

NEWSLETTER

RUDOLF STEINER TRUST

OTAGO

TERM4 #38
 30 NOVEMBER 2009
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UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
Wednesday 2 December, 9am	9am Spiral Walk for the kindergarten children and their parents	Tuesday 2 December, 7pm	Proprietors Meeting
Friday 11 December 10am	Shepherd's Play at Ravensbourne Hall – all welcome.	Wednesday 3 December 9am	Kindergarten Management Committee
Sunday 13 December, 10-4	Port Chalmers Christmas market stall.	Thursday 10 December 7:15 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
14-16 December	School camp Whare flat + school end of term.		
Thursday 17 th Dec	Picnic for kindergarten and playgroup families		
Friday 18 th Dec	Kindergarten end of term		

Once upon a time there lived far away in the East a pious man, the Bishop Nicholas. One day he heard that far in the West was a big town. In this town all the people had to suffer hunger, the children also. Then Bishop Nicholas called his servants who loved him and said to them "Bring me the fruits of your gardens and the fruits of your fields that we can still the hunger of the children in that town." The servants brought baskets full of apples and nuts, and on top lay honey cakes which the women had baked. The men brought sacks of wheat. Bishop Nicholas had all these things taken on to a ship. It was a beautiful ship, quite white and the sails of the ship were as blue as the sky and as blue as the mantle of the Bishop Nicholas. The wind blew into the sails and sped the ship along. And when the wind grew tired the servants took to the oars and rowed the ship westward. They had to sail for a long time, for seven days and seven nights.

When they arrived in front of the big town, it was evening. The roads were empty but in the houses there burnt lights. Bishop Nicholas knocked at a window. The mother in the house thought a late wanderer had come and asked her child to open the door. Nobody was outside. The child ran to the window. There was nobody outside the window either. But instead, there stood a basket filled with apples and nuts, red and yellow and a honey cake lay on top. By the basket, stood a sack which was bursting with golden wheat grains. All the people ate the gifts and once again became healthy and happy.

Today St Nicholas is in the Heavens. Every year on his birthday he starts on his journey down to the earth. He asks for his white horse and journeys from star to star. There he meets Mother Mary, who gathers silver and golden threads for the shift of the Christ Child. Mother Mary says to him "Dear St Nicholas, please go again to the children and bring them your gifts; Tell them "Christmas is nigh and soon the Christ Child will come."

The earth is wide and great. There, where St Nicholas cannot go himself, he asks a good and pious person to go to the children and take them apples and nuts and tell the children of the coming of the Christ Child.

- M. Meyerkort

FROM THE OFFICE

As the kindergarten will be closed on Sunday when St Nicholas visits, children may find something from St Nicholas on Monday.

Magic Show

Ron Fogel of the Windmill Holiday Programme (which was to be held at our school) has kindly given us tickets for the "World Festival of Magic" hosted by the Lions Club at the Regent Theatre tomorrow, Tuesday 1st Dec. We have 16 tkts for the afternoon show at 2.30. Shelley has also given some tkts for the 7pm show – 2 left. Please collect tickets from the office on a first in basis (or phone to have some held).

Website

Thanks to Matt Dwyer for updating our website. Please remember to bring in photographs of school/school activities (on CD or by email) so we can use nice new ones on the website.

Rubbish

We wish to be a rubbish free school. Please minimise the rubbish produced and take away your own rubbish – thank you.

Lost and Found

Thank you to whoever found Tracy's scales and returned them to the office. Michelle Ritchie is missing the 30cm flat bottom of her spring cake tin.

Our Chicken Family

Jimmy, Henrietta and Hazel will require care over the holidays. Either a daily visit at the school or a holiday at someone's home. Perhaps local families could do a week each of daily visits. Please contact Clare if you can help with this.

Steiner Stall at the Port Chalmers Christmas Market

Please support our stall at the Port Chalmers Christmas Market this Sunday 13th 10-4pm.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Primary School Teaching 2010

A few weeks ago we outlined which teachers would be with which classes. We would now like to provide you with more background information on how we came to this decision so that we were providing the best teaching for the school children for next year.

