

NEWSLETTER

RUDOLF STEINER TRUST OTAGO

TERM 3 # 24

18 AUGUST 2008

471-2163

office@dunedin.steiner.school.nz

www.dunedin.steiner.school.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
Wednesday 20 th August	8.00 pm	Thursday 21 st August	Proprietors' meeting
Mario Gude	Talk		
Friday 29 th August	10 am– 3pm	Thursday 4 th September	KMC meeting
Costume and prop-making workshop			
		Thursday 11 th September	BOT meeting

TALK AT THE SCHOOL

TALK at the School. ***This Wednesday at 8pm.*** We are very pleased to welcome a teacher visiting from Tauranga Rudolf Steiner School, Mario Gude. He will talk about his experience in a developing school and of the use of composite classes. Please try to be there. Bring a little food to share at the end of the talk.

(Note the later start time - this is due to the time of Mario's flight)

FROM THE OFFICE

A DVD on how to erect the Yurts is available at the office. If you are interested you can borrow the DVD for one or two nights and return to the office.

2008 Dates

The last day of Term is Friday 19th December

The Beach Day in on Thursday 18th December

We hope to be able to perform the Shepherd's Play at First Church again during that last week.

We have two planning days in Term 3 & 4 when the School will be closed.

The days are: Monday 8th September and
Tuesday 28th October (after Labour Day)

SCHOOL NEWS

A wet start to the term, but one that hasn't held the classes back from an unprecedented level of playground use following the minor modifications made in the last week of term 2. This has been partly thanks to the ropes supplied by our sometime relief-teacher Matthew Robertson. **Thanks Matthew!** Ropes, logs and bars have created a circuit for 'Spider Tag' – it has been a joy to watch children challenging themselves with balance and upper body work at every opportunity; some good games happen before school starts; it's nice to see children arriving at school bright and early!

I am concerned however that some children are still coming to school inadequately dressed. National news this weekend spoke of higher-than-usual levels sickness and absenteeism, which some school principals have put down to the wet weather keeping children cooped up in crowded classrooms. This is not our policy at DRSS, and children **must** have a wind and waterproof coat. I expect children in classes 4/5/6 to be responsible for their own gear, but a reminder from adults can be very useful. Children often complain of getting too hot, in which case I recommend a light raincoat or windbreaker so that under-layers can be donned or shed depending on the weather.

A **Huge Thank You** must go to **Jocelyn Broughton** for taking the upper class during my absence at the start of term. She and her husband, Ray, gave the children such positive and interesting experiences in the History of Handwriting main lesson, which she was able to prepare at very short notice. I am hugely grateful for this. I have continued the theme into practice lessons with daily handwriting practice, which the children seem to be enjoying immensely.

Class 4/5/6 are currently comparing humans with the animals in our very significant Man and Animal main lesson. The new term also sees us taking up **circus skills** on Wednesday afternoons. Surprising progress has been made in these last two weeks as we take up juggling and attempt combining this with the balance boards that have been an occasional favourite these past terms. **To all those parents who crocheted our juggling balls, your hard work is paying dividends! Thank you all.**

I have been having conversations with the class about other equipment that might enhance our programme and we have created a **wish-list** of items we hope our community may be able to help with:

- Rope and wooden planks (and pulleys?!) that we might continue developing the playground
- Foam, mattresses or rugs for learning head and handstands, rolls and tumbling
- Wood suitable for constructing stilts
- We'd love to build a climbing wall, and;
- A flying fox!

Some more realistic in the short term than others, but hopefully families may have some of these items around the home or could source them cheaply.

Finally, it seems Brenda may have contracted the illness that saw me bedridden for a week during the holidays. I hope you recover soon, Brenda and are spared the worst of the symptoms. Get well soon!

Have a good week, everyone!
Lee.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Kinder news

Colourful Hat Bags

Do you feel like a bit of sewing? We need two bags for the hats, one for summer hats and one for winter hats. This task could be shared. These could be made from fabric off-cuts. Please let me know if you can make one.

Sleeping boxes Thank you to Cecil who is drafting a pattern and writing instructions for how to make the sleeping box covers. It may be best to buy some strong calico and dye this for the covers. We may be able to meet at the kinder on the weekend to get these cut and sewn. I will let you know.

Wet-weather pants Thank you to the parents sending wet-weather pants. The playground is very muddy and these save lots of changes of clothes and also helps us. Please make sure your child has spare clothes in their bag.

Illnesses in Kinder We have had a lot of children away sick. Children have had chicken pox, glandular fever, croup and flu. Thank you for keeping your children home until strong and well.

Gardening Liselle is doing a great job in the gardening class on Fridays. Remember you are welcome if you would like to come. Please ask me about it.

This week we will have Jocelyn helping in the kindergarten for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday so that I can carry out Extra Lesson Assessments on class children. I will be still at the school to assist if needed.

