

NEWSLETTER

RUDOLF STEINER TRUST OTAGO

TERM1 # 3
16 FEBRUARY 2009
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UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
Class 3/4 Parent Information Evening	Tuesday 17th February 7 – 8.30pm	Proprietors Meeting	Thursday 19th February 7pm
Introductory Meeting for New Parents	Wednesday 18th February 9am		

FROM THE OFFICE

Board of Trustees

The Board would like to welcome Shelley Wrigley (Connor, Caelie and Fergus' mother) as its new Treasurer. Shelley has also volunteered to take on a treasurer role for the Kindergarten and Proprietors' Trust. At the moment the budgets for the School, Kindergarten and Proprietors' Trust are being finalised for 2009.

We would like to thank Catherine Barriga for her work as Treasurer on the Board over the last two years. Her contribution to the Board meetings and her work outside this time on financial matters has been much appreciated.

School News

Reporting to parents

The School will hold parent teacher interviews in the year and the teachers will provide a written report on each child at the year end. Parents are also reminded that they can phone teachers at home if there are issues that they would like to discuss with them.

Parent Handbook

A revised parent handbook is to be sent out this week. This includes items such as parent teacher contact, expectations around home and school life, the daily rhythms, the structure of the school and our policies and procedures.

Special Character – an introductory meeting for new parents

On Wednesday 18th February at 9 a.m. Angela Oswald will meet with new parents to the school, kindergarten and playgroup to talk briefly about the Special Character of the school and what this means for you as parents. Angela has been involved with this school for many years as a parent and was educated at Christchurch Rudolf Steiner School. We anticipate that the meeting will last about 30 minutes. The meeting will be at the school – come to the office and we will direct you to the right room.

Funding Application Group

We are a wide and varied group who work in small groups to put in applications for Grants to support the school and kindergarten. We raised about \$9,000 last year, so this is a very worthwhile activity and everyone is welcome to take part in any shape or form. Any application submitted must be approved by the proprietors and proofread by someone other than the person putting in the submission To coordinate our activities it has also been useful if anyone putting in an application lets me know, and a copy of the application needs to be put in the office in a folder.

We are not a group that has regular meetings, however we thought we should meet once to discuss a few ideas people have had for fundraising this year. We would like to have this meeting Monday 2nd of March after drop off. We will find a room on the day. We do need from the proprietors and school and kindergarten teachers a wish list with priorities please.

Kirsten McAuley - Funding Committee

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Class 3/4 Parent Information Evening

This Tuesday, 17 February, 7- 8.30 pm

This evening offers the opportunity to parents to learn about the nature of the changes that your child will undergo in these 12 months. Various terms used for the Nine Year Old crossing, the Crisis of Aloneness and the Discovery of the Self, the ninth year sees a marked change in all aspects of the child – the physical form, the way they learn, their emotional life and relationships with family, peers and teachers.

The second half of the evening will be devoted to more practical matters:

- The homework program – its purpose, expectations and how to support your child
- The classroom literacy program – including opportunities for parent involvement in the reading program
- The year 3 curriculum
- The swimming program
- Field trips and the weather
- Yurt-living
- Any parental concerns
- My absence from mid-May until early July

This is a warm invitation to all Class 3/4 parents, as this will be the only class gathering until September, and will deal with matters directly affecting your child's education.

We have completed a very active, happy and rewarding "Summer Camp" in these first two weeks and today begin our first Maths Main Lesson on linear measurement. Here the focus will be on consolidating tables learnt in 2008, consolidating number bonds to 20 and learning all about linear measurement – its history, its units, estimation, the need for accuracy. This Main Lesson involves many practical tasks. Children will be asked to bring long tape measures for one of the weeks.

The first homework comes home today! It is due back on Friday morning. There is a blue recycled bag of classroom clothing near the yurt door. If your child's clothing goes missing, please check there first.

All children need a hat at school for those hot sunny days and inside shoes/slippers.

