

# NEWSLETTER

## RUDOLF STEINER TRUST

### OTAGO

TERM4 #32  
 19 OCTOBER 2009  
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UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
Tuesday 20 October	Anthroposophical Doctor's visit to the school	Thursday 29 October 7:15 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
Sunday 1 November 11am to 3pm	The Fair	Thursday 10 December 7:15 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
Monday 26 October	Labour Day – no kindergarten or school		
Tuesday 27 October	Teacher only day for school and kindergarten		

*"If young children have been able in their play to give up their whole loving beings to the world around them, they will be able in later life to devote themselves with confidence and power to the service of the world."*

— Rudolf Steiner

### FROM THE OFFICE

#### The Long Weekend

Just a reminder that both the school and kindergarten are closed next Monday and Tuesday (26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>) for Labour Day and a Teacher only day

#### Anthroposophical Doctor's visit

Doctor Michael Sargeant is visiting the school tomorrow. His insight is very helpful to the teachers when he observes the classes in the morning. He also offers sessions to individuals in the afternoon if any parents would like to take advantage of his visit. Please let the office know if you would like a session booked with Dr Sargeant. The cost is \$75 for 30 minutes. Attached to the newsletter is an information sheet on Anthroposophical Medicine.

#### Working Bee

Thank you to everyone who made it to the working bee yesterday – the place looks so much better. Thanks also to those who helped to round off the sausage sizzle fundraiser for the climbing wall – the total raised is now nearer \$600.

#### Introduction to the Steiner School

Angela Oswald, a school parent and playgroup mother is holding a talk and questions and answers session about Steiner education and the special character of the school on Wednesday just after drop off at 9am. New parents should have already received an invitation, and if any other people are interested then please do come along to the kitchen for an hour.

#### 'Children should not start formal learning until they are six' : The Cambridge Review of Primary Education (published 16/10/09)

This review of Primary Education in the UK concludes that play-based learning should go on for a year longer than the mainstream approach now offers. There is no evidence that an early introduction to formal learning has any benefit, the review says, but there are suggestions it can do some harm. Continuing this informal but structured learning for a year or so would bring children in England in line with many European countries, where school starts at six or even seven, and standards are often higher. "This would give sufficient time for children to establish positive attitudes to learning and begin to develop the language and study skills which are essential to their later progress," says the review, which is based on six years of academic work. It is an interesting report which is clearly relevant to New Zealand too, where children also start mainstream school at the age of five.

### **Organic Hamper Raffle Tickets**

**Farmers Market Saturday 24th October** We are having a stall at the farmers market this weekend to promote the fair and the school. We will also sell raffle tickets and candles. We would really appreciate a few helpers over the morning. Please phone Tracy (478 0411) if you can come along. We will need the white craft group table - please call me if you know where it is. Thanks.

### **Raffle Tickets**

It's wonderful to see the raffle tickets rolling back in - well done and thank you to those of you who have already returned your ticket sheets and monies. I would appreciate the rest of the ticket sheets and monies back to the office this week please. Thank you. *Tracy*

### ***More Fair news will be sent out tomorrow***

### **Vision and Hearing**

The Vision and Hearing technician is visiting the school on 6 November at 9am to see any new entrants. She will no longer be coming on the 27<sup>th</sup> (as we are closed). If any kindergarten parents would like to bring their children in to see her on the Friday then you are welcome to do so. Otherwise she can either see people at her clinic or back at school **in the** new year.

### **Reclaiming tax and claiming transport assistance**

Do remember that you can claim back tax on your donations to the school and kindergarten. You can also claim back tax on kindergarten fees that you pay as a childcare allowance. See the details on the Inland Revenue Website. Also all parents of school enrolled children (including those who are six in kindergarten) who live more than 2.4 km away can claim a transport allowance from the Ministry of Education. For example if you live 7km from the school you could receive \$4.72 per day. The rate can increase with the number of children. See the office for an application form.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Quick reminder to all that the orchestra is on this Thursday afternoon.

### **Class 5**

A pleasant beginning to the Fourth Term it has been for Class Five, with our Main Lesson on Decimal Fractions engaging interest and the logic of numbers and the decimal system kindly giving us increasing confidence in this area. We continue to do daily mental arithmetic, particularly in the adding of money and skip-counting in 100's, 1000's, 10,000's, 100,000's and beyond, giving us good practice in decimals and the four processes.

And add money we do, as fundraising toward our trip to Hawke's Bay continues: yesterday's busking and sausage sizzling outside the supermarket contributing a further \$260 toward our goal. There are just three short weeks before our departure and we are just over halfway toward our goal of \$5000. In addition to helping with the National Dog Trials over this coming Labour Weekend, Class 5 hope to busk at the next two Farmer's Markets. Meanwhile, there are still raffle tickets available for Organic Hamper and an Impressive Tool Box – if there is any way you can support our endeavours, either by purchasing a raffle ticket or greeting us at the Market, please do... it all counts!!

### **Class 1/2 and Class 3**

Thursday 11 November : Sleep-over in the yurts! We will have an outing on the Thursday with a sleep-over in the yurts. More details next week.

### **Swimming**

Swimming begins this Friday! We are booked to have professional swimming instruction from tutors at the Jill Clark Swim School at the heated pool at Dunedin North Intermediate for the next seven weeks. We will leave the school at 1pm and be all showered and ready to come back to school at 2.45. To save costs we would like to use parents as drivers and need three volunteers for this to go there and back to school. Children will go with the same driver each time. Please let the office know if you can drive and if you will collect your child from the pool or back at school at 3pm.

This week's Yurt sweepers are Holloway and Schweikert. Remember that if you cannot cover your week please arrange to swap with another family.

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Class 3	Wood	Holloway	Cohen	Miles	Mullins	Degas	Noyes	Wood	Holloway	Cohen

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Class1/2	Kimura	Schweikert	Cain	Barriga	Cunningham	McAuley	Walrond	Oswald	Kimura	Schweikert

## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

The kindergarten Kowhai Room welcomed Tsugumi, Minami and Zoe last week from the Rata Room. We also have a few other new faces – Tania is coming into the Kowhai Room to give some support to Lukas, and some applicants for the part time kindergarten position are coming through over the next couple of weeks – Aliza is visiting this morning.

When you collect your child at 1pm please could you remember that the other children are resting (or even sleeping). Please therefore play away from the Kowhai Room – either around the tree or up on the top field.

And for those parents who have yet to bring a bag of organic dried fruit for the Kowhai Room please could you bring raisins.

Next Monday and Tuesday the kindergartens will be closed for Labour Day and the teacher only day.

### **Playground**

Many thanks to the Port Chalmers Community Board for their grant of \$400 towards a sunshade sail cloth to go over the kindergarten sandpit area. This is a generous contribution to a good quality shade. The shade will be put up after the fair, as we need to have a digger in to dig out 1.8 metre holes for the posts and the playground will need a little recovery time after the digger's visit. Once the sunshade is up we will then install the handpump on the hillock by the sandpit.

The A Frame play frame has been designed and the wood delivered. Menno will be working with a couple of strong volunteers to build it. Thanks to Menno for topping up the sandpit last week.

Alice Bartlett is organising a new hammock for the kindergarten playground. She is looking for a canvas hammock with wooden slats at each end (to prevent children rolling themselves up in it). If anyone happens to have such a thing, parts of one or ideas for one then please let her know.

### **Parents volunteering**

Thank you to everyone who signed up to help in different areas of the kindergarten. Rather than making a general call to parents for assistance we shall go directly to members of the particular group. The list of kindergarten parents and the area where they have agreed to help is in the kindergarten pigeon holes. If you have not put your name to an area then please let Clare know.

### **Buddy system**

Kindergarten parents are all happy to use a buddy system to help new parents to become acquainted with us. New parents have been partnered up with those that have been here longer – as per the list that is in your kindergarten pigeon hole. Please give the new family that you are linked to a call, or speak to them to see if they could do with any more information or support. And of course remember that you can always take concerns or questions on to the Kindergarten Parent Reps, to the office or to the teachers.

### **Sunscreen**

Term 4 is the month when children will have sunscreen applied when they go out to play. If your child needs their own sunscreen then please hand this in to the teacher with their name on or speak to the teacher if you have other concerns.

### **Nails and Wood needed!**

Our woodworking kindergarten children need materials. If anyone has any smallish pieces of untreated timber that they can give to kindergarten – and nails – then this would be much appreciated. Sometimes you can pick up jars of nails in op shops.

## PLAYGROUP NEWS

Playgroup is thriving! With much thanks going to our wonderful Cecil who has dedicated endless time and energy to help create enough space for our special little play group families. We appreciate your efforts immensely. However with the substantial amount of growth that has taken place we are needing a few more helping hands. Anyone able to lend a hand please contact Leigh on 455 5931.

Our sessions are as follows:-

Waitiati-	Wednesday (10-12)
Yacht club (Marina)-	Thursday (10-12)
Maia (school)-	Wednesday (afternoon from 1.15pm)
	Friday (9-11 & 11-1)

Currently enrolments are full (wow!!) However please express interest if you require a place for your little one. We are in need of play items for our new yacht club space namely, sturdy baskets and house corner items made from natural materials. Once again a huge thank you to Cecil and of course all of our wonderful facilitators, Mums & Dads that make it all possible. Regards Leigh

## CRAFT GROUP

Dear Community,

Over the last year the craft group has purchased some very interesting craft books that you may be interested to have a look at. They are in the front office – have a look on the bookshelf. If there is a project that you would like to make then please make a photocopy in the office (5 cents a copy in the jar by the phone please). Please do not take these books home.

Also it is a perfect time to finish your craft and to bring it back (to the drawer in the office) or give it to me. The last day will be Wednesday morning 28 October – we need to get ready for the fair!

Note the craft group will meet on Wednesday 28 October at the office (front or back). Please come along – we need your help. See you soon! Marie

Tuesday 20th Oct 9:00 – 13:00	Ravensbourne Hall	Making felt crowns
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct 9:00 – 13:00	Front Office	Preparation for the Fair – pricing and labelling

## *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)*

### **Nappy Free and Baby Wearing Workshop**

\*The Dunedin Conscious Parenting group are running a free workshop on the technique of raising your baby without nappies, also known as elimination communication, and the benefits and techniques of carrying your baby in a sling or other ergonomic device during the in-arms phase. Sunday November 8th. 10-30 -1pm. Skeggs Gallery, the Octagon. (up the big concrete steps)