Alex MacNeille will remain as the Class 1 teacher. Alex is very skilled in socialising the children so that they are ready to learn over the course of their school years. She has many years' experience in Steiner Schools working with this kind of age group. Her wealth of songs that she brings to the class cultivates the children's musicality for the rest of their years here. After a number of years working as a kindergartener, Alex has a special responsibility for the overview of the kindergarten's Special Character and she works with the current kindergarteners, joining them in their weekly meetings. This provides a valuable link between the school and kindergarten.

Brenda Hawke will be taking a composite Class 2 and 3. Brenda's strengths in literacy and numeracy from her decades of teaching are important in the early primary years so that the children have strong foundations to build on in the future. Brenda has also been developing Extra Lesson work within the school. It will be valuable to have her teaching in the early years of Primary so that she can address the needs of the child while they are still young. The Anthroposophical Doctor observes all the children and they will be assessed by teachers – where necessary an individual programme can be developed for the child. Between Class 1 and 4 Extra lesson is included in the daily rhythm. Class 2 and 3 is a composite class – Brenda is skilled in providing a curriculum that suits the mix of years.

Jane Plant is a fairly new teacher – although with many years in education and an outlook that suits this school well. She will be taking Class 4 and consolidating her teaching skills while starting her practice as a Steiner teacher. Her class is a strong well socialised group who are generally very academically able. Many of them have been with the school since playgroup and they are therefore a good group to take on.

Lee Noyes will start the year with a deepened understanding of the Class 6 curriculum as in the summer he will attend some professional development at Te Ra School with other Steiner teachers teaching at that class level. He will also be able to provide his class with continuity, which is something

that a Steiner school endeavours to do. As a developing school it is not something we can achieve for every child every year.

Our teaching volunteers will also continue to work with us. Peter Humphrey and Yuwei Chin will assist with Eurythmy and Linda Miles with the orchestra.

Perfromance

Jocelyn and Linda would like to present a “work in progress” cello and violin performance this Friday, 9am in Lee’s class. Parents welcome.

Class 1,2 & 3

On Monday 7th December at 1.30, Class 1,2 & 3 will be singing at the Sisters of Mercy in Brockville. Permission forms are coming home, please return them tomorrow. We will need 2 parent drivers/cars. Please indicate on the form if you can help with this.

Class 5



Thanks to Louanne Ratapu for the report of our trip to the Olympics. Also if anyone has more photos and/or videos from the event, please bring them into the school.

This Friday, class 5 will go to a kapahaka performance at midday. The boating outing was postponed due to poor weather. It will now be on Friday the 11th Dec.

This week’s Yurt sweepers are Wood and Oswald. 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

Tuesday 1 st December 9:00 – 3pm	School ground	Candle making for school children and kindergarten kids (to be confirmed).
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KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Spiral Walk

The Spiral walk is on Wednesday at 9am in one of the Yurts followed by a shared morning tea. Please bring finger food to share.

Intention Forms

Please complete and return to the office the forms indicating which days you intend to have your child/ren attend kindergarten next year.

End of year picnic

On Thursday the 17th December at 12.30 we will have a picnic for the kindergarten and playgroup families. Please bring food for sharing.

The kindergarten will be open on Friday the 18th for those parents who don't want the picnic to be the last kindergarten day. Please let the office know if your child will be attending on Friday 19th December.

A big thank you to Class 1 & 2 for performing their play again for the Kinder on Thursday of last week, it was thoroughly enjoyed by both staff and children.

A big thank you to all those putting in extra time and effort to upgrading our playground, the sail cloth will be fantastic and the water pump is looking fabulous, the children are sure to spend many hours enjoying their new outdoor spaces. Please apply sunscreen to your children prior to Kinder to ensure they have coverage for early morning play. If you have specific requirements for your child please provide labelled sunscreen to the class teacher. Thank you.

Kowhai Room

On behalf of the children and herself, Whaea Violet wishes to thank Matua Nick for all his work in the Kowhai room this year. Matua Nick will be in the Rata room for the rest of the year getting to know the younger children who will remain there next year and learning the rhythms of that room. Whaea LeeAnn will take his place in the Kowhai room.

