

# NEWSLETTER

## RUDOLF STEINER TRUST

### OTAGO

TERM4 #35  
 9 NOVEMBER 2009  
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UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
7 - 14 November	Class 5 Olympics trip to Hastings	20 November 5.30pm	High School Vision Group
Thursday 19 November, 7.30pm	Kindergarten Parents Meeting	Wednesday 2 December 9am	Kindergarten Management Committee
14-16 December	School camp Whare flat	Thursday 10 December 7:15 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting

*"The need for imagination, a sense of truth and a feeling of responsibility  
 - these are the three forces which are the very nerve of education."  
 -Rudolf Steiner*

### FROM THE OFFICE

#### Term Dates.

The Kindergarten will finish this year on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of December. The school will be at camp for the final week and will round up their school year there. The first day for 2010 will be Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of February for both the school and kindergarten.

Thank you to Lee Vandervis who donated wood chips for the upper path. Any volunteers to come and spread this on the school paths would be good

There are still some items left over from the fair, such as table cloths, tins etc to be collected from the office. If you are missing anything, there is a list in the office so we can keep an eye out for things.

#### Reading Acquisition PhD

We would like to congratulate Sebastian Suggate on the completion of his PhD Thesis – the examiners at Otago University recognised it as a distinguished thesis - which is quite an honour. The subject was around the age of reading acquisition and he spent some time in our classrooms gathering evidence. Last year he gave a talk to parents last year which highlighted the positives of a later start to formal education and showed how reading acquisition levelled out between those who started at five and those who started in the year in which they turn seven. Sebastian told us that 'the examiners were very positive, acknowledging that school entry age is a hugely important yet neglected area, rife with vested interests.

#### Curriculum update.

We are trying to get some of the documents scanned before we call on our volunteers to help with typing them. We will be in touch with those people who put their names forward.

#### 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.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

*Boys and Girls come out to play, The moon is shining as bright as day,  
Come with a whoop and come with a call, come with a good will or not at all!*

Anticipation is high for our sleepover, but we do endeavour to get our school work done! The children have almost memorised the entire script of Briar Rose, which we will be performing instead of The Nixie of the Millpond, only because Mrs MacNeille has misplaced her papers, oh well, flexibility of soul.

### **Class 1,2,3 sleepover**

This will be Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> November. Children will need a sleeping bag and some form of sleeping mat. We will have a sausage sizzle with home made bread, sushi and a fruit dessert for dinner. Breakfast will be porridge. More details in the permission slip which is going home with each child today. Please return this tomorrow.

### **SCHOOL CAMP - WAIORA / WHARE FLAT 14-16 December**

You should have received your information packs last week. Please have the camp permission slips returned by Friday. A copy of the menu will be coming home shortly. There is a fund that we can apply to to try and get Camp fees support – contact Clare if you may need this.

### **Class 5 Raffle**

Winners were drawn at the Farmer's market on 31<sup>st</sup> October and have been notified.

They were:

The Jewellery Raffle – 1<sup>st</sup> #122 M Dwyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> #192 J Clark and 3<sup>rd</sup> #127 G Brown

Tool Box raffle - #11 Eion from Warren's Garage, Palmerston

This week's Yurt sweepers are Mullins and Cunningham. 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

### **Kindergarten Parents Meeting. Thursday 19 November, 7.30 pm.**

This will be for parents of children who are remaining in kindergarten next year. The discussion will be around the transition of the four year olds into the Kowhai Room, to let you all know about the kindergarten staffing next year and also to look at the kindergarten's income (the \$1 hour donation for the 3 and 4 year olds and the flat weekly fee for the five and six year olds). It will also be an opportunity for you to ask other questions about the kindergarten. We hope to see someone from each kindergarten family at the meeting.

The Kindergarten Management Committee are pleased to welcome Kate Tanner (Sarah's mum) as a parents' representative on the committee.

Assessments of school readiness have been done and we are happy to let you know that all of the 6 year olds will be moving up to Class 1 next year. There will be 11 children from the kindergarten and possibly some others coming too – a sign of our growing school.

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.

If you would prefer your child to have their own sunscreen please supply to the appropriate room clearly labelled. Thank you.

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 remember to bring a vegetable each Tuesday for soup.

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.

Jimmy the rooster visited kindergarten last week and will be returning with some friends once Menno has completed the chicken run. Thank you Menno.

