

NEWSLETTER

RUDOLF STEINER TRUST

OTAGO

TERM4 #33
 28 OCTOBER 2009
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UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
		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
Thursday 5 November 7.30pm	Talk at the School - Elke Baublies	20 November 5.30pm	High School Vision Group

"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

How can we connect to the Angels of our children?

This is to confirm that Elke Baublies, retired Christian Community Priest, will come down to Dunedin and give a talk at our school on Thursday 5 November at 7.30pm. The topic is: "How can we connect to the Angels of our children?" Donations can be made at the door towards her travel costs.

The talk will be relevant for parents from playgroup right through to older classes. We would really like to encourage you to come along and support this offer for parent education from another perspective. Elke is coming from Auckland so I hope our community can show our gratitude and support for her visit. *Angela*

The Fair

Money : Tokens are again available at the fair for \$5 and \$10. These are especially good for children as they do not have to handle cash. Please ensure that children have a named carry bag or backpack for the fair. They will collect all sorts of goodies over the 5 hours and everything gets lost if they don't have a place to put things. Cash is also available for most activities and of course EFT Pos if you run out!!

Friday 1-5pm : Please please try to come to school for clean up and set up. We need to do mundane but very important tasks like cleaning toilets and rooms, some tidying around flower beds would be great, putting up decorations, signs, setting up stalls and activities. Please bring tablecloths, vases, non-perishable goods for fair and some flowers and greenery

Saturday: The café needs to be set up. Please ring Liselle if you can help her with this. Apart from café set up the school will be open from 2-4pm to finish stall set up and decoration and for drop off of fair goods.

Sunday: We need to have a parking plan!! All school families need to drop off fair stuff at the school gate or down the other end of Manapouri St. We are going to have some parking monitors on duty to help our visitors to park.

Dress up : Don't forget to become a medieval type for the day!

High school vision group

Our second meeting has been postponed to November 20th at 5:30. Anyone interested in advancing the creation of our high school is welcome to attend! Minutes of the first meeting are available in the office.

Volunteers required to help on the curriculum

We need help typing sections of text to help us to build up our school curriculum. Any volunteer time would be most appreciated – this could be done at home or in the office. Please speak to Clare or a teacher.

Other matters

- The Vision and Hearing technician is visiting the school on 6 November at 9am to see any new entrants. 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.
- We are looking at first Aid training for staff and wondered if any of the parent community need First Aid Training – full workplace training. Let us know and we could investigate doing it here at the school. *Clare*

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

A riddle

We are very little creatures,
All of different voice and features.
One of us in glass is set,
One of us you'll find in jet.
T'other you will find in tin,
And the fourth a box within.
It can never fly from you.

Using this verse by Jonathon Swift, Alex's class is finishing up the second writing block with a focus on vowels. The children worked very hard to guess this riddle! After the Fair we will start rehearsing our first "real" play; performance date to be announced.

Please would parents ensure that their children bring sunhats and sunscreen – the sun is getting hotter! And you will have heard about the changes to the outside play areas. We have enjoyed a very peaceful and harmonious two weeks in the playground, following the practice of most other Steiner schools, where different age groups have different play areas. The younger children (classes 1-3) have been on the top field, while the class 5s have been on the court and in the forest. On the 2nd November the children will swap play areas and this will continue month by month.

Yesterday the teachers worked on curriculum areas and to plan for 2010. During the holidays we interviewed for a part time teaching position and were very happy to offer the post to Jane Plant. Jane has been working at St Brigids in the last year. She has come to her teaching in her thirties and brings great enthusiasm and interest in the Steiner approach. She is visiting the school for observation and preparation and will be here at the fair. Next year the classes will be as follows:-

Class 1 Alex MacNeille
Class 2 & 3 Brenda Hawke
Class 4 Jane Plant
Class 6 Lee Noyes

This structure allows the school to benefit from Alex keeping her excellent work in Class 1 in setting the foundations for the children's future learning at the school. We also make the most of Brenda's experience in teaching composite classes to the class 2/3 and provide continuity in Lee for the older class.

This week's Yurt sweepers are Cohen and Cain. 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
Class 1/2	Kimura	Schweikert	Cain	Barriga	Cunningham	McAuley	Walrond	Oswald	Kimura	Schweikert

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

We would like to welcome Isla, Hazel and Amelie into the Rata Room this week. It is lovely to have three girls moving on up from playgroup.

As the weather is still 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. Just a reminder that if your child is unwell or will not be attending Kinder on any given day, please phone and leave a message with the office. Please also remember to bring a vegetable each Tuesday for soup.

Teachers Tips:

Keeping children's lunches simple is a great way to encourage them to establish good healthy eating habits. Too much choice often causes confusion and discourages completion of anything. It is preferable to use sandwich cloths or paper rather than plastic lunch wrap, not only is it easier for children to manage but kinder on the environment.

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. Thank you to those families who have already done so. If you have still to do this donations of raisins would be appreciated.

Kinder staff will be resuming home visits this term with appointments to be set up soon. The teacher tries to make time to visit each family at the beginning of their time in the Kindergarten or School. The main purpose of this visit is to see the child in their environment. It is a social visit, focused on the child; though it may be arranged later in the evening to allow for adult talking time.

Staffing

We are very sorry to inform you that Dianne will be leaving us at the end of this term (see the letter below). She is moving to Queensland. Her move will obviously mostly affect the current Rata Room three year olds who will not be moving on into the Kowhai Room. We will endeavour to ensure continuity of staff by bringing in teachers from the other kindergarten room and continuing to use Liqin as a volunteer in that room. We are in the process of interviewing new kindergarten staff at the moment as we were looking for a permanent part timer to work the part of the week that Nick doesn't, and also maternity cover for Lea-Ann. We are lucky that we have some strong candidates and hope that we may be able to bring one in before the end of the year so that again there are familiar faces for our new three year olds at the start of the year.

Dear Parents and Families

It is with great sadness that I need to let you know I will be leaving the Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten. David and I are leaving these fair shores to go to Cairns in Queensland. I have enjoyed my time here and especially working with your children. I feel very privileged to have known such dedicated parents and wonderful treasured children. I will be finishing at the end of Term with my last day being 18 December. I have given this time to make the transition for new teachers as smooth as possible. I am deeply committed to the Steiner Philosophy and to anthroposophy, and I will be furthering my studies. I hope to work at a Steiner Kindergarten in the Cairns area.

I wish you all the best

Dianne

PLAYGROUP NEWS

We are thrilled to have both our new playgroups up and running- a big thank you to all the people who have contributed to let this happen! We still have a couple of spaces available for the yacht club playgroup on Thursdays 10-12. Contact Elan 454-4483 for more info about this group. Any other queries to Cecil 472-8683

Playgroup sessions are as follows:-

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

CRAFT GROUP

Thank you to all the fairies that made beautiful craft for the fair. If anyone else has something to bring before the fair then please pass it to Marie or leave in the craft drawer.

The Craft Group will not meet again next week and then we will plan new activities. *Marie*

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

Teacher support – next year 2010 – we require a volunteer to work with Brenda in Extra Lesson. Please speak to Brenda if you will have some hours to spare

Te Puawaianga – End of year exhibition at the School of Maori and Indigenous Studies –

Richardson South Tower, Level 1, University of Otago 27 October to 6 November (Junko is an exhibitor of weaving at this exhibition)

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)