2005, Dr Sigman assembled medical evidence from numerous studies showing that fast-moving TV images were blocking the normal development of children's brains, reducing their attention spans and feeding the growth of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, obesity, early puberty and other health problems. He now cites two studies published in the past month in the US and Romania showing similar reductions in maths and reading abilities in children aged 10 to 15 who were given computers, compared with control groups without computers. Another study he conducted himself found that Britain's top private schools produced the best educational results with far less use of technology than state schools.

He concluded that children needed to learn about the real world before they could benefit from computers. "They have to upload information about the real three-dimensional world before they start manipulating it in the virtual world." Direct face-to-face communication was also vital to the development of language and empathy - an ability to understand and care about people other than yourself. "How do children learn how to speak, how to enter a conversation, how to pronounce words?" he asked. "It is all linked to face-to-face contact because they need to see the facial muscles moving in their parents' faces. There are biological effects of aspirated words causing air pressure on the skin of children and hearing harmonics that don't come across through technologies."

He said an American analysis of 72 studies found a big decline in empathy in young people, especially in the past decade. "Their interpretation of that was that electronic media displaced the essential face-to-face contact that is necessary for children to understand, when they say or do something, how do people's faces react. The hardwiring of empathy has gone missing."

Dr Sigman said his own three younger children, aged 11, 9 and 7, were allowed to use the computer at home "but they have to ask". "My 7-year-old probably gets 20 minutes a week on the computer," he said. The older children got more time because they needed the computer for their homework, but they were not allowed their own computers or TV sets in their bedrooms. "If you put a fridge in a child's bedroom they will eat more," Dr Sigman said. "If you put a screen in their bedroom they are going to watch more."

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.

Get The Train is chartering the Taieri Gorge train for Car Free Day on 22 September 2010.

We are fundraising to do so! The Otago Community Trust have given us \$500 and we need another \$1,250. We are applying to the DCC Small Grants fund, to Waikouaiti Coast Community Board and to Port Chalmers Community Board for funding also. So far 4 North Coast schools are doing their best to organise a day out on the train! Congratulations to them! The more people on the train, the less fundraising needs to be done! So can everybody tell everybody about the day and do your best to be on the train! Timing similar to last time, but more detail out later.

Thank you so much! -Danielle

Massive Yoga Event at Equinox

I (Noah's mum) and another yogi, Kara-Leah Grant are organising a big fundraising event for September 18th or 19th. We will be celebrating World Peace Day by doing 108 sun salutations (a series of yoga poses done as a flow sequence) to chanting and drumming in a public space. Money raised will go to the Yoga In Prisons trust. We envision a circle of people saluting the sun, a circle of people chanting a peace mantra in Sanskrit and a circle of drummers and meditators to hold the rhythm and space. This has the potential to be a powerful spiritual event as well as the chance to raise awareness and funds for peace starting in our own community. Anybody interested in participating - drummers, meditators, chanters, yogis, give me a call. We will have a few 'practice runs' before the big day. Great website with lots of information on the event and other yoga-related topics www.theyogalunchbox.co.nz

The Yoga Studio 4771180 Also we are now running 90 minute yoga classes on Monday and Thursday mornings from 9:30-11am. Perfect way to revive and relax after dropping off the kids!

Blessings,
Emma
emmaf74@hotmail.com
www.dunedin yoga.co.nz

Titirangi Rudolf Steiner High School has great pleasure in sharing that registration for their High School has been granted. Following a warm reception from the Ministry of Education Network Development Team in May, the school received provisional registration as an independent secondary school from 8th June 2010. This is a very exciting development not only for Titirangi but also for the Steiner/Waldorf movement in NZ. The first Class 9 consists of six students from across classes 8 and 9 ages, as these students have been part of a combined class for the previous two years. While high school buildings have yet to be built, the students have been able to continue at the School site in an existing classroom. Provisional registration lasts for a period of 6-12 months at which time an ERO visit will determine whether to grant full registration. The high school is fully self-funded through pledges and fundraising supported by the whole school during this provisional period with some government funding becoming available upon full registration.

Holiday Adventure at Stewart Island Aboard Elwing – 11-13 YR OLDS

We have a voyage coming up in the October Holidays. . . a fun holiday adventure for 11-13 year old young adventurers. 4-8 October 2010 ELWING, the 14metre, liveaboard YACHT, SAILING, KAYAKING, SNORKELLING, TREKKING and EXPLORING are some of the activities which will happen during this 5 day adventure!. Interested?? Contact us – to find out more and make your reservation! Phone 0272768817. Email: elwing@clear.net.nz Website: www.southernlights.co.nz/elwing