Chris Cohen will be assisting in the kinder Thursday as Lee-Anne is having a 'special' Birthday. A very big happy Birthday wish to you Lee-Anne.

Reflex Exercises

The indications for these exercises are from a book by Sally Goddard Blyth in a wonderful book called Movement and Early Learning, Hawthorn press. This is a good book for parents and is very readable. Her work is a part of the studies in the Extra Lesson Course. She researches the effects of neurological dysfunction in children with learning difficulties and devises effective learning programs.

From the beginning of life there is movement. The first few of life are dedicated to taking control of the body. The child moves through different stages of movement/ motor development. Sometimes there are hiccups in the child's development. These are caused by many different factors including birth traumas, shocks and accidents. We have started a series of exercises in the kindergarten at circle time to help the development of movement. These are presented imaginatively to the children and they love them. All children are happy to join in.

We are now doing Busy Bee- an exercise to help with the development of balance. Balance supplies the brain with information regarding the body's position in space. Higher cognitive skills such as reading and writing depend upon stable balance.

Christopher Caterpillar and Flossie Flower help develop muscle tone of neck and back and help develop head control. These exercises also assist in the inhibition of retained reflexes which can affect learning and postural stability.

**Nursery Room Teacher – part time
DUNEDIN RUDOLF STEINER KINDERGARTEN**

The Dunedin Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten is a well established kindergarten for children aged 3 to 6 years of age. We are establishing a second kindergarten nursery room for the younger children in Spring 2008. We are therefore looking for a teacher qualified in Early Childhood, preferably with Steiner training to run this new room alongside our existing well-established kindergarten.

The kindergarten is set in the tranquil grounds of the Dunedin Rudolf Steiner School, overlooking Otago Harbour and has an excellent 2007 ERO report, a supportive College of Teachers and an active parent community.

It is anticipated that the nursery room will be open for three mornings a week at the start. The role could also be used to lead a Steiner Playgroup session for one other morning and for support in the established kindergarten room. The post may therefore be for four mornings – or 20 hours per week.

The new kindergarten nursery room will open on 13 October 2008 and the successful applicant will be in post before then.

Please apply in writing to Dunedin Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten, 1 Fern Road, Maia, Dunedin or by email to office@dunedin.steiner.school.nz.

Phone the office on 03 471 2163 or see our website www.dunedin.steiner.school.nz for more information and a job description. Applications close Friday 29 August 2008.

**Kindergarten Supervisor
DUNEDIN RUDOLF STEINER KINDERGARTEN**

This position offers an opportunity for an ECE qualified and preferably Rudolf Steiner trained teacher to run a wonderful and well-established kindergarten.

Set in the tranquil grounds of the Dunedin Rudolf Steiner School, overlooking Otago Harbour, the Kindergarten offers morning sessions and afternoon day care for up to 25 children from 3-6 years of age.

The kindergarten is thriving, with an excellent 2007 ERO report, a supportive College of Teachers and an active parent community.

The existing postholder is relocating at the start of 2009. We would like the successful applicant to work alongside her in Term 4 – starting 13 October 2008.

Please apply in writing to Dunedin Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten, 1 Fern Road, Maia, Dunedin or by email to office@dunedin.steiner.school.nz.

Phone the office on 03 471 2163 or see our website www.dunedin.steiner.school.nz for more information and a job description. Applications close Friday 29 August 2008.

PLAYGROUP NEWS

Playgroup sessions this term will be held at the Ravensbourne Hall, Wednesdays, 10.30 - 12.30pm. Please bring a piece of fruit and a gold coin donation. See you there.

CRAFT GROUP NEWS

We are looking for some help. Marie would like to invite people to take part in the organizing side of the Craft group. The more people involved the less time each of us needs to find to make this work. Please talk to Marie if you would like to organize a session.

Tuesday 19 th August	9am to 1pm Ravensbourne Hall	Sewing with Junko Make a gnome with Felt
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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

Marie is always looking for glass jars with lids, large or small, please let her know by ringing 471-2181.

Stephne Bennett, our Anthroposophical nurse, is back in town and available for therapeutic treatments on Thursdays and Fridays. (tel) 488 5617 (cell) 021 296 8074

MOTUEKA



Rudolf Steiner School Trust

*PO Box 224 / 480 High St.
MOTUEKA 7143
Phone: (03) 528 0246
Fax: (03) 528 0242
E-mail: MRSS-admin@xtra.co.nz*

Early Childhood / Kindergarten Teacher Urgently Required

A relief teacher is required for the Motueka RS Kindergarten, from now until the end of Term 3 (Friday 26th September), to work alongside the present kindergartener. EC qualification and teachers registration are preferred, but not essential.

The Kindergarten is a long-established centre, in Motueka, close to lovely beaches, mountains and national parks. Please contact Jean Howarth 03 528 6028, a.h. 03 528 7763, jeanhowarth@xtra.co.nz.