

# NEWSLETTER

## RUDOLF STEINER TRUST

### OTAGO

TERM3 #28  
 7 SEPTEMBER 2009  
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 www.dunedin.steiner.school.nz

| UPCOMING EVENTS                        |   | MEETINGS                                 |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| Tuesday 7pm 15 <sup>th</sup> September | Sue Simpson's evening talk                    | Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 6pm      | Board of Trustees and Proprietors   |
| Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept           | Last day of term 3                            | Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September 7pm. | Meeting for all people in the community to discuss the plans for the next three years |
| Saturday 3rd October 2009 10am – 4pm   | Sausage Sizzle fundraiser                     | Wednesday 14 October 9am                 | Kindergarten Management Committee   |
| Tuesday 20 October                     | Anthroposophical Doctor's visit to the school |  |   |

*"The principle good of education is to create people who are capable of doing new things, not simply of repeating what other generations have done."*

Jean Piaget

## FROM THE OFFICE

### The future plans for the school – a meeting for all parents in school and kindergarten

We welcome you all to a meeting this Wednesday evening to discuss how we can offer classes 1- 6 next year, whilst ensuring that we offer a sound Steiner education to all the children in the school. This meeting is scheduled for 7pm on Wednesday 9 September in the lower classroom. It is requested that one or both parents from each school and kindergarten family attend as the decisions made will impact significantly on us all. A paper outlining the issues that will be discussed is being sent home today.

### The Fair

It is time to start planning the food we are all going to make for the café for the fair. We ran out of savoury food last year so we need more this time. I am aiming to get approx 75% savoury to 25% sweet. Every family is asked to contribute the best, tastiest, yummiest dish they can make that is suitable for a cafe. We aim to produce a prodigious amount of yummy food to sell so, if possible, can you double, triple or even quadruple the recipe. We will need gluten free, vegan & vegetarian food. We require food suitable for small children such as small biscuits & smaller sized muffins. The ingredients will have to be listed. Where possible please use organic ingredients & label where they have been used. I personally would prefer it if no battery chicken/eggs or sow crate pork products were used. Free range are fine. Could you fill in the slip at the end of the newsletter & return it to the office by the end of the week please. Or alternatively you can email me [liselle@softtech.co.nz](mailto:liselle@softtech.co.nz) & let me know what you are planning on making.

### Organic raffle

Please place your organic non-perishable food/ pantry item in the box in the office asap. I will be photographing the hamper for a picture to go with the raffle tickets. Let's make it look abundant!  
 Thanks, Tracy

### A visit from Sue Simpson next week

Sue Simpson, the General Secretary of the Anthroposophical Society, former Principal of Taikura Rudolf Steiner School (Hastings) and eurythmist, will be visiting us next week. She will bring eurythmy into the classes and she will also work with the College of Teachers here. On the Tuesday night she will provide a talk to the School community on the developmental "Crises" in childhood and also on

the spirit of giving within our schools. Sue is an excellent speaker and everyone should try to come to hear her.

### **Federation of New Zealand Rudolf Steiner Schools – Council meeting report**

This past weekend delegates gathered from all but one of the New Zealand Steiner schools for the annual meeting of the Federation. It was held at Raphael House in Wellington. This was a chance for the various mandated cluster groups within the organization to share with all Steiner schools the progress and the needs of the work they are undertaking. The Federation is forming a different structure which has also meant that Sue Russell's post as Co-ordinator has been removed. As a School we have benefited from her visits and advice in the past and would like to extend our thanks to her and best wishes for the future.

One area of vital interest to us here in Dunedin is the Curriculum Cluster group which has embarked on the creation of a complex document – The National Curriculum Guidelines for New Zealand Steiner Schools. Using the same structure as the new State National Curriculum document, the group has already worked on the vision, principles and values of Waldorf Pedagogy and is in the process of creating the specific key competencies (capacities) of English and Mathematics. We spent a very profitable session brainstorming the non-negotiables of Steiner schools: those features of the curriculum and pedagogy that make us a Steiner school, principal among them being the developmental nature of the Steiner curriculum, the concept of ripeness or readiness of the child for the developing of various skills and knowledge; and the use of formal testing only from class four on.

We looked at the new foci of the Education Review Office which included self-review, the collection and analysis of data re student progress, and how schools are developing leadership through the culture of the school, the curriculum and the systems used within the school. This will help us greatly in our own preparation for ERO in 2010.

In the Early Childhood area, the cluster group is in the process of forming a new Early Childhood Advisory Committee to work in the area of policy. This will be discussed further at the Steiner kindergarten conference in the coming holidays.

The Federation, in their own process of self-review, recognised the need to be aware of educational issues within the political sector which will impact on our schools and has appointed the Principal of Michael Park, Dee Whitby, to take on this role.