Parents please help us to keep the cloakroom tidy, hang or encourage your children to hang their things on their hook and put their slippers away on the shelf each day.

Rata Room

Please remember to return your child's journey book this coming week, they are required in order that they might be updated prior to the end of term. Thank you.

If anyone has a spare nativity scene that they might lend to the Rata Room for their seasons table this would be greatly appreciated, please speak with Dianne.

PLAYGROUP NEWS

Our playgroups sessions are finished for the year, and we are all looking forward to our Summer Celebration to be held at Woodhaugh Gardens (by the paddling pool) from 11-1 the Friday. Please bring something for a shared lunch. We will postpone to next Friday if the weather is wet.

We have made contact with the Invercargill Playgroup facilitators- a wonderful group of families- and we can all be inspired by their freshness and enthusiasm. If anyone is travelling down south over the holidays be sure to make contact, as solidarity and a sense of the larger Steiner community will benefit us all!

The kindergarten wish to extend a warm invitation to all the playgroup families to please join us for our end of year picnic. This will be a good opportunity for us to acknowledge all the work that has gone on in playgroup this year. See kindergarten news for details.

CRAFT GROUP

Tuesday 8 th December 9:00-12pm	Ravensbourne Hall, Wanaka St.	Flax basket making with Liselle. Bring 8 blades of flax leaves, shredding gear (such as dog's comb), a dozen pegs, and scissors. Please call Liselle if you need help
12pm to 1pm	Sharing lunch	for the flax 478 0804

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.

Organic Co-op order

The Ceres items are here and filling up the office. Please collect your goods ASAP. There are scales and bags and jars for divvying up. There are some extra items still available such as med brown rice, tomato puree, green lentils and heaps of tahini. Please be very careful to indicate what you take so we don't lose track of anything. Some more goods will be coming from Chantel soon.

Choir performance

Sunny Side Up, A Capella Gospel Choir, singing at the Art Gallery this Sunday 6 December 12.30pm. Come along and enjoy an eclectic programme of energetic and entertaining music....See you there!

Angela

Art Exhibition

We would like to invite you to the opening of Elise O'Neill and Aroha Novak | *Expensive Rubbish* and Elspeth Fougere | *Here, There and Everywhere (We are a Community of Cells)* at The Blue Oyster Art Project Space on **Tuesday 1st December at 5.30pm**. Using handmade and recycling methods O'Neill, Novak and Fougere are part of an international resurgence of a craft and do-it-yourself ethos, which has grown in response to current economic and environmental conditions. The exhibition will run until 24 December.

For *Expensive Rubbish* Elise O'Neill and Aroha Novak present handmade military and consumer items which have been constructed from recycled materials; they take issue with these products which feed off capitalist narratives of fear and desire. Underlying their work is a critique of consumer fetishism and media sensation which negates, obscures and denies the socially and environmentally destructive forces at play behind these systems. O'Neill's oversized home appliances, handmade from recycled cardboard and newspaper, invert the throw-away mentality of consumer culture and Novak's child-size military vehicles allude to the way war is fantasised, flattened and re-packaged through media depictions.

Elspeth Fougere's *Here, There and Everywhere (We are a Community of Cells)* begins with a mass of woollen crochet spirals, a caricature collection of cells. These handmade forms are taken out into the landscape, placed onto bodies and into environments in playful, spontaneous, storytelling activations. The encounters are photographically documented as drawings of events, forming trace histories of relationships between the body and other forms and act as a basis for ongoing interactions during the exhibition.

Every Saturday from 12 - 3 Fougere and collaborators will run free open workshop craft sessions inviting participants to help her grow and exchange the colony of woollen cells, or to use the space as a place to mingle and work together with other local crafters. Through freely sharing wool craft know-how, make-your-own-pieces, and all the stories and laughter that go along with learning to crochet, the cells will spread out from the gallery installation and into Dunedin. Her strategy of gathering people together for the exchange of objects, skills, resources and stories in the gallery space, captures core philosophy of the contemporary craft resurgence.