Brenda

KINDERGARTEN AND NURSERY NEWS

In the nursery this week we celebrated Zoe's 4th birthday on Wednesday 11 February so did not bake bread that day as the children were making birthday cards for Zoe. We also enjoyed a couple of walks in the local environment.

William Zernikow's family will be moving house to Waldronville. We will miss their friendly, smiling faces and hope to see them again. William's last day with us was on Friday 13 February.

A reminder to new parents to please look in your cubby holes for all your notices, invoices, newsletters etc.

Please check and make use of the communication book at the sign in table.

If a special brand of sunscreen is to be used on your child please label this with your child's name and give it to the teacher to be kept safely in the classroom with other sunscreens.

Please label children's clothing and belongings. Even though it is Summer our weather is very changeable and in order to benefit from the outdoor experience children need a range of suitable clothing for this. Jackets and boots or strong shoes to cater for wet weather and cold winds, sunhat with tie or cord, so it doesn't blow off, and wide brim as protection from the sun.

Thank you for sending a vegetable on Tuesdays for soup and fruit on Thursdays and Fridays.

If you have ideas for our Kindergarten playground please post these in the suggestions box. Joan is kindly prepared to do some landscaping for us. We would welcome suggestions but need to be aware that these may need to be modified to fit with the playground safety regulations. Can anyone provide logs – preferably longer lasting than pine (e.g. macrocarpa)?

We do often have some food scraps available for animal consumption (pigs or hens) and other scraps for your compost heap if you would like to make an arrangement with one of the class teachers or note it in the communication book. You would need to bring a small bucket with a lid to collect these.

My apologies for the error in the last newsletter. Liqin's daughter, *Miranda*, is one of our new girls in the Kindergarten Room. I unfortunately don't speak Chinese and gave Miranda's father's name by mistake, much to the amusement of all!

Rennie, On behalf of the Kindergarten / Nursery team.

Sewing help needed

The Rata room children need new aprons. I have the materials and now need the pixies. Please see Pamala 482 1131 if you think you might be able to sew a few for us. It is a very simple pattern. Many thanks for your help. The children will be most pleased.

PLAYGROUP

Playgroup News: We will now be meeting from 9-11 on Friday mornings. Our session rhythm remains unchanged: making bread rolls, free play indoors, morning tea, story and song circle, then outdoor play. All welcome. Please bring a piece of fruit to share and a gold coin donation. Contact Cecil 472 8683 with any questions.

CRAFT GROUP

Be part of the creation! Please remember to come to the meeting about felting a large mat for the Yurt. This Tuesday, 17th February, at 3pm, in the office. All welcome.

AN ARGUMENT FOR ORGANIC (BIODYNAMIC) FOOD.

In 1922, Dr Rudolf Steiner was travelling with scientist and colleague Dr Ehrenfried Pfeiffer who here recalls a part of their conversations : -

"I was particularly anxious to get an answer to the question as to how one could build a bridge to active participation and the carrying out of spiritual intentions without being pulled off the right path by personal ambition, illusions and petty jealousies ; for these were the negative qualities Rudolf Steiner had named as the main inner hindrances. Then came the thought provoking and surprising answer" : - "This is a problem of nutrition. Nutrition as it is today does not supply the strength necessary for manifesting the spirit in physical life. A bridge can no longer be built from thinking to will and action. Food plants no longer contain the forces people need for this".

From the preface to Dr Steiner's Agriculture Course 1924 - "Spiritual Foundations for the Renewal of Agriculture" - which initiated the beginning of biodynamic farming and gardening .

Regards, Colin Rawle

Community Notices

Is anyone going to the Proms Concert, Friday 27th February? Please phone Linda (472 7646) if you could take Rosa.

Port Chalmers house to rent 3 Bedrooms, \$275.00/week,
Beautiful Character Villa in good condition. Stunning harbour views. All day sun and plenty of privacy. Would suit a family or a couple. No pets or smokers please. Enquire directly to Toni Marr ph. 417 8638 cell 021 123 7173