Thank you also to Katja for the donation of a hammock for the kindergarten playground. It is very much appreciated and the children have missed having a hammock.

#### 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.

## PLAYGROUP NEWS

Thank you to Catherine Barriga for agreeing to help out in the Waitati playgroup. It is wonderful to have our school families sharing their experiences with the playgroup families.

Our playgroup summer celebration is planned for the 4<sup>th</sup> of December at Woodhaugh Gardens (December 11 is the rain date). If anyone is interested in being involved with developing our marionette show, please talk to Cecil 472-8683.

An invitation for playgroup parents to the craft group is in the craft group news following.

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

Again, thank you so much for all the beautiful craft received from so many people. Now that the fair is over, we need to put back our beautiful display in the office.

We would like to encourage Mums from playgroup to come along to our doll making morning next Tuesday as this is a great project you can do for your little ones. We are aware that it can be difficult to stay for the whole session because of your child's needs. Don't worry, just come and go as you need to. We would love for you to come along. Any questions, please call Marie 471 2181

Tuesday 10th November 9:00 – 1pm	Front Office	Putting back craft display
Tuesday 17th November 9:00 – 1pm	Ravensbourne Hall, Wanaka St	Making little dolls for 0 – 1 1/2 year olds Bring sewing tools, sewing machine and extension cords if you can.

Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> November 10.30- 1pm	Kate's - Waitati. Call Kate for directions 482 2625	Work on your own dolls with your own materials or make dolls for the craft group with our materials.
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*\* Remember that you can get your newsletter via email and save us time and trees. Please email the office if you can change from paper to email copies. There is always a printed copy in the office folder to refer to as well. Thanks – Tracy.*

## 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).*

### House Sitting

I am a parent at Raphael House Steiner School here in Lower Hutt. Over the two week Christmas break we will be away, and have always enjoyed "loaning" our house to families or individuals during that time, in exchange for looking after only a few easy animals and to keep the house lived in.

Lovely home available for housesitting from around 23 December for approx 2 weeks in sunny Normandale, Lower Hutt, close to other Raphael House Steiner School families and the school. 3 bedrooms, 2 lounges, good kitchen, a great place to stay with beautiful bushy outlook while visiting relatives and friends or if you just fancy a getaway. Lots of space, bush, chickens, organic veggie garden, while being close to motorway and Hutt City, and a stones throw from the attractions in Wellington, Kapiti Coast, Porirua, and Upper Hutt. Email Victoria on [mitch2@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mitch2@xtra.co.nz) or phone 04 589 1160.

### Organic Co-op order

The co-op will be placing an order next week with Ceres. Please email tracy ([tracy@sculpture.co.nz](mailto:tracy@sculpture.co.nz)) if you would like an order form. If you haven't ordered before please indicate this on your email so that I can send you a catalogue as well. We may order some items from Chantel following the Ceres order if some things are unavailable. These orders will be the last ones for the year so stock up for the summer. Michelle Alexander is taking back the co-op ordering –thanks Michelle.

### Wooden Toys

Cecil and Man have been making Steiner inspired wooden toys for sale. If anyone is interested please talk to Cecil or call us on 472-8683.

### Michael Park Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten Auckland Early Childhood Trained Teacher required 2010

We are seeking an early childhood teacher for our Rudolf Steiner kindergartens. The ideal applicant would be artistic and creative, have good communication skills, and work well with colleagues and families. A background in Rudolf Steiner pedagogy and/or a willingness to teach and organise programmes in accordance with the special character of the school shall be a condition of employment. (tagged position) For an application form contact: [admin@michaelpark.school.nz](mailto:admin@michaelpark.school.nz)

### Steiner Education Invercargill

Yes, Steiner education has ventured further south than Dunedin and made it into Southland! We are four enthusiastic mothers that have begun our journey into nurturing our children (and ourselves!) through Steiner Education.

We have spent much of this year learning about Steiner education, anthroposophy, becoming a legal entity, finding and decorating our venue and becoming registered with the Ministry of Education. We will soon be at a point where we will open up our group to the public. At this stage we are operating a playgroup and hope to have a small kindergarten next year too.

We all ventured north to your Fair and had a wonderful day. What a beautiful and magnificent event in a wonderful environment. We feel so motivated to immerse ourselves in the Steiner education philosophy now.

We look forward to forming a wonderful relationship between our southern Steiner families.  
Kate, Annah, Donna and Sandra