

NEWSLETTER

RUDOLF STEINER TRUST

OTAGO

TERM4 #40
 14 DECEMBER 2009
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 www.dunedin.steiner.school.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS		2010	
14-16 December	School camp Whare flat + school end of term.	Saturday 23 rd Jan, 10am-4pm	Working Bee
Thursday 17 th Dec 12.30pm	Picnic for kindergarten and playgroup families	Tuesday 2 nd Feb	First day of term
Thursday 17 th Dec 6pm	Jane Plant - Class 4 teacher, meet and greet.		
Friday 18 th Dec	Kindergarten end of term		

FROM THE OFFICE

We have much to celebrate and be grateful for as we move towards Christmas and the end of the year. 2009 has seen our biggest and most successful Fair, our first team off to the Olympics and a strong sense of growth and consolidation.

Our Playgroup blossomed to become 5 full playgroups. A fantastic effort by many but a particular thank you to Cecil for midwifing the births of these new groups. These playgroups are an important part of our future growth and we value them greatly.

When we opened the Rata room in October last year, we had 6 children. We now have 2 full kindergartens. We wish to acknowledge Lea- Ann who has been with the kindergarten since Roslyn was here and linked us through the various phases of change and staffing. We wish you well with the new baby.

Our community is evolving in all directions with the establishment of a group starting a Home Based care network and a High School Vision Group.

Our first year with a Yurt village has also been a success. Some challenges from the weather but overall they have stood up well. All the teachers agree that they make an excellent learning space. Over the summer, more work will be done on them to get the power and the underfloor heating working.

We farewell Dianne who is leaving us for the warmer climate of Australia. Thanks for all of your contributions and energy within the kindergarten.

We aren't try to list all those who need thanking as we may well run out of space. We send out our heartfelt thanks to all for everything that has been done to support our playgroups, school and kindergarten. Thanks for showing up for meetings, working bees and helping out around the place. Thanks for all those extra bits done at home. Thanks for helping with transport and organisation of trips and events. Thanks to the craft group for wonderful creations. Thanks to all of the staff for giving over and above on so many levels.

Thanks for making a commitment to an holistic education for your children so that we are all thriving!

Have a merry Christmas. May the holidays be restful and fun and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Steiner Stall at the Port Chalmers Christmas Market

Thank you to those people who helped at the Port Chalmers Market. It was useful exposure for the school with over \$100 raised. A friendly place to be.

A thank you to Harold

We would like to collect a small hamper of goodies to give to Harold who has done work for the school over the year – digging for yurts, sunshade etc. Please bring something into the office so that we can give him a nice Christmas present.

Working bee

We would like to invite you to a working bee on Saturday 23 January 10am to 4pm to clean the kindergartens and school, do the floors well, wash curtains etc and tidy up the playground and school grounds before the new term starts. Come along and catch up with people near the end of the holidays and help start 2010 on a fine note.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

The camp is on and we are sure that any cool wet weather will not manage to dampen the children's excitement.

On Thursday the 17th at 6pm, Jane Plant, our new Class 4 teacher will be here to meet families who wish to come and see her. This will be an opportunity for Jane to introduce herself and meet some of you. If you need to bring your children along, that will be fine.

School reports are being posted out on Friday.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

On behalf of our school community I would like to say special thanks to Paula Mullins and Kirsten McCauley for generously giving of their time and energy in organising the school camp this year. The well planned schedule, the educational/interesting/fun activities, the carefully considered menu, and appropriate supervision structure is due to Kirsten and Paula's commitment to creating a camp that is enjoyable, safe and rewarding for all involved. We look forward to wonderful reports from the campers when they return!

Arohanui,
Angela

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

This is our last week at kindergarten for the year. We welcome all families from kindergarten and playgroups to join us at our picnic here in the kindergarten playground at 12.30 this Thursday. It will be good to enjoy each others company, share food and take some time to say thank you to parents and staff who have put so much work into building up such healthy playgroups and kindergartens this year. It will also be a chance to say goodbye to families and staff who are moving on at the end of the year and to wish Lea-Ann well with her new baby next year. Please bring food to share.

Kindergarten will still run on Friday, but many families are taking the chance to make Thursday their last day.

Sheepskins will have to be washed over the holidays. Would parents of children that have stayed for the afternoons please remember to take the sheepskin that their child has been using home so that it can be hand washed and returned for the start of term. Please ensure that the rest of your child's belongings also go home over the holidays so that the kindergartens can be well cleaned in the break.

We farewell Whaea Dianne and Lea-Ann this week and wish them both well.

A reminder of the plan for the first day of 2010: Please bring your children to the room which they are currently in at the start of the day. For those moving on to school there will be a rose ceremony as part of their transition from the Kowhai Room. Those children moving on to the Kowhai Room will be

guided from the Rata Room by this year's teachers and welcomed into the Kowhai Room by their new 2010 teachers. All going well Lea-Ann aims to be there to take part in this.

PLAYGROUP NEWS

The playgroup facilitators enjoyed the opportunity to reflect back on our year of growth, from 3 children at the start of the year to 5 full playgroups of around 10 children each! We want to extend our thanks to all those who have supported our efforts, especially Leigh, Matua Nick and Lea-Ann. We plan to offer the same sessions for next year, though we are still waiting for confirmation of our yacht club space.

And finally a warm welcome to Sally to our group as a future facilitator.

CRAFT GROUP

The craft group had a productive year and have raised good funds. This money will go to different projects helping to develop school and kindergarten. If you owe any money to craft group, please make sure you pay by the end of the week. Thank you to all of the community for purchasing craft from us and thank you to all the fairies who help to make so much beautiful craft,

We hope to see many of you in craft group next year and we wish you a great end of year and an awesome start of next year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Marie, Izumi and all the craft group fairies.

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.

Te Aroha: Homebased Steiner Childcare

A network of home based Steiner childcare is forming to meet the strong need in the community. Anyone interested in becoming a carer or accessing care for their child, please contact Angela: 473 0992

Message from Leigh

Kia ora,

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to our wonderful community here at Dunedin Steiner. It has been so amazing being part of the whanau! We are moving back to Australia to Mullumbimby (near Byron Bay). We welcome anyone to come and visit. Our email is leighom@gmail.com

Ka kite,

Arohanui,

Leigh, Jamai and Maple

On behalf of the community we wish you a smooth transition and happy times over there. We will miss you!!!

Walking Bus 2010?

I would like to plant the seed that we look at having a walking bus from the bottom of the hill next year so that our children (and some parents) can enjoy the physical, social and mental benefits of walking to school and to reduce congestion at drop-off and pick up times. This could take a range of forms: a roster of a couple of parents with the walking bus or someone helping to cross Manapouri St at the top of Jessie St. It would also be great to utilise the bike track more and perhaps we can develop a system that supports this. Just putting it out there so others can give it some thought too and hopefully we can get something going early next year. If you have some ideas or are keen to be involved email Tracy: tracy@sculpture.co.nz