Later in the meeting, we were fortunate to listen to an address by Sue Simpson for teachers on developing a healthy relationship between the spiritual and material aspects of life through giving ourselves the time and space for quiet reflection. She also challenged us all to reflect on the question – Where is the consciousness in New Zealand regarding the growth of Steiner Education.

Several smaller issues were looked at and a detailed Annual Plan was created for the 2010. We received very valuable offers of support and guidance, as well as the sharing of documents and opportunities for developing relationships with other schools. What impressed us most in this two days was the commitment, sheer hard work, generosity and well-developed senses of humour of our colleagues from the federation of far-flung Steiner schools of New Zealand! We returned exhausted and enriched!

*Brenda and Clare*

### **Fundraising sausage sizzle**

We are holding a fundraiser on 3 October from 10am to 4pm. Angela Oswald is organising this and will be looking for volunteers to help to staff the stall from 10 am to 4pm in town. More details to follow next week.

### **School and kindergarten cleaning**

When Monika is away from 21 November to 19 December we will not have a cleaner at the school. We are therefore either looking for someone who will take this on as a paid job, or we will have to have a cleaning roster for everyone. Please see Clare if you are interested in filling in for Monika or give Monika a call to find out more – 471 2335.

This week's Yurt sweeping families are the Mullins and Dougherty/ Cunningham. Remember that if you cannot cover your week please arrange to swap with another family.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

### **Class1**

On the days when we practice arithmetic with the lily pads or counting stones the children insist that they haven't done any schoolwork! It just shows how much they enjoy bookwork. Class one is starting to write the four process equations with which we have been working and class two is making a tables chart to copy into their books.

### **Class 3**

Thanks so much Linda for supervising the children on Friday. The children are becoming neat, artistic and adept in their cursive writing and have created beautiful books on Building! We look forward to building our treehouse with Menno in term 4. This week we finish our Building Main Lesson and commence an English Main Lesson on Grammar, a topic dear to my English-teacher heart. We will master the intricacies of the noun, verb, adjective and adverb through lots of colour, games and recitation!!!

### **Class 5 fundraising for the Steiner Olympics**

Congratulations to Class 5 – their busking has now raised nearly \$500 towards their trip to Hastings to participate in the Steiner Olympics.

## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

### **Spring Festival**

The Spring celebration for Kindergarten will be on Thursday 24th September. This will follow a similar format to that held last term. On arrival children will make paper garlands with their parents. They will then sing their morning circle in their classroom (parents please join in) before sharing in a community morning tea in the Kowhai Room. We then hope to dance outside should Father Sun smile upon us.

### **Reminders**

As the weather is extremely changeable please remember to send your children with both a warm hat and a sun hat. It is our policy that children must wear a hat for all outside play. Please discourage children from bringing toys or dress-ups from home to Kindergarten. If things do come they should be kept securely in their bags. Remember to bring a vegetable for soup on Tuesdays and fruit for shared morning tea on Thursdays and Fridays. . Thank you.

### **Lunchtime Blessing** (as requested by several families).

Whakapainga e nei kai  
He oranga mo te tinana  
Mo o matou wairua  
Hoki amene

Bless this food  
Our bodies may be healthy  
Also our spirits  
Amen

### **Kowhai Room**

Due to a slight change in the daily rhythm we have re-introduced little fruit to keep children going prior to a now later morning tea. Each family is asked to please donate a small bag of organic dried fruits for this purpose. Any donations of wool for craft activities would be greatly appreciated. Clean wool blankets needed. Plain if possible or pastel colours. As long as they are clean we can cut around any holes.

### **Rata Room**

The new bag hooks outside the Rata Room seem to be working well. The children are having a much easier time hanging up their hats and coats after outside play.

Due to a change in staffing requirements the teachers in the Rata Room need to get away promptly at 1pm each day. If you are held up collecting your child you may find that they have been taken through to the office to allow staff to meet their afternoon teaching obligations. Please remember that you will still need to sign them out.

We are looking for a parent volunteer to make a few extra drawing mats as we no longer have enough for all the children. We also need a volunteer to make up another two baking aprons. This would be greatly appreciated as we do not currently have enough for all the children.

We have a birthday celebration this Tuesday, so will not be making soup tomorrow in the Rata Room.

### **Kindergarten Management Committee**

The kindergarten management committee met last week. This is a group of three parent reps (Pamala, Norman and Kirsten), Cecil as Playgroup facilitator, Clare as Licensee and Violet will join us from the teaching staff. We meet each month on a Wednesday morning for an hour or so. This month we looked at how the playground development is coming along. If you are interested in joining us then please let us know as new members would be welcome.

Mark and Pamala Walrond are putting a lot of energy into getting a sunshade organised for the sandpit area. There was also discussion of the wish for Rata Room afternoon sessions. We do not have the staffing for this at present but it is being kept in mind for the future. We also talked about how we involve everyone in the development of the kindergarten, so that all parents are able to contribute as we would expect in a Steiner School, especially when funding is short. We plan to ask parents to join one of three groups which will look after particular areas – toys and inside equipment such as drawing boards or aprons; playground and gardening; and general maintenance work. A note will be coming round before the end of term. This should help to make it clearer where help is needed and to share the responsibility.

Following requests from parents we are setting up a buddy system so that new parents can be linked to an existing parent who will be able to provide advice or information – or at least know where to find the required information. Please let Clare know if you would not be happy to be a buddy – or a first point of contact for new parents. Otherwise we will assume that all parents who have been here since before the start of Term 1 are happy to help with this request.

A big thank you to Norman who managed to locate a dishwasher for the kindergarten. This will make a huge difference to how we work.

## PLAYGROUP NEWS

Our Spring Festival is planned for the 18<sup>th</sup> of September from 11 to 1pm. All are welcome to come dance the spring pole (weather permitting), enjoy a short marionette show and share lunch. This will mark the end of playgroup for the term. Our playgroup facilitators meeting will be held on Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1.30 in the Rata Room. Anyone who is interested in facilitating playgroup at some stage, or who is simply wishing to be more involved, is invited (children welcome).

From Term 4 (starting 12 October) we will be offering an additional playgroup session on Fridays running from 11-1pm. There are several spaces available for this session. We are still committed to starting a playgroup in town as well, and are waiting for confirmation of a suitable space. Our aim is to be able to open our town group at the beginning of term 4.

## CRAFT GROUP

Dear community,

We are working hard to make nice and small things for the fair at the moment, so that visitors/kids can enjoy little "shopping". We have small projects that you can do at home, so if you have some spare time, will you lend us a helping hand? (and thank you for all who already offered help!).

Here are examples of projects, and we are happy to teach you how to tackle them if needed. If you can help, or if you have other ideas, please contact Izumi: [izumi@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:izumi@slingshot.co.nz) or 472 8598.

Assembling "Kit set", e.g. mice, horse, donkey.  
Making felt balls (small or medium).  
Making Origami hexahedron or octahedron from simple parts, for mobile.  
Making felt or cloth animals.  
Crochet knitting hair accessories.

Tomorrow, we will make flax flowers, based on a great book called "Weaving Flowers from New Zealand Flax" by Ali Brown. Eye-opening and very easy yet so attractive projects. Both beginners and experienced weavers will certainly enjoy them!

|                                  |                   |   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Tuesday 8th Sept<br>9:00 – 12:45 | Ravensbourne Hall | Flax flowers with Izumi. Bring a dinner knife, and a pair of scissors or a cutter knife.  |
| Tuesday 15th Sept                | To be advised.    | Kowhai Babies with Linda. If you want to join this session, please contact Linda by 11th. |

## 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](mailto:office@dunedin.steiner.school.nz)

### **A Request from Menno**

**Dear parents,**

**In 3 weeks it is the end of term 3 and I have 2 weeks holidays in which I will go to travel a little bit. But when I arrived here I couldn't bring some camping stuff for travel so I want to ask you. Maybe you can lend me some things. Then I don't have to buy everything. Phone the school office to let me know.**

**Regards, Menno**

### **Biodynamic Fruit**

Tom and Ingrid in Marahau still have some fruit for sale. Green kiwis \$2/kg, Grapefruit \$3/kg. \$15 freight for a 14kg box. Complete box orders only please so if you can't eat 14kg combine with others. Please send orders direct to Tom: [ingridandtom@gmail.com](mailto:ingridandtom@gmail.com) or 03 527 8200.

### **Port Chalmers Swim Club Registration Day**

11:00am -12:30pm on 20th september.  
@ club rooms behind Port pool.  
Albertson Ave, Port Chalmers.

All members new and old please come along and  
**JOIN** our great swim club.

See you all there !

Any enquiries contact Licia Mihaka on 4728384  
or Anne Marshall on 4728323

Simpson washing machine  
5 kg heavy duty, toploader, very simple hence extremely reliable.

Victa lawnmower  
tough Australian made 2-stroke mulching or catching mower with alloy body,  
service just done and new blades fitted.

Contact Ulf (Minami's dad)  
Ph: 472 8598  
email: [okami@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:okami@slingshot.co.nz)

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## Food for the Fair Café

For the Café I am planning to prepare the following items:-

..... •

.....Name of family

Please return this slip to the office by Friday 11 September or  
email the information to [liselle@softtech.co.nz](mailto:liselle@softtech.